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The Polish Ministry of Information, Stratton House, Stratton Street, London.
August 11th. 1944.

This is to inform you that the following article appeared in the Aug. 10th issue of the "Scotsman".

WARSAW'S ORDEAL.

In 1939 when Warsaw was being pitilessly attacked by the German Air Force messages of encouragement were sent to the citizens from London. It was all we could send at that time. The Poles had made a gallant but forlorn attempt to stem the German tide. They had resisted Germany, confident that Britain would not fail them, but it proved to be impossible for us to take effective action. Today, the people of Warsaw are again in the front line. They fight now, not in despair but in hope, for deliverance is at hand. Unfortunately it is delayed. The Underground Movement in Warsaw struck on the afternoon of August 1st. It has succeeded in securing important streets and buildings in Warsaw, but its stock of ammunition is practically exhausted. The Germans, on the other hand, are using their air force against the town. The Underground Movement possesses only small arms and has no Air Force. The Germans use artillery and tanks, as well as bombers. It is in these circumstances that appeals are coming from Warsaw asking for supplies of arms and ammunition. Are we to send them or to content ourselves with dispatching messages of encouragement to the people of Warsaw?

Sir Patrick Dollan and the Scottish Committee for Polish Freedom have wired to Mr. Churchill and Mr. Roosevelt asking that supplies should be sent at once. They say that the British Government sent supplies on one occasion and then stopped. If the facts are as stated it is difficult to understand the half-hearted support of the Underground Movement in Warsaw. It is not likely to encourage underground movements elsewhere. Sir Patrick Dollan alleges that the general uprising of Poles in Warsaw took place to satisfy persistent Russian and British demands and against the advice of the Polish Government in London. Yet the Polish version of the events does not suggest that there was any reluctance on the part of the Polish Government. It states simply that the rising began on Aug. 1 in accordance with the orders of the Vice-Premier, who is in Poland. It seems that before the rising the thunder of the Russian guns could be heard from Warsaw. It may be that the time for the rising was misjudged. At all events the thunder of the guns is no longer heard.

There may be sound strategic reasons for the delay on Russia's part. The crossing of the Vistula and the establishment of a bridgehead west of it in the Warsaw area constitute a major military operation requiring careful planning. On the other hand, it may be strategically desirable to reduce East Prussia, before an advance is made on Warsaw, thus following Schlieffen's injunction about strengthening the right wing. It is therefore, conceivable that the rising in Warsaw was premature. But it has taken place, and the question for Britain is whether it would not be politically as well as militarily wise to send help by air to Warsaw. We are in honour bound to give Poland the utmost help, and it would be deplorable if as a result of our hesitation succour were to come to the brave people of Warsaw only when it is too late.

Polish Ministry of Information.

