

January 7th, 1941

I telephoned to Mrs. Roosevelt's Personal Secretary (Miss Thompson) this morning. I reminded her of Mrs. Roosevelt's telephone call to me on January 2nd and said I would rather reply orally by telephone or somewhere else. Miss Thompson invited me to give my reply over the telephone.

I said Mrs. Roosevelt had put 2 points to me: (1) what she should do with the cheques which had reached her, and (2) whether she could safely put something in her column to the effect that she had received some contributions and would gladly accept others.

I have now consulted the text of the Neutrality Act and found that Section 8 (a) made it illegal for any person in the U.S. to solicit or receive contributions on behalf of a belligerent government.

In the light of this and of our experience as regards donations previously sent us I would venture to give Mrs. Roosevelt the following replies on her two points:-

As regards (1) it would be perfectly all right if she cared to send to this Embassy the cheques that had been sent to her as the Embassy occupied a privileged position in respect of U.S. law and the S.D. did not object to our accepting spontaneous contributions though they preferred that this should be done with as little publicity as possible.

As regards (2) I thought Mrs. Roosevelt would probably decide ~~not~~ to write anything in her column that looked like an invitation that

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As regards (2) I thought Mrs. Roosevelt would probably decide <sup>not</sup> to write anything in her column that looked like an invitation that

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readers should send further donations to herself. The Neutrality Act however did not in any way prohibit spontaneous donations and I saw no reason why Mrs. Roosevelt should not point out, either in her column, or at some press conference, and in relation to the contributions that had already been sent her, that there was nothing to prevent Americans making out cheques to the British Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Mrs. Roosevelt had also raised with me the points that the donors should know exactly to what object they were donating, and secondly that this object should be agreeable to the British Government. I suggested that Mr. R. R. Appleby, 730, 5th Ave., N.Y. could give advice on these points to any persons who cared to refer to him. Miss Thompson promised to bring these points to the attention of Mrs. Roosevelt.

Mr McC. Goodhart *hmf.* 6/1  
Mr Malcolm *Amey* 6/1

MB  
9/1

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