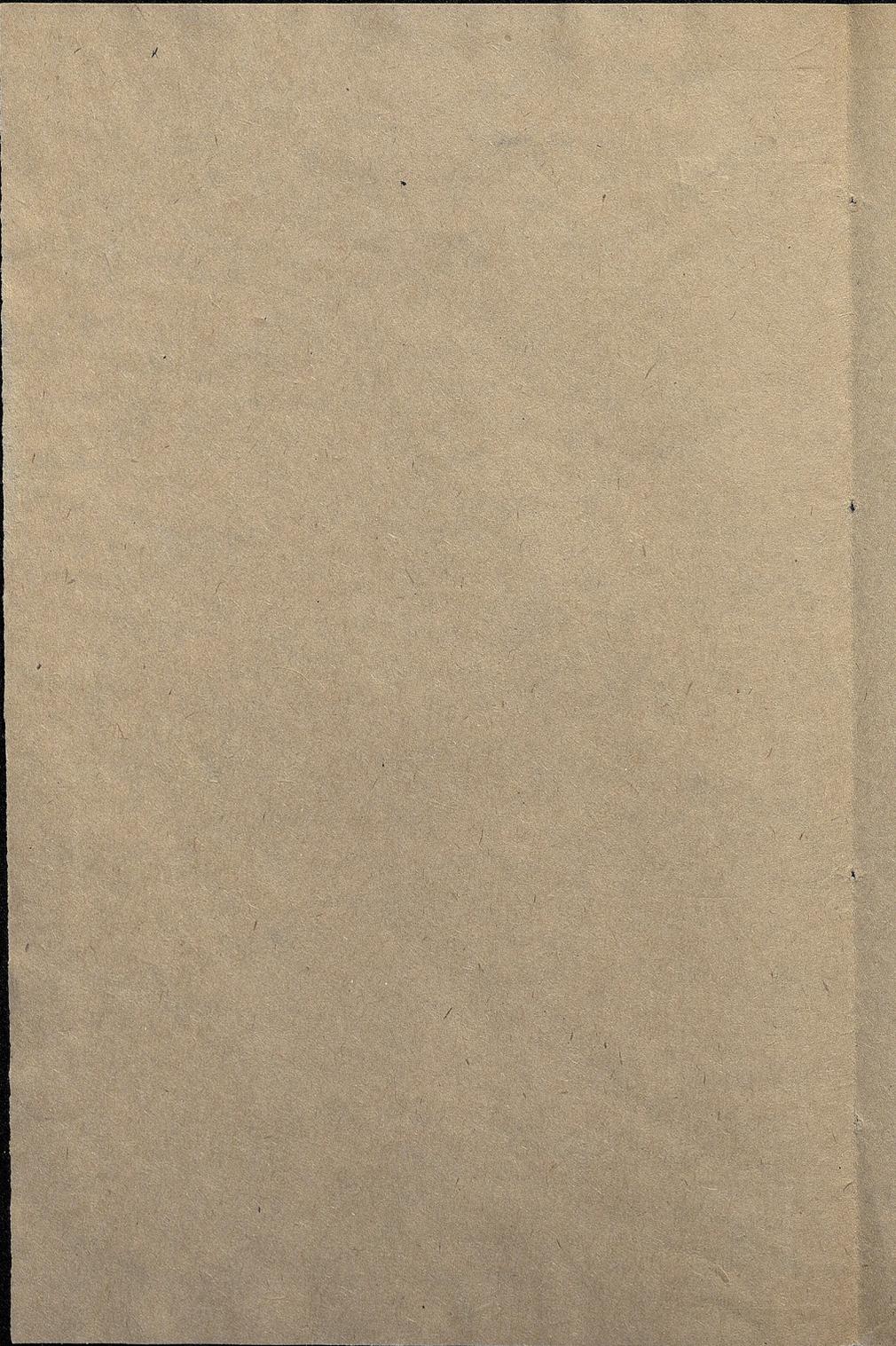


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THE HELP WARSAW COMMITTEE

28, Barton Court, Barons Court Road,
LONDON, W.14.

A446/11/89



Chairman : HELENA SIKORSKA.

Vice-Chairman : Professor MARIA SKALINSKA.

Hon. Secretary : M. L. PONIKOWSKA.

London, September 1st, 1944.

Dear Sir or Madam,

Today is the fifth anniversary of the German attack on Poland, and of the outbreak of this war. As then, in September, 1939, Warsaw defended herself alone against our common enemy—so today five years later, the city is again engaged in a grim struggle for freedom. Over a month has passed since the Polish Home Army and the civilian population of Warsaw began open fighting against the Germans. All this time Warsaw has called desperately for help. Despite the self-sacrifice of gallant British, South African and Polish airmen, Warsaw has not received effective help up to the present. Meanwhile thousands of men, women and children are dying every day on the Warsaw barricades. The Germans are driving the civilian population out of those parts of the city which they still hold ; the men are usually shot or sent to forced labour, while the women and children are sent to the concentration camp at Pruszkow, which already contains more than a quarter of a million people.

The reports which reach us from Warsaw are ever more tragic in content. Three days ago, on August 29th, Radio Warsaw broadcast an appeal for help from the women of Poland to British and American women, the text of which is given later.

We, the Polish women in Great Britain, whom fate has not permitted to stand to the barricades with the women of Warsaw, consider it our first duty to do all in our power to ensure that the world should learn of the fate of Fighting Warsaw, We are confident that this Appeal will find a response in British and American hearts.

Now that tens of thousands of men, women and children are dying in the Polish capital—it is not the time to discuss complicated political questions or enquire into the reasons for and effectiveness of the Warsaw rising—the only thing to do is to help them.

We know that in Britain there are many whose desire it is to help Warsaw and who are asking what Warsaw needs and what can be done in this matter. Warsaw needs everything : Arms, munitions, immediate consignments of food, vitamins, dressings, medicines and clothes—and also words which will comfort and strengthen. We too ask ourselves what we can do in this cause, but we are in a situation different from your own. You are the citizens of a free country, and all roads lie open to you. You can write to your M.P., and

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interest the social organisation to which you belong in this tragic question. You can help to awaken public opinion in your country, or you can, by writing to us, give moral help and inspiration to Warsaw, whither we shall immediately send your words. Any action which you may wish to undertake will have a meaning in this desperate situation.

We count on your good hearts to guide you.

The HELP WARSAW Committee.

HELENA SIKORSKA, Chairman.

Warsaw, August 29th, 1944.

Received London, August 29th at 17.35 hours.

Appeal from the Women of Poland to British and American Women.

“ To the Women of Britain and America—We the Women of Poland, despairing wives, mothers and daughters, witnesses to the annihilation of our capital, appeal to you, and ask you why Fighting Poland is not receiving help from the Allies.

“ Although she served the Germans for five years, Rumania received this help at the first sign of good-will and common sense shown by her. Poland has never wavered in her loyalty; we have never counted our bloodshed, we have had no Hacha, Quisling, Antonescu or Laval. And now the heart of Poland—Warsaw—which has fought a heroic fight for four weeks, asks for help and waits for help in vain. Why have others the right to receive help, while our S.O.S. goes unanswered. We have fought unceasingly since September 1st, 1939. We have endured five years of resistance, we have begun open fighting, and now we fight on with the last of our strength, destroyed and bleeding, on the ruins of our homes, in the pile of rubble which was a city. We let boys of fourteen go out onto the barricades, and watch as women and children die. Our people has been accustomed to believe in the good faith of the British and American nations, they believed and continue to believe that with these nations deeds follow words, and fulfilment promises. We appeal to our British and American sisters to answer.”

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