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BATA LIMITED

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DIRECTORS
THOMAS BATA
SIR FREDERICK WHYTE, KCSI.
E. N. GOODWIN
W. W. PARRY, K.C.

August 22, 1944.

HEAD OFFICE
BATAWA, ONTARIO
CANADA

Dr. George Wettstein,
23 Belariastrasse,
ZUERICH, Switzerland.

Dear Dr. Wettstein:

During the past few months, we have exchanged a number of cables. It seemed to me from some of your answers that my original cables were not clear enough. Indeed, it would be surprising if after five years we were still able to understand each others line of thinking when expressed in brusque cable language.

The most reassuring sign, however, was that ultimately we managed to understand each other fully and that the more recent cables indicate a reasonably parallel line of thinking.

Possibly the time has come when we can correspond more freely. Also the time for major decisions is drawing near and as we will both have to make them, I feel that I should write to you these few lines in order that you might be acquainted with what we will be facing.

The Company whose stationery I am using is a coordinating organization the formation of which was decided upon during the January Batawa conferences. It is functioning in a variety of useful directions, closely cooperating with the proper Government Departments and despite war-time limitations, has succeeded in showing good progress during the few months of its existence. The main handicap to the establishment of an organization like this before was the complete loss of confidence suffered by the former organization and the only reason why I have succeeded in building it on the ruins is the fact that I have always declared clearly from the beginning where I stand, and can say truthfully that no secret or other arrangements as to operations exist between me and persons listed on statutory lists. All Companies that are able to are cooperating enthusiastically and I believe that this organization has already been of substantial moral, technical and commercial support to a number of them.

There is another organization called the Bata Committee, the sole purpose of which is to supervise the activities of the delisted Companies. My colleagues on this Committee and I have been faced with a very grave situation when we saw what condition the Companies which come under our jurisdiction have found themselves. I might add that the fact that they were on the statutory and proclaimed list, did not alone cause this condition. However, only the Chilean Company was in such difficult circumstances that heavy financial support was required. My up-to-date reports indicate that this matter is well on the way to rectification and we have appointed a new man to act as secretary-treasurer who will fly down there within the next few days to protect

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AIR
MAIL

