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TO THE MEMBERS OF BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT.

SIR,

The undersigned, former members of the Polish Senate and Chamber of Deputies, hereby take the liberty of addressing the Members of both Houses of the British Parliament. We address Parliament as the legislative body of a great State to which our country is bound by alliance, and as the Mother of Parliaments. In it we have always seen not only the symbol, but the impregnable fortress of true democracy. Its supreme dignity has strengthened in us the conviction that its power will always adhere to the side of law and justice between men and nations, will stand in defence of those who are wronged by acts of violence, and will prevent International Law from becoming an empty invocation or a mere scrap of paper.

In 1939 the British Parliament approved the guarantee given to the Polish Republic by His Majesty's Government as well as the alliance which was concluded, and in 1941 it approved the Atlantic Charter. Nevertheless, and in spite of the decisive victories gained over German might and the rapidly approaching end of Hitler's rule the independence of our country remains in grave jeopardy.

The Soviet Forces have already occupied more than half our territory, and there are, as yet, no signs of the restoration of any national institutions based on the principles of democracy and social freedom. We know that in France, Belgium, Holland and even in Italy, a state formerly allied to the enemy, as soon as circumstances allow after clearing these territories of the Germans, power is being returned to the appropriate national authorities.

In Poland conditions are different.

Our country is still torn apart, not so much by the so-called Curzon Line, as by a frontier drawn in 1939 by Herr von Ribbentrop and Mr. Molotov. Polish territory east of that line—including the two cities of Lwow and Vilno, beloved of every Polish heart—have been arbitrarily declared by the Soviet as part of their own territory against a primary principle of International Law.

In these provinces, deportations are rife on lines similar to those of 1939 and 1940, when approximately a million Polish citizens were penally deported to the depths of Russia and Asia. Of these not many more than one-tenth have since found their way abroad to salvation. There are no military considerations which could, then or now, justify these deportations. Units of the Polish Home Army have given substantial aid to the Red Army in its fight against the Germans. Among other occasions this aid was decisive in the capture of Vilno. Subsequently, however, the officers and men of our Home Army were the first to face arrest and deportation.

We are denied detailed information about these territories or of the fate of our relatives, friends and countrymen inhabiting them. As is well known, the Soviet Union is the only Power which admits into areas it occupies, neither the International Red Cross nor any similar International Institution.

West of the Ribbentrop-Molotov Line there is, of course, no mention of annexation; there one hears of the restoration of a strong and independent Poland. In the light of past events, however, we cannot but feel deep anxiety about the meaning of this formula. The so-called Lublin Committee of Liberation, set up by the Soviet Military authorities, is solely and entirely an agent of the Soviet Government and it appears that not even the Polish Communists are unanimous in their support of it. The head of the Committee, M. Bierut, was until recently a Soviet citizen and an officer of the Political Police of the Soviet Union.

In the part of Poland occupied by the Soviet Army there is no democratic institution, nor any trace of freedom of association or of the press, and there are no papers other than those issued by the occupying power.

We have no wish to interfere in any way with complicated political arrangements but in view of our loyalty, throughout this war, to the Anti-German Alliance, a loyalty proved by the deeds of the entire Polish Nation as well as by those of our fighting men, and on the grounds of human justice, we appeal to the Members of the British Parliament to lend their voice to an opinion which would contribute to:—

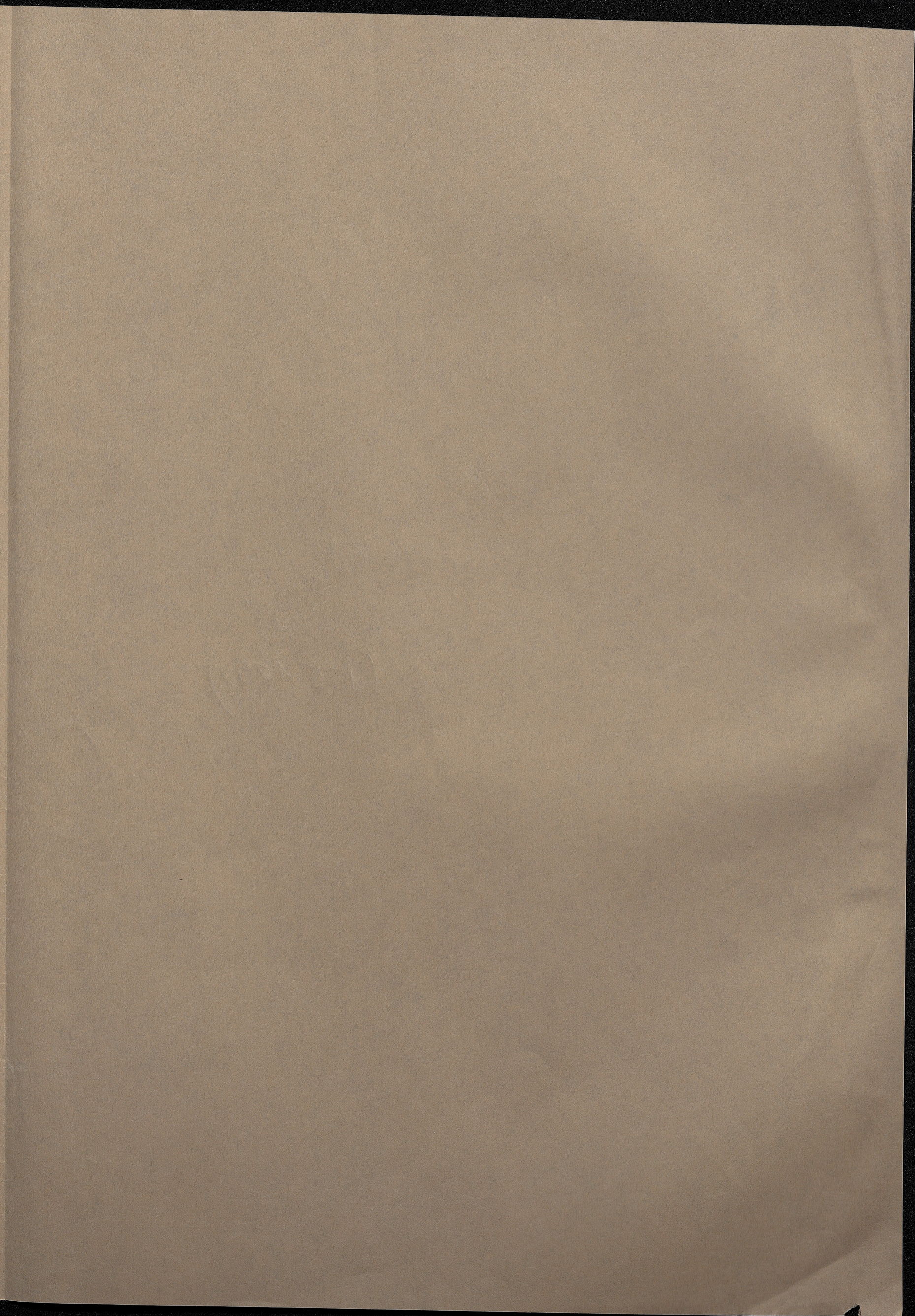
1. Dissuading the Soviet authorities from continuing the deportations of the citizens of Poland to Russia ;
2. Extending to these territories the beneficial activities of the Red Cross or other institutions aiming at the relief of distress ;
3. The recognition, also by the Soviet, of the combatant status of the Polish Home Army.;
4. The granting to our country of treatment similar to that afforded to France, Belgium, Holland and Italy.

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