

UNITED STATES HIGH COMMISSION

American Embassy

Constantinople

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October 14, 1922.

Mr. Caleb W. Lawrence,
Chairman American Disaster
Relief Committee,
Smyrna.

Sir:

The reports of the Smyrna Disaster Relief Committee have been brought to my attention. The initiative and vigor with which your Committee has handled the situation at Smyrna as indicated by these reports only bears out what I have already heard of your work from every American who has returned from Smyrna, and I congratulate you on the successful way in which you have cooperated in the work of evacuation.

You will continue to function as the Smyrna Disaster Relief Committee of the American Red Cross. As such you are under the sole orders of, and will render all reports and accounts to, the Disaster Preparedness Committee of the Constantinople Chapter of the American Red Cross. The Chairman of this latter committee is Mr. Foster Stearns, of this High Commission, and it is composed of representatives
of

of every organization which has contributed funds for this work: at present the American Red Cross, Near East Relief, Young Men's Christian Association, Young Women's Christian Association, the Joint Distribution Committee, and the Women's Hospital Association. Your jurisdiction covers Smyrna, and the region of the interior immediately dependent on it, together with the adjacent islands (Mytilene, Chios, Samos); and all American relief workers in the area so defined will receive their orders from you, and communicate with the Disaster Preparedness Committee through you. Your Committee is authorized to organize such sub-committees in any part of your area as will facilitate the work of relief.

You should avoid such forms as "American Relief Committee", and refer to your committee on all occasions as the Smyrna Disaster Relief Committee of the American Red Cross. You should also avoid as far as possible referring to refugees in terms of race or religion, and endeavor to keep constantly in your own minds and in the view of the local population the American idea of indifference to such distinctions in the face of need.

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With regard to your relations with the authorities, all workers under your direction are cautioned against attempting to take up any matters with other than the local authorities. Any case in which a satisfactory agreement cannot be reached with them should be referred to the Disaster Preparedness Committee for such representations to higher authorities as may be possible.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Mark L. Bristol". The signature is fluid and elegant, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Mark L. Bristol
Chairman, Constantinople Chapter,
American Red Cross.