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Paris
17th December, 1948.

Dear Arthur and Gottlieb,

This is going to be a cri de coeur, just to salve my conscience with the knowledge that I have tried even without any hope of success. The point at issue is to what account the payment to the Nations Associates should be debited, now that it has at last been made. The liability was at the time contracted by the Agency, yet when it came to footing the bill the Ministry had to step into the breach. In the Ministry's budget there is no provision whatsoever for that kind of disbursement, so all Haim Berman's inventive mind could produce was the ingenius suggestion that the $50,000 should come out of the special appropriation included in our budget for extraordinary expenses to be covered at my personal discretion. That item is altogether IL.25,000, and it is all I have to meet any unforeseen contingencies. To see two-thirds of that amount go at one stroke fills my heart with anguish. Is there really no other way of settling this old debt? Here is a challenge to your combined brain power. If you draw a blank I willsubmit to fate and will at least comfort myself with the thought that I have left no stone unturned.

Yours ever,

M. Sh.

Messrs.Lourie & Hammer,
16 East 66th Street,
New York City.

MS/RH