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Jacanta, Aug. 30, 1909 198

The Hon. W. L. McKenzie King, Ottawa.

Dear Mr. King,

In Saturday's hurried note I forgot to mark the communication private. Kindly consider this preliminary correspondence as to yourself, personally; tho of course you make whatever use of it that you see wise.

I had a long consultation with Sir William Mulock, and he is of the opinion that the efforts of Mr. Neville to lead in the matter of the peace celebration would be a mistake. In response to your hint in the matter he thinks that we should prepare a petition to the government to take action in the matter. As a preliminary he is to write to Ottawa, privately, to find out if the government would be likely to accept such a petition if fairly well signed, and be willing to consider some plan of peace celebration in connection with the government of the United States, <del>Mre</del>.

When we have that private understanding, which I take will come as a matter of course, Sir William and I will prepare the petition and lay it before the public and seek to get it widely signed. That will give us the means of reaching the people by public meetings, newspaper notices, etc.-Then will come the further steps required to bring the whole thing to maturity.

At the same time we could also present the petition - the world-petition - which has been entrusted to me as agent for Canada. All of this gives us the thing that we needed, viz., a something positive, creative, and not simply a negative cry of "peace." That has been the weakness of peace propaganda. An everlasting "don't"! What is needed for victory is a something to get the people to do that will result in something really tangible and effective. So this will be a good beginning to educate the people towards the final

May\_ Believe me ever, The reduction of the world " result of Sincerely Yours, meeting of the Borne who we on ight - to the ca wepush. EBY 0.12

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

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