

420 New Britain Ave.  
Hartford, Conn.  
May 22nd, 1918

My Dear Miss Ruutz-Rees,

In response to the request for a report—I am very sorry this is late in reaching you—I was not in home in time to get this to you. Perhaps you will consider this a rather unusual report. Not if you knew as I know whisperings + elaborations that are daily [being met] you I know—in the spirit of fairness to all—would be glad to have the truth told where it should be told.

What I say of propaganda is true—appeals are being made to the intelligent negroes in certain parts of our country—this year more than last—last year numbers of workers who came among us here had been approached. We number twelve million and a traitor to this discriminating government of us has never [been known?]<sup>?</sup>—but with prejudice growing more rank each month from high officials in the Army, Navy and from the Red Cross—with our hearts sore and bleeding—Who knows what might result from all this unless some publicity is given to the unfairness of it all.

I am enclosing some news that might interest you if you find time to read it. A woman one of the four lynched in Ga. on Sunday last—is sister to one of our boys of the 12th N.Y (New York)—369th [In.] in France fighting in the front lines to make the world safe for democracy—and his sister here?

If we are to win this war this thing of color prejudice has got to be reckoned with by those friends of your race who have the courage of their convictions to talk about it.

Very truly yours,

Mary Townsend Seymour