

November 9th 1933.

Dear Mr Hamar,

Once more you are observing the solemn ceremony marking the occasion of the Armistice which brought to a close the greatest war in human history.

It is now more than ever necessary to remember the grim lessons of that terrible event as its hardships and its terrors are only imperfectly realised by those who took no part in that unprecedented world conflict.

If nations are to profit from past experience and outlaw war, then it must be brought home to the peoples everywhere that this means much more than a mere cessation of armed strife.

The world needs the mobilisation of all the peace forces in order that public opinion may be directed towards a constructive and carefully planned system in which States would become subject to the reign of law and justice, and in which resort to force for national purposes would be regarded as a crime against the entire international community.

Disarmament, as the result of world action, must now be regarded as an essential part of an organised peace-keeping system. It is the outstanding question in international affairs and the acid test of a nation's loyalty to the pacific intentions of the Briand Kellogg Pact.

The Geneva Conference has become the focal point of a great struggle, and it would be an immense relief to the peoples everywhere if they learned that the Conference had decided that the armed forces of every nation were to be reduced, limited and controlled by international agreement. Such a decision would mean the acceptance of an imperative obligation that military

preparation can no longer be determined by a nation's unrestricted will, but forms part of the general concern of the world community in which we live.

May your gathering prove an immense success, as it would be an encouragement to us to complete our task, and your citizens would be assisting to make the collective peace system of the world prevail.

Yours sincerely,

President.