April 10, 1945

Dear Miss Thompson:

I think you know me - if not directly, then by reflection of work with Miss Lape for some twenty years - well enough to know that neither sentimental loyalty nor pride of work suggests the following question, but genuine concern with what is happening.

It strikes me as more than a little odd that a conference would be called in Washington on the World Court without any reference to Miss Lape's presence. I don't know how Miss Lape feels and suspect that with her present pressure of work, she would probably not even desire to go. But I don't see how anything on the World Court can be genuinely discussed without taking into account the long campaign she and Miss Read conducted solely on the World Court, a campaign that concerned not only knowledge of the public and of the Senate, but also and particularly of the point of view abroad with regard to our Senate's position on the Court.

In 1926 Miss Lape went abroad for the administration then in force - informally, of course - with letters of introduction from Mr. Root, on the basis of which she discussed our adherence to the World Court formally with members of the British, French, German and Dutch governments. She went extensively into the work of the Court with its judges. Some of the people with whom she talked are now in this country, as representatives of their government.

I think it is an understatement to say that no single person in this country combines knowledge of the Court's Statute and work, with knowledge of the point of view in this country toward adherence, to the degree that Miss Lape does. She knows how and why the Senate got into its embroiled and confused position on adherence; why it was defeated in the Senate; what the points are that can be made to a large conference; and, above all, what the Court's value has been in the past. I see from press reports that present consideration of the World Court is going to start with the point of view of using the existing statute of the Court. Not to use the only comprehensive knowledge to be had in this country on the whole situation - the merits of the Court and the merits of the American case of adherence - strikes me as extremely short-sighted.

Perhaps I need not explain to you that this is a purely personal communication.

Sincerely,

Eleanor Phillips
April 11, 1945

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.  

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

One of the most intelligent phases of the Army's educational program is represented by the G.T. Roundtable pamphlets that accompany this letter. The pamphlets are prepared by the American Historical Association as a guarantee of their accuracy and objectivity. They are unfortunately at present not available to civilians, who might well be discussing the same problems that interest the soldier. It is the latter who tells us what he wants to discuss in voluntary groups and the pamphlets are the Army's response. It was a letter of Secretary Stimson's to the American Historical Association that set the program going.

Perhaps you will only find time to look at the titles. No acknowledgment is necessary. I am sure you will be glad to know that the soldier as a returning citizen is not forgotten. Many other pamphlets are in preparation in this series.

Sincerely,

Guy Stanton Ford  
Executive Secretary
Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
Hyde Park,
New York,

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

In view of the cordial reception given the other day to Mr. Walter J. Dethloff, general manager of The American Humane Association, and myself at the Memorial Library, I take the liberty of sending you a copy of the June issue of The National Humane Review feeling that you may be interested in the leading article on Page 6.

It was indeed a privilege to have seen you and Fala at the Library.

Sincerely,

JAMES M. ROSS, Managing Editor
The National Humane Review