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St. Pétersbourg.

GRAND HÔTEL D'EUROPE

Société Anonyme

ST. PÉTERSBOURG.
RUE MICHEL.

Private

Sept 20 1905

Dear Mr Bell,

I have seen and had long talks with the Tsar, the Dowager Empress, Count Solsky the president of the Council of the Empire and with Gen Trepoff.

I propose to send a longish article on "The One Hope of Russia", which is the Douma. The substance of it I submitted to the Emperor who said he would be glad if it could appear in the Times. I also would be very glad because it will be accepted in Russia, where everyone knows that I have had a long intimate talk with the Emperor, as an informal notification of his views as to the necessity for making the Douma a starting point for a new era of radical reforms beginning with liberty of meeting liberty of association, liberty of the press and the severe limitation of the power of arbitrary arrest.

I am also authorized by the Emperor to hold any number of private meetings all over Russia for the purpose of familiarising the public with the conception of the Douma. Gen Trepoff also assured me today that for his part he was ready to instruct the local authorities everywhere to allow me to hold public meetings!

It is the old peace crusade over again with this difference that I shall be popularising the Emperor's idea among his own subjects.

I have had long talks with your correspondent here who I like very much. He agrees with me that this Douma is the one hope.

If it fails then there is nothing to look forward to but Baku repeated with variations all over Russia.

I may say that the British Ambassador here is entirely of this opinion also the American ambassador.

The feeling towards England is very surprising very friendly.

I will post my copy tomorrow & I shall be very glad if it could appear on Monday ~~the next~~ ^{the day} the Jaikov Congress meets in Moscow.
I am yours truly William F. Stead