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TO THE MEMBERS OF BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT.



SIR,

The undersigned members of former Polish Parliaments have resolved to address the Parliaments of all free and democratic nations and draw their attention to the decisions concerning Poland taken at the Conference of Yalta and published in the Announcement of 12th February, 1945.

This Announcement says that a Polish Government is to be formed by the broadening of the present "Provisional Polish Government" called into being by the Soviet authorities, and that this new Polish Government is to hold "free and unfettered elections as soon as possible on the basis of universal suffrage and the secret ballot," elections in which "all democratic and anti-Nazi parties shall have the right to take part."

At the present time, however, Poland is controlled by the "Provisional Government" in such a fashion that no paper and no publication is allowed to appear independently of the Government nor to express the opinion of any democratic party. The entire press is under Government control after the fashion of totalitarian States. All wireless receivers have been confiscated and people are allowed to listen to broadcasts only at special Government-controlled points, where no foreign broadcast, judged inappropriate, can be heard. The elections to the Town Councils have already taken place "as soon as was possible" and they had nothing in common with normal elections as known in other countries.

We are astonished by the expression that only "democratic and anti-Nazi parties" may take part in the elections, for this suggests that the word "democratic" is here used in a sense unfamiliar to the democratic world as it refers mainly to parties which favour state totalitarianism of the kind prevailing in the Soviet Union. The qualification "anti-Nazi" is even more surprising as all political groups in Poland without any exception carried on the struggle against the German invaders. This limitation, therefore, is utterly superfluous and can only give rise to anxiety as we are all aware that the Soviet broadcasting stations choose to call i.a. General Bor, the leader of the Warsaw rising, a pro-Nazi and a sympathiser with Hitlerism.

We must also point out that the decisions, which parties in Poland are democratic and which are not, is to be taken in Moscow and thus primarily to be in the hands of Mr. Molotov, a Minister of the greatest one-party State in the world.

At the present time in Poland members of the former Home Army are being arrested, deported and even shot. The Announcement of the Big Three fails to tell us whether such practises are to cease before the holding of "free and unfettered elections." Measures of an economic and financial character are also now being taken which must lead to the ruin of the economic life of our country. They are in the nature of those tested by Soviet Russia in the first stages of her existence but abandoned later after having been proved impracticable. Their application to Poland can only be explained by the desire of plunging our country into a state of complete destitution. The Announcement of 12th February also passes these things over in silence.

The Announcement implies that Great Britain and the United States intend to break off all Treaties and Agreements binding them to the President of Poland and the Polish Government which represents the continuity of the Polish State, the continuity of its struggle with Germany, and to be parties to the formation of a new Government for our country. This means that they are ready to adhere to the Soviet thesis expressed in the note forced upon the Polish Ambassador in Moscow on the night of 16—17th September, 1939. There it was said that the Polish State had ceased to exist and that all treaties concluded with it had lost their validity. At that time, however, Great Britain took the exactly opposite line, she acknowledged the continuity of our Government and helped its armed forces to carry on their fight against Germany. Now Great Britain and the United States proceed to break off their collaboration with the Polish State and the Polish people and they intend to enter into relations with a Government forced on the Polish nation by the Soviet, a

Government composed in part of men with no right to Polish citizenship, of men who are Poles only by extraction, men who have spent their lives working for international Communist organisations and out of contact with Polish affairs.

The conclusion suggests itself that the present decision of Great Britain and the United States is intended to be a punishment dealt out to the citizens of the Polish Republic for not having readily agreed to a new partition of their country, and the handing over to Russia of their two most dearly beloved cities, Lwów and Wilno, and having thereby allegedly obstructed the relations between three Great Allies. And yet the Polish Government showed much good will towards Russia and demanded only that the Polish people should remain truly independent, and that it should be treated according to the law of nations which says that no territorial changes are admissible without a formal peace treaty. The Polish Government could not submit to a demand of unconditional surrender which would appear to go even further than the one prepared for Germany.

We cannot but challenge the right of Mr. Molotov and the two Ambassadors of the Western Powers to appoint a Government for Poland, and we cannot but declare that the body formed by them will not be a Polish Government.

The first tangible result of this war will be the wiping out of the Polish State and of its independence in the defence of which the Allies drew the sword in 1939.

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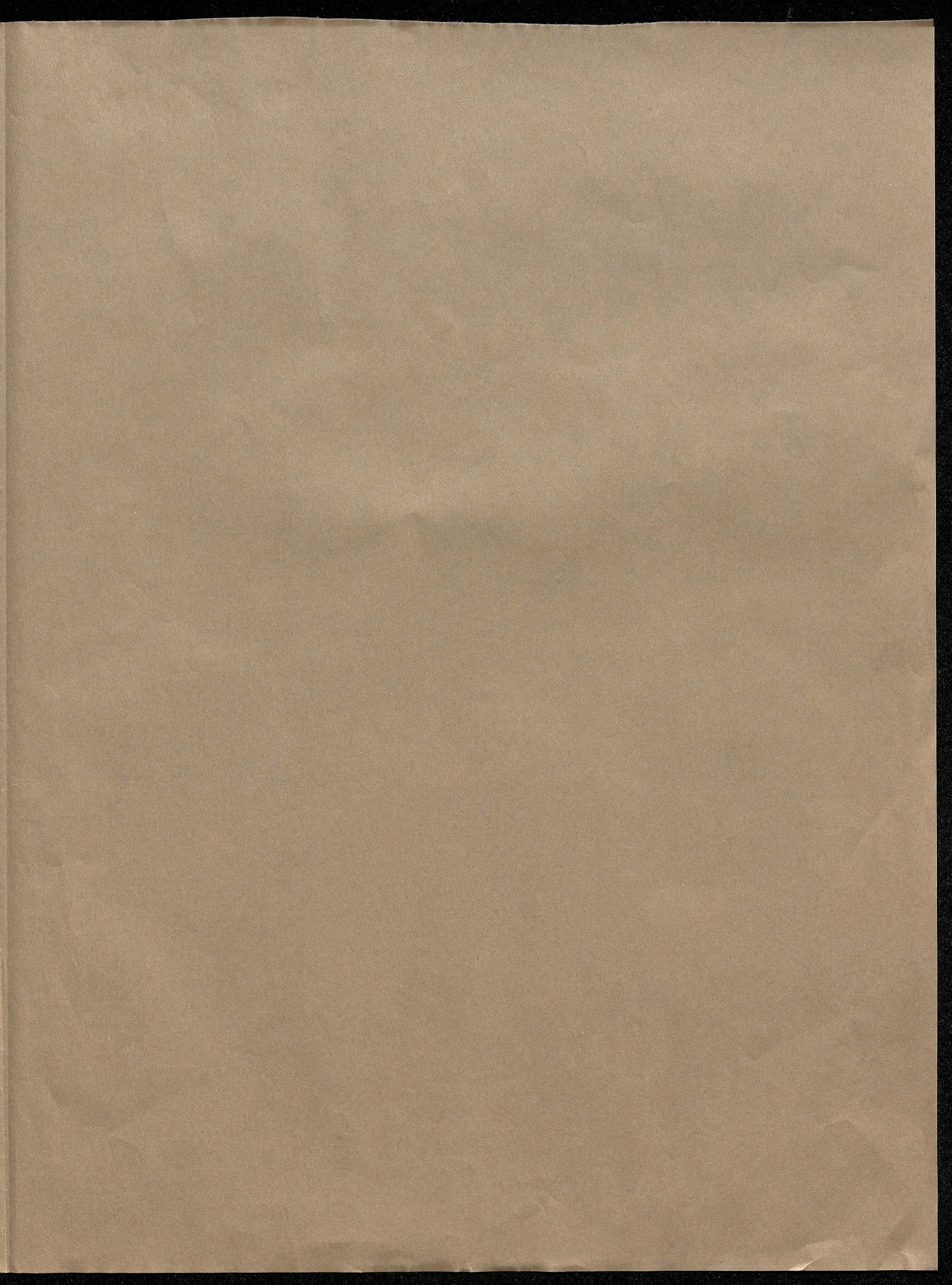
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