

*March 13, 1917.*—René Janssen has just been in, direct from the Dutch frontier, where he talked, across the line, in German, and in the presence of German officers—as the rule is now—with Hall of the C.R.B., who “slipped him” a message from Langhorne saying that in response to my No. 46 there was a telegram from the Department saying to take no action until further orders. No. 46 is my telegram advising that delegates of other nationality than Americans be brought in at once to replace our men in the C.R.B., the telegram in which I gave this advice as strongly as I knew how to state it. Very well. I have done my duty, and the Department has again allowed itself to be dominated by Hoover, who, despite all this vacillation he has shown in the last month, still clings obstinately to his stubborn purpose to have those men remain in here, exposed to dangers that, with the Germans in their present frame of mind, are easily imagined. I have again and again pointed out this danger, and urged decisive action that would at once have insured the continuance of the relief, and permitted the men to leave while the way was still open. But Hoover, though three thousand miles away, thinks he knows more than Gregory, or Kellogg, or I, or any one who is here, and seems able to impose his brutal will on the Department. If any horror occurs, I shall have only the melancholy satisfaction of being on record—and have to take the blame anyhow!

Janssen says that the Germans have delivered the written assurance that the Americans of the C.R.B. can leave when they will, war or no war, after being quarantined in Germany for a period not exceeding one month. I trust this news is true—not the part relating to the quarantine, but the other.

Meanwhile the Germans have torpedoed a Danish ship in the service of the C.R.B., and flying the C.R.B. insignia.