Polish Ministry of Information. Stratton House. Stratton Street. London. W.1.
13th October 1944.

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POLISH TEST.

The Warsaw insurrection has clearly demonstrated the extent to which the Polish political parties in the Mikolajczyk Government genuinely represent their people. It has also shown how little political influence is exercised by the Soviet-sponsored National Committee The insurgents of Warsaw have sealed their allegiance to their Government with their own blood. The rising was not confined to small military groups. Broad masses of the people were drawn into it. The Committee, on the other hand, was so surprised by the rising that at first it even denied that fighting was taking place in Warsaw. It is surely obvious that these facts have one lesson and one only for the Russians. If they really want a genuine agreement with the Polish people, they must reconsider their attitude towards the Polish Government. But will this conclusion be drawn? During the rising a crisis among the Poles in London led to the dismissal of General Sosnkowski, the former Commander-in-Chief, notorious for his opposition to reconciliation with Russia. The Polish President at last acquiesced in the General's departure. At the same time, he has not pressed his former demands that the extreme Nationalist should enter M. Mikolajczyk's Government. Thus, on the Polish side, a serious effort has been made to remove the genuine obstacles to a policy of agreement with Russia. Yet to the surprise of everybody, these conciliatory steps met an unworthy and obstructive reply. Various members of the Soviet-sponsored Committee of Liberation chose the occasion to launch a vituperative attack upon the Polish Government and upon the newly appointed Polish Commander-in-Chief, the commander of the rising in Warsaw, General Bor-Komorowski. The General was again branded as a "criminal", and the Chairman of the Committee, M. Morawski, threatened him with court martial. The Leaders of the Committee have apparently taken no notice of the joint British and American statement in which both Allied Governments recognised General Bor's Army as a combatant force, protected by the Allies. Does the Soviet Government endorse these threats? If so, then the result may be that an Allied Power will violate those combatant rights which the enemy has been categorically warned to respect. There is only one conclusion to this melancholy history. Either the Russians will very rightly repudiate the despicable conduct of the Committee of Liberation, or their own record will be so compromised that a dangerous wedge may be driven into Allied unity. Germany is not yet finally defeated. The war may possibly drag on for another winter. Can any Allied Power be interested in risking a deep cleavage in the Allied camp in such critical days?

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