

POLISH STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION IN GREAT BRITAIN

CENTRAL COMMITTEE

45 BELGRAVE SQUARE, LONDON, S.W.1

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BRANCHES:

Birmingham, University of Birmingham.
Cambridge, University of Cambridge.
Dundee, University College.
Edinburgh, Polish School of Medicine.
 Students House, 5 Grosvenor Cres.
Glasgow, The Polish Club 8 Crown Circus W.2.

Liverpool, Polish School of Architecture,
 University of Liverpool.
London, City & Guilds College, Exhibition
 Road, S.W.7.
Oxford, The Polish Club, 18, Longwall Street.
St. Andrews, The University of St. Andrews.

**AN APPEAL****TO THE YOUTH OF THE WORLD**

The representatives of Polish students, representing 528 members of the Polish Students' Association in Great Britain, who assembled at an annual conference in Edinburgh on the 21st November, 1943, send friendly greetings to all young people in all the Freedom-loving nations in the world.

To-day, when the majority of young people in Europe are living under the monstrous yoke of tyranny, we Polish students, who are lucky enough to be in comparatively great numbers in this hospitable land of Britain, consider it our duty to express our thoughts clearly and openly.

We are the youth of a nation which was the first to take up arms against barbarism, which has produced no quisling of any kind, hundreds of whose citizens have been forcibly deported to west and east, and which, in spite of all this, has not for one moment laid down her arms.

Poland took up the fight which was forced upon her and refused any compromise, for she was aware that her own existence as well as the existence of the whole of western civilisation was at stake. For this reason, as the greatest authorities of the West have stated, the Polish question is the touchstone of the moral integrity of the world.

Simple justice requires that such a nation should have her independence restored and be given back the territories which were taken from her by force at the beginning of the war and which are at present entirely occupied by the Germans.

However, we witness the fact that, while nobody discusses the frontiers of Germany or Italy, yet in certain circles, without blinking an eyelid, people are raising no objection to the proposal that half Poland's territory should be taken from her, nor do they object to the fact that thousands of her citizens are deprived of their freedom, although they are in the country of one of the members of the United Nations.

Either independence, freedom, justice and law are empty phrases, used only in case of need as a mask — or they have a real meaning and apply in equal measure to the weak and to the strong.

We young people want to see a better tomorrow and the reign of justice, law and the Christian standards of Western civilisation and we are clearly aware of this. Who, if not youth, should stand on guard over ideals and fight for them regardless of the prevailing circumstances.

We want you to know that Polish youth acts according to democratic principles, not only in private and in connection with individuals, but also applies these principles to international relations.

If the essence of democracy is the settlement of public affairs by the people concerned, then the first duty of democratic civilisation is to give to all nations, whether large or small, the right to determine their own future. Seizure of territory, force, violence and the rule of might rather than right cannot be employed in international relations.

The Polish nation, situated on the frontier of Western civilisation and thereby understanding better than other nations its values — freedom and individual responsibility, the natural rights of the individual, the sacred duties of the individual towards his fellows, his family and community, the fulfilment of obligations among individuals and among nations — will not allow anybody to interfere in her affairs and will always fight for the independence and integrity of her State against any assault, no matter from what side it may come.

The Polish nation will never surrender to force and violence, whether from the side of the German betrayers of Western civilisation or from the side of the Soviet Eastern civilisation, which is foreign to her and based on might and force, and she will not lay down her arms until her goal is won.

We state all this openly, we hide nothing, our cause is crystal clear. In speaking about the Polish cause we are defending basic principles. For our affairs are the obvious test of the application of these principles in practice. In the same way as they are applied to Poland they will also be applied sooner or later to other nations, not only in Europe but throughout the whole world.

We therefore appeal to the youth of the whole freedom-loving world, in particular to the youth of Great Britain and America, to declare decisively on which side they stand.

We believe that not force but truth will be victorious.

January, 1944.



On behalf
of

The Polish Students' Association in Great Britain,

A. BALIŃSKI,
Hon. Secretary.

B. HRYNIEWICZ,
President.