I was very pleased to see your column of August 27 in which you spoke so effectively about the International Children's Emergency Fund. Thank you very much for writing the column.

Katharine Lenroot called me this morning from New York saying that she was back in the city. I told her that I had had a good talk with you about the Children's Fund and that you had made inquiries with respect to the American committee for a drive to raise money from private sources for the Fund. No doubt you will hear from her soon with respect to this committee.

On my return to Washington I talked with Mr. Torres of the Children's Fund staff with respect to the situation in South America and the proposed mission, and this morning I have talked with people at the State Department about possible candidates to undertake a mission. They will make inquiries with respect to which of the various persons named would be acceptable. They are obviously very anxious that whatever American heads the mission should be accompanied by not only representatives of the South American countries but also one or more representative of a European country or of such countries as Australia and New Zealand. In other words, they hope that it will be widely recognised as a United Nations mission. Quite spontaneously Mr. Wallis' name was mentioned by one of the State Department people but they did not want any move to be made in this direction until further inquiry in the Department has been made. You will hear either from Katharine Lenroot or from Mr. Torres of the Fund staff on this matter.

I made further inquiries about the situation with respect to the residual UNRRA funds. It seems that there is going to be a meeting of the central committee next week in New York at which the question of allocation of some of the residual administrative funds will be discussed. I have learned confidentially that there may possibly be in all up to somewhere in the neighborhood of $20 million in this residual fund, but the amount is not yet known. The discussion now centers around whether or not the central committee will allocate $5 million at this time to the Children's Fund. I have urged the State Department representative to ask for an allocation of $10 million at this time. Upon making inquiry I find that there is real reason to think that it could be used in the near future for the purchase of dried milk which could be shipped during October, November and December of this year. I hope, therefore, that the representatives of the State Department will push for such an allocation at this time. I was not at all sure how much real enthusiasm and push there would be. They tell me that there is no question that the residual funds of UNRRA are supposed to come to the Children's Fund. The amount that will finally be earmarked as residual will depend on what the committee finds to spend money for now and the interest of the State Department in having the money set aside promptly for the Children's Fund.
I find really quite lukewarm interest in the State Department, and anything you can do to interest Mr. Marshall will be extremely helpful, both from the point of view of general policy and from the point of view of getting as much from the residual funds of UNRRA as is possible. I was actually told that there is no legal requirement in the authorization act* that would make certain that the President would allocate sums of money from the $40 million when other countries make their contribution. It is my personal feeling that someone high up in the State Department will have to set the stage better for help on this Fund if the attitude of the State Department is to be one of sincere helpfulness.

I apparently did not make wholly clear to you the situation with respect to the UNRRA funds, and no doubt mixed you up by describing what had happened to the $1,200,000 from the conscientious objectors' fund that would have been appropriated to the Children's Fund had it not been for the belief of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the Congress was committed to appropriate only the $40 million under the general relief bill. I probably confused you by talking about the UNRRA funds at the same time. Apparently the State Department does not think that the UNRRA funds would replace any of the funds in the $40 million appropriation. The UNRRA funds, however, could not be used to match any of the $40 million appropriation and so release an equivalent amount of additional United States money.

The important thing is to get the State Department interested in helping the Fund. When I return from a brief vacation I shall try to see the Secretary of State to tell him about my trip and the condition of children in Europe. I was told yesterday at the State Department that they believed an appointment could be made for me to see him. If you do see him on the 15th or 16th of September, perhaps you would be willing to suggest that he should talk with me. This would help me to reach him.

I am sure, of course, that you will consider my comments with respect to the State Department as quite confidential.

Sincerely yours,

Martha M. Eliot, M.D.

October 20, 1947

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Thank you so much for your note about my election as President of the American Public Health Association. It was exceedingly kind of you to take the trouble to write me when you are so busy with your many activities. What pleased me most about this election was that it must mean that the American Public Health Association has a fundamental and deep concern for children and also wishes to take a forward-looking position with respect to providing medical care more effectively for all the people. Otherwise, they would not have paid me the honor they have.

Sincerely yours,

Martin P. Eliot