

Private



International Headquarters,
London, E.C. 4

15th March 1917.

Dear Mr. Buxton,

I am in entire sympathy with your desire to see this war ended; I say this quite without regard to the opinion which you seem to hold about the difficulty of obtaining a decision in the field. To me, as to you, war as war is hateful, shameful - this war peculiarly so.

But the practical question is the question before us. I am not disposed to attempt what I think might do harm and not good - and that is really my considered view of the probable result of any effort at negotiation while present conditions obtain, especially in Germany and Russia.

When peace does come, there will be enormous barriers in the way of making it lasting; that is to say, making the terms in themselves induce or encourage efforts to maintain the peace. To begin now without the heart for it, discussing what might be, or ought to be, would it seems to me (I say it of course with every submission) be inviting greater difficulty by-and-by.

Conditions are changing from day to day, especially in some of the Neutral countries, and if I should see a chance to do anything, I shall be ready to strike in.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours very faithfully,

A. Hamwell Hoock

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