

**NOTE OF
THE PEOPLE'S COMMISSAR OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
V. M. MOLOTOV**

April 27, 1942

**REGARDING THE MONSTROUS ATROCITIES, BESTIALITIES, AND
ACTS OF VIOLENCE PERPETRATED BY THE GERMAN FASCIST IN-
VADERS IN THE OCCUPIED SOVIET DISTRICTS, AND THE RESPONSI-
BILITY OF THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT AND ITS HIGH COMMAND
FOR THESE CRIMES.**

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People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs V. M. Molotov has sent the following note to the ambassadors and envoys of all countries with which the USSR has diplomatic relations.

ON behalf of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics I have the honor to bring the following to your attention:

The Soviet Government is constantly receiving new data and communications testifying that the Hitlerite invaders are carrying on widespread looting and outright extermination of the Soviet population, without hesitating at any crime, at any atrocity or act of violence, throughout the territories which they had temporarily occupied or which they still continue to occupy. The Soviet Government has already made it known that these atrocities are not occasional excesses committed by individual undisciplined military units or by individual German officers and soldiers. At the present time the Soviet Government is in possession of documents recently seized in the headquarters of shattered German units, and these documents prove that the bloody crimes and bestial outrages perpetrated by the German fascist army are committed in accordance with a carefully prepared plan, worked out in every detail by the German Government and in accordance with orders issued by the German High Command. These plans and orders of the German imperialist invaders provide for the wholesale looting of the urban and rural population of our country, for the seizure and exportation to Germany of personal properties belonging to Soviet citizens, as well as properties belonging to the Soviet State; the complete destruction of cities and villages from which the Hitlerites are compelled to retreat under the blows of the armed forces of the Soviet Union; the seizure of lands turned over by the Soviet Government for the perpetual and free use of the collective farms, and the settling upon such seized lands of German "administrators" and German landlords. They provide for serfdom, slave labor and bondage for our workers and farmers under the domination of the German imperialist invaders; the forcible abduction into Germany for forced labor of several millions of Soviet citizens, from the city and countryside, and their unlawful inclusion in the category of "prisoners

of war"; the liquidation of Russian national culture as well as the national cultures of the peoples of the Soviet Union, with the forcible Germanization of Russians, Ukrainians, Byelorussians, Lithuanians, Latvians, Estonians and other peoples of the USSR; the extermination of the Soviet population, prisoners of war and guerrillas through bloody violence, tortures, executions and mass killings of Soviet citizens, regardless of their nationality, social status, sex or age. These are the murderous plans with which the German fascist hordes broke into our country. These predatory Hitlerite plans found their expression in innumerable orders issued by the German military command. The actions of the Red Army, which in fierce battles, step by step, is liberating our cities, villages, districts and regions, have disclosed a truly indescribable picture of how the German fascist army is carrying out the above-mentioned criminal plans of Hitler, Goering and the other rulers who managed to climb to power in present-day Germany, with methodical precision and unheard of cruelty.

With this note the Soviet Government brings to the attention of all nations new documents and data out of the voluminous material at its disposal, which not only substantiate the planned nature of the atrocities described in the notes of the Government of the USSR of November 25, 1941, and January 6, 1942, but which also prove that the Hitlerite rulers and their accomplices have reached the limit of cruelty and moral degeneration in their criminal and bloody attack upon the liberty, welfare, culture and the very life of the Soviet peoples.

Looting of the Population

Units of the Red Army have seized the original of a secret document issued by Reichsmarshal Goering, entitled "Directions for the Conduct of Economy in the Newly Occupied Eastern Regions (Green File)." This secret document contains 28 pages and consists of several sections and numerous paragraphs. It was issued with the notation: "Berlin, June 11, 1941." These "directions" of the Hitler Government were issued, as evidenced by the text of the document, immediately before Germany's attack upon the Soviet Union, and are intended for the "orientation of the military leadership and the departments of economic warfare concerning the economic problems in the Eastern regions designated for occupation." In these "Directions (Green File)" the tasks of the German attack on the USSR are formulated as follows: "In accord with the orders of the Fuehrer it is imperative to take all measures toward the immediate and complete utilization of the occupied regions in the interest of Germany. To obtain for Germany the greatest possible quantity of food and petroleum, is the main economic purpose of the campaign. Along with this, German industry is to be provided with other raw materials from the occupied regions. . . . The primary task is the speediest realization of the complete provisioning of the German troops at the expense of the occupied regions." This document carries the cynical footnote that it is "wholly irrelevant to suppose that the occupied regions are to be restored to order in the shortest possible time, and that their economy is to be rehabilitated. Restoration of order must be carried out

only in those regions where we can obtain considerable supplies of agricultural products and petroleum. In the others . . . economic activity must be limited to the utilization of available supplies." (Points 1 and 2 of the section: "The Primary Economic Tasks.") This previously prepared plan by the Hitlerites for the organized looting of our country, which has no parallel in the annals of history, provides for the exportation to Germany from the USSR of all raw materials, all stocks of commodities and the wholesale plundering of the civil population: "All raw materials which we need, all semi-finished and finished products, are to be withdrawn from the market through special orders, requisition and confiscation. Platinum, magnesium and rubber are subject to immediate requisition and exportation to Germany." (Points 1, B and C of the section: "Raw Materials and the Utilization of Commodity Resources".) "All food products discovered in regions adjacent to the front and in rear regions, as well as all articles of everyday consumption and personal use, and clothing are to be turned over to the jurisdiction of military economic departments for the satisfaction of the needs of the army. . . and whatever is not accepted by them is to be passed on to the next military economic setup." (Chapter 1, point 2, Section "Supplying the Troops from the Resources of the Country".)

For the carrying out of this plan for plunder, which also provides for the organization of forced labor in our cities and villages, the issuance of worthless currency and the abolition of the payment of wages in all enterprises, a special apparatus was created, which is described in detail in the discovered document. It represents, as it were, a special kind of weapon of the German Army, with its own "economic command," "economic staffs," with its own "intelligence service," "inspections," "military units," "detachments for the collection of industrial products," "detachments for the collection of raw materials," "military agronomists," "agricultural officers," etc.

The Soviet Government asserts that this brigand plan for the wholesale plundering of our country testifies that Hitlerite Germany was preparing for this piratic campaign against the USSR long before the invasion of our territory. The Soviet Government maintains at the same time that this plan for plunder to satisfy the needs of the German Army and the German rear for foods, raw materials and industrial products, at the expense of the resources created by the labor of the Soviet people, suffered a setback in all its expectations of easy pickings in the USSR. The chief obstacle to realization of this villainous plan of Hitler and Goering was the boundless devotion to their motherland of the Soviet citizens: workers, farmers, intellectuals, employees—and their indomitable hatred for the foreign invaders. However, while the occupants failed to carry out "the immediate and most complete utilization of the occupied regions in the interests of Germany" in accordance with the unified plan of the Reichsmarshal, the German occupation authorities and the German military command have carried out and are carrying out in the occupied territories, with even greater shamelessness, widespread looting of the civil populations, plundering all their property accumulated through many years of honest labor. The appendix to the special order No. 43761-41 of the operating department of the German Army General Staff points out: "It is

necessary by all means to obtain clothing through forcible levy upon the population of the occupied regions. First of all it is necessary to take away wool and leather gloves, overcoats, vests, shawls, cotton-lined vests and trousers, leather and felt boots, puttees."

Among orders of a number of defeated German units is cited the following instruction, issued by the command of the Northern Army Group, under No. 1422-41, dated November 6, 1941 and signed by Lieutenant General Beyer:

"All felt boots in the possession of the Russian civilian population, including children's felt boots, are subject to immediate requisition. To own felt boots is forbidden and is punishable as the unauthorized carrying of arms." (For which, according to German instructions, violators are to be shot on the spot.) The many thousands of cases of peaceful Soviet citizens being slain as they were looted by the German occupants are to be viewed in the light of such orders issued by the German Command.

There is hardly an inhabited point in the territories liberated by the Red Army where there are not found cases similar to the following: In their retreat from the village of Terentyevo of Maloyaroslavets District, Moscow Region, the Germans stopped the 73-year-old peasant G. P. Yurgov, the 70-year-old woman A. Chibisov and 12-year-old V. Sergeyev, in the street and after pulling off their sheepskin coats and felt boots, shot them to death.

At a number of liberated points in the Kursk and Orel Regions there was found an order which prescribed: "Property such as scales, sacks, grain, salt, kerosene, gasoline, lamps, frying pans, oilcloth, window shades, curtains, rugs, phonographs and records must be brought to the general headquarters. Those guilty of violating this order will be shot."

In an order of the German commandant of the city of Staritsa, dated December 11, 1941, calling upon the population to turn over all property under penalty of being shot, the following articles are enumerated: "cloth, underwear, bathrobes, furniture, clothing, boots, shoes, soap, iron parts, various instruments and all household and other materials." In the city of Istra, Moscow Region, the occupants "confiscated" children's Christmas tree decorations and toys. At the railway station of Shakhovskaia they designated a "collection" place for the inhabitants to turn over their children's underwear, wall clocks and samovars. In the regions which are still in the hands of the occupants, searches and plunder of the population still continue, although the people have already been reduced to poverty by looting, which has not stopped since the first hour of the appearance of the German troops.

The German Command actually instructs its units to doom the civil population, including children, women and the aged to starvation; to take away from them the last supplies of food, and to destroy products which the retreating German armies are unable to take along. An order of Field Marshal General von Reichenau, of October 10, 1941—which was dispatched to all German units as a model order with a note that Hitler "recognized this as an excellent order"—contains the following incitement to looting and extermination of the population: "To provide the local population and war prisoners with food is unnecessary

humanitarianism. That which the fatherland denies itself . . . should not be left by the soldier to the enemy."

The wide-spread nature of the brigandage planned by the Hitler Government, by which the German High Command aims to provide supplies for its army and rear, is made clear by the following facts:

In only 25 districts of the Tula Region the occupants seized from Soviet citizens a total of 14,048 cows, 11,860 pigs, 28,459 head of sheep, and 213,678 chickens, geese and ducks, and destroyed 25,465 beehives. In 15 villages of the Dzerzhinsky District, Smolensk Region, the occupants seized the following collective farm property: 2,554 horses, 1,170 cows, 335 pigs, 5,710 chickens. In addition they seized the following personal property belonging to individuals of the collective farms: 2,027 cows, 2,138 pigs, 5,297 head of sheep, 44,159 chickens, 5,477 pairs of felt boots, 2,439 fur coats, 3,208 warm shawls, 10,431 meters of piece goods, 3,299 suits of men's underwear, 815 suits of children's underwear, the entire reserve supply of grain belonging to collective farms and individuals and meat, honey, vegetables and all other produce. In addition they took all agricultural equipment, sewing machines, bicycles, cash, etc. The so-called directives of Hitler's Reichsmarshal, as well as the orders issued by the various headquarters of the many German army units and, above all the countless crimes committed by the Hitlerites in the territories which they have temporarily seized—all this completely reveals their true face as armed brigands who do not stop at any crime. They invaded our land at the behest of the criminal Hitler Government, which bears full responsibility for all atrocities and the destruction of our cities and villages. Upon direct orders from its High Command the German fascist army, during its occupation and stay, subjects Soviet cities and villages to unheard-of destruction. The Germans burn and otherwise destroy the homes of Soviet citizens, schools, hospitals, museums, theaters, clubs, various public buildings and other structures. Thus, an order issued on October 10, 1941 to the 6th German Army, reads in part: "The army is only interested in putting out fires in such buildings as are to be used for housing army units. All else . . . including buildings, must be destroyed."

Toward the end of 1941 and early in 1942, the German Command issued a series of orders prescribing that German army units which are compelled to retreat under pressure from the Red Army are to destroy everything that might still have been left undestroyed during the occupation. Thousands of villages, large and small, whole blocks in many towns and even entire cities are destroyed by fire, blown up, and leveled to the ground by the retreating German fascist army. Organized destruction of Soviet cities and villages has become a special branch in the criminal activity of the German invaders on Soviet territory. Special instructions and detailed orders, devoted entirely to methods of destroying Soviet inhabited localities, are issued by the German Command. Special detachments trained for this criminal profession are assigned to the task. Here are several facts out of many in the possession of the Soviet Government:

An order to the 512th Infantry Regiment of the 293rd German Division, issued on December 10, 1941 constitutes a compendium, taking up seven sheets of paper, of the most precise plans for consistent de-

struction of village after village in the district where the said regiment had been stationed from December 10 to December 14, inclusive. This order, compiled according to a model used throughout the entire German Army, states in part: "Preparations for destruction of inhabited localities must be carried out so that: (a) at no time prior to its announcement shall any suspicion be aroused among the civilian population; (b) destruction should be commenced suddenly, with one blow at the appointed time. . . . On that day particular and strict care must be taken that no person of the civilian population should be allowed to leave such inhabited locality, especially from the moment announcement of destruction is made public. . . . In order to improve winter quarters occupied by the regiment, it is permissible to seize utensils, kerosene, nails, pans, pots, lamps, chairs, buckets, rope, sacks, food; it is also permissible to drive off cattle. . . ."

An order issued by the commander of the German 98th Infantry Division, dated December 24, 1941, after designating 16 villages to be burned, states: "All available supplies of hay, straw, produce, etc. are to be burned. All ovens in dwellings are to be put out of order by placing hand grenades inside and thus rendering their further use impossible. Under no circumstances is this order to fall into the hands of the enemy."

The German fascist army carries out these orders with unbounded ferocity, burning villages to the ground, blowing up dwellings in the cities and burning to death the inhabitants therein; shooting Soviet citizens who attempt to rescue their loved ones and others who were not able to escape from their burning homes in time; killing persons who attempt to rescue even part of their belongings. Throughout the territory where the German invaders were lording it not so long ago, there are whole districts where for stretches of scores of kilometers hardly a single house is to be found that has escaped destruction.

From the numerous documents in which these crimes of the German army have been recorded by the military and civilian authorities of the USSR and by the local population, the following affidavit is submitted. It relates to only five of the Soviet villages burned down by the Hitlerites, but it is representative of thousands of similar instances.

"Affidavit made on January 11, 1942 in the village of Zaneprezhye of the Zaneprezhye village Soviet in the Penovsk District, Kalinin Region:

"1. On December 12 and 13, 1941, all inhabitants of the following villages in the Zaneprezhye village Soviet were driven out in the space of two hours: the villages of Nikishki, Zaneprezhye, Zarezhye, Gorodtsy and Maslovo. The inhabitants of said villages were sent under German military guard to the interior parts of the district which had fallen into the enemy's hands.

"2. All above mentioned villages were set afire by the next day with the following results: In the village of Nikishki, 69 out of 70 houses had been destroyed by fire; in Zaneprezhye, 39 out of 50 houses; in Zarezhye, 24 out of 25 houses; in Maslovo, 68 out of 69, while in the village of Gorodtsy, all of the 22 houses burned down. In addition, the village of Pokrovskoye was set afire in the presence of its inhabitants, with 12 out of 42 houses burned down. In the village of Bolshoye Ilinskoye, two public buildings were destroyed by fire.

"3. In the village of Maslovo, a farmer, Feodor Antonovich Morozov, his daughter Maria, and the collective farm women, Galia Kotova, Vera Kuznetsova, Valia Pokrovskaya and Lydia Ivanova, who attempted to save their property, were captured by the German guards and taken to a locked house. Later the German soldiers fired on the house with automatic rifles and hand grenades, and then set it afire. All persons locked in the house met death, with the exception of Lydia Ivanova who accidentally fell into the cellar."

"This affidavit is signed by the chairman of the village Soviet, Arseni Nikolayevich Zuyev; by the chairman of the Kolkhoz administration, Ivan Markelovich Markelov; and by the leader of the Machine-Tractor Station brigade, Vera Sergejevna Pavlova."

The special detachments created by the German Command for the purpose of burning down Soviet inhabited localities and for mass extermination of the civilian population during the retreat of Hitler's army, are committing their gory deeds with the cold-bloodedness of professional criminals. Thus, for instance, prior to their retreat from the village of Bolshekrepinskaja, in the Rostov Region, the Germans used special flame throwers in the streets of the village, burning to the ground, one after another, a total of 1,168 houses. They turned a large, prosperous village into a flaming bonfire, which consumed dwelling houses, a hospital, a school and various public buildings. Simultaneously and without any warning, they automatically shot down those of the inhabitants who approached their burning homes. Several of the inhabitants were bound, gasoline was poured over them, and they were thrown into the burning houses.

The scale of the destruction wrought by the Hitlerite thugs and incendiaries is attested to by the following facts, out of many others. In the 23 districts of the Moscow Region occupied by the invaders, 537 villages were wholly destroyed and 9,238 partly destroyed. Wholly destroyed were 38,423 houses in the villages and 5,140 houses in the cities; also 947 schools (out of 1,220), 159 hospitals, 54 kindergartens and day-nurseries, 491 clubs and bakeries, 109 restaurants, 788 stores, 1,053 stables, 3,169 cattle-sheds, 13,610 granaries and barns, 747 auxiliary enterprises, etc.

In 25 districts of the Tula Region, the German army during the time of its occupation completely destroyed by fire 316 villages, 19,164 farm-houses, 299 schools and 2,950 barns, granaries, stables and cattle-sheds. The ancient Russian city of Staritsa is a heap of ruins. The hospital, library, theater and orphanage are completely demolished. Out of 866 buildings in the town of Bogorodsk, 534 have been completely destroyed by fire. In the city of Stalinogorsk, the damage to dwellings alone is estimated at 278,000,000 rubles. In the city of Kaluga, the occupants methodically ravaged street after street in the course of several days.

An identical picture of destruction carried out according to plan is presented in scores of other cities in Russian regions and also in the Ukraine, in Byelorussia, Moldavia and in the Karelian-Finnish SSR. The whole German army is acquainted with the orders of its High Command which call for wholesale destruction of Soviet inhabited localities. Of the same nature is Hitler's order of January 3, 1942, to wit:

“Fuehrer’s Headquarters, January 3, 1942:

“Hang on to each inhabited locality, do not retreat a single step, defend yourselves to the last soldier, to the last hand grenade—such is the demand of the present moment. Each point occupied by us must be turned into a point of defense, its surrender must not be allowed under any circumstances, not even if it should be outflanked by the enemy. If, however, a given point must be evacuated under order from superior authorities, everything must be burned to the ground and ovens blown up.

“Signed: Adolph Hitler.”

The arch despoiler Hitler was not ashamed to admit publicly that the destruction of Soviet cities and villages is the handiwork of his army. In his speech of January 3, 1942, he declared: “Where the Russians succeeded in breaking through, and where they thought that they had re-occupied inhabited localities, such inhabited localities no longer exist. There are only bare ruins.”

Thus the complete responsibility of the Hitler Government and its Command for the devastation of occupied Soviet territories carried out by the German army—the wholesale destruction of dwellings and other structures, enterprises, schools, hospitals, cultural institutions, and all the losses thus caused to the Soviet State and individual citizens—must be considered established with complete accuracy and proper documentation

The Institution of a Regime of Serfdom and Slavery Within the Occupied Districts of the USSR, and the Abduction of the Civil Population Into Captivity

The Soviet Government has at its disposal documentary evidence which testifies to the fact that the Hitlerite rulers and military command are carrying out within the occupied territories a plan of wholesale enslavement of Soviet citizens. They are introducing universal forced labor in cities and villages and forcibly abducting to Germany several million peaceful inhabitants of our country, unlawfully listing them in the category of “war prisoners.” The Hitlerites seek to turn our homeland into an enslaved colony.

In the occupied regions of the Ukraine and Byelorussia, the Germans introduced a system of forced labor for industrial workers, compelling them to work 14 and 16 hours a day, even under conditions most injurious to health. In most cases these workers receive no pay and in other cases the pay is ridiculously low. For instance, in Kiev and Krivoi Rog wages paid to workers, when wages are paid, amount in the majority of cases to less than half a German mark per day. Existence at such rates of pay is tantamount to a slow death from starvation. The majority of the people in the industrial districts of the occupied regions are condemned to a life of forced labor at heavy roadbuilding and carting work, are pressed by the occupants into “labor columns” wherein skilled workers, technicians and engineers are made to do the work of unskilled laborers. The overwhelming majority of industrial enterprises in the occupied regions is idle. A great part of such enterprises is being turned over by the occupants to German capitalist firms, which in this manner appropriate the property of the Soviet people. However, they usually find themselves unable to make such enterprises function.

The German invaders and their Rumanian accomplices recently announced a "bargain sale" of industrial enterprises in the occupied territories of Moldavia and the Ukraine, which actually means the transfer of such enterprises, with their workers, to any German or Rumanian capitalist who may come to terms with the military authorities. In the Ukraine and in Byelorussia the entire commercial network is practically liquidated, and only once in a great while are articles of personal use, requisitioned from the local population, placed on the market. In a few stores opened in Dniepropetrovsk, Kiev and Poltava the sale of commodities is made, as stated on their signs, "to Germans only." Upon instructions from the German Command market places are prohibited from functioning "in order to forestall any disappearance of goods which are needed by Imperial Germany."

In a secret instruction entitled "Pressing Problems in the Eastern Regions," which was seized by units of the Red Army in the early part of March, 1942, the head of the "military economic inspection of the central front," Lieutenant General Weigang, admits that it has "become impossible to carry on industrial production with the work of half-starved people," that the "depreciation of currency and the commodity crisis go hand in hand with the dangerous lack of confidence in the German authorities on the part of the local population," and that this is "pregnant with perils to the tranquility of the inhabitants in areas under occupation, which are impermissible in the rear of the fighting armies." The German general dares in this document to call these areas "our new eastern colonial possessions."

Recognizing that the complete disruption of industrial production in the occupied regions has brought about mass unemployment, German General Weigang gives the following instructions concerning the forcible dispatch to Germany of Russian, Ukrainian, Byelorussian and other local workers: "Only by sending to Germany from the occupied eastern regions several million picked Russian workers from the inexhaustible reserves of healthy men able to work, will it be possible to solve the pressing problem of meeting the unheard-of demand for labor power and by the same token to fill the catastrophic shortage of hands in Germany." (Special instruction No. 3 for special group B, Section 2)

The German Command and the occupation authorities trample upon all human dignities of our citizens, having established in the occupied zones a regime of unprecedented tyranny. An order issued by the command of the 3rd Group of the German Tank Corps and seized by Red Army units, orders that the entire civilian population of occupied regions be mobilized for various kinds of hard labor. It further instructs that such forced labor shall not be paid for, and it insolently declares: "By unpaid labor the population will redeem its guilt for acts of sabotage already committed as well as for such acts of sabotage as may be committed in the future."

This slave labor is accompanied by abuse and repression, not only for evasion to do forced labor, but also for what may seem to the occupants insufficient efficiency of labor on the part of the inhabitants weakened by starvation. A public notice issued in the city of Kaluga on November 20, 1941 over the signature of the German Commandant, Major Portacius, reads as follows:

"1) Citizens who are lazy at their work or those who will not work the prescribed number of hours, will be sentenced to pay a fine in cash. In the event of non-payment the guilty persons will be subjected to corporal punishment.

"2) Citizens who are assigned work and who fail to show up will be subjected to corporal punishment and will not receive food assistance from the city.

"3) Citizens who in general avoid work will, in addition to the above, be driven out of Kaluga. Citizens who are afraid of work will be organized into labor regiments and columns and will be placed in barracks, and they will be compelled to work at hard labor."

With regard to the peasantry of the occupied regions the Hitler Government and Command set themselves the following task, which they put into practice:

1) Seizure by the German occupants of lands which the Soviet State had granted for the perpetual and free use of the collective farms.

The land of the collective farms as well as that belonging to individual peasants is turned over to the "Agricultural Department of the German Administration," and this "German Administration," cursed by the peasants, arbitrarily disposes of all such seized lands.

2) Liquidation of collective farms and the formation of "communal economies" under the supervision of a German "administrator."

The purpose is that with the aid of these "communal economies," set up by the fascists and under the stick of German "administrators," the peasants should be forced to work in gangs. All food and other agricultural produce derived from such labor is forthwith to be gathered and immediately transported for the maintenance of the German fascist army and rear.

3) The setting up of landowners' estates on the land confiscated from the peasants.

The estates are to be settled by German landowners and sundry favorites of the Hitler coterie, so-called German colonists covetous of other peoples' possessions.

4) Forcible abduction of many hundreds of thousands of peasants, men and women, to be used for forced labor in Hitlerite Germany.

That is how the German fascist authorities and Command treat the peasants of the occupied Soviet regions, leaving them without land and food, instituting a regime of slave labor and servitude under the command of Hitlerite "administrators," including all kinds of freebooters. These authorities are already preparing the ground for the restoration of landlord property and the setting up of German landowners upon the seized collective farm lands. This is the real meaning of the "Land Law" issued toward the end of February 1942 by Alfred Rosenberg, Hitlerite administrator of the occupied Soviet regions and former Tsarist spy.

Such is the "agrarian" system set up in the occupied Soviet regions of the Ukraine, Byelorussia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia, by the German fascist generals, with the aid of sundry "agricultural officers," "military administrators," and "Hitlerite administrators" of the "Agricultural Department of the German Administration," specially trained for the purpose of oppressing the peasants.

All this is attested to by numerous edicts and instructions issued by the German occupants and by the printed leaflets and proclamations which they distribute. Secret instructions issued by the German Command entitled "Principles Guiding the Conduct of Economy in the East. (Being an Appendix to the Special Order on Provisions)," dated August 22, 1941, state:

"The main task is the speediest procurement of grain, oil-producing crops, petroleum and light metals, also to furnish transport facilities and agricultural implements. We must strive to set up the largest possible number of German leaders in order to achieve the speediest dispatch of products from the enterprises under their administration. The collective farm system must be preserved for the time being in order to avert any interruption in supplying the German Army and economy from the wide Russian spaces."

A memorandum issued by the German High Command under the title: "Memorandum on the Conduct of Economy in the Conquered Eastern Regions" states:

"The conquered Eastern regions are German economic territory. The land, all livestock and equipment are the property of the German Reich." The same Hitlerite memorandum gives special instructions on what ruses to use and what promises to make to peasants about returning their property and paying for their labor in order to deceive them; what "assurances" are to be given the Russians in order that the "labor of the local population should be utilized to greater advantage for the purpose of supplying the German Army and, in addition, for supplying the military and economic needs of Germany."

Erich Koch, so-called "Imperial Commissar" for the regions occupied by the Germans, in a message to Germans in the military service who were born in Eastern Prussia, promises to distribute the lands and other riches of the Ukraine among them. He says: "As Imperial Commissar I received the Ukraine—so rich in soil and vegetation—which by the will of the Fuehrer will be utilized for the needs of Europe. The confidence of the Fuehrer makes it possible for me to take care of each one of you, so that my comrades may be my true assistants in the solution of this tremendous problem. I have already given you my word that in the Eastern regions which you have conquered you will be given enterprises and places of employment before anyone else. You and your children will fill with German life the land which has been saturated with German blood."

General Teteranu, assistant chief of the headquarters of the Rumanian Supreme Command, does not lag far behind this adventurer. In Circular No. 1,500-NRA, he makes the following declaration:

"As a reward for valor and devotion, His Excellency General Antonescu has decided to award land in the liberated territories to all those who distinguish themselves in the present war. Military units are to prepare lists of names of distinguished officers, corporals and soldiers who deserve to receive land awards, indicating the province in which they wish land. These lists are to be compiled by military units every 15 days."

In the official Hitlerite propaganda broadcasts it is openly stated that "Twenty-five million German colonists and people of kindred national-

ities will be settled in the Ukraine. They should not fear hardships, because the heavy work will be performed by Ukrainians."

In order to destroy the collective farm system established in our villages, which has opened up a path to a prosperous and happy life for our peasants, and in order to set up the German fascist system of oppression, the German Command has extended unlimited rights to its "economic commands," "military agronomists," "agricultural officers," "administrators" appointed by the Hitlerites, and all "commandants," "village elders" and "burgomasters," authorizing them to exercise the cruelest physical coercion in forcing the peasants to work as slaves.

An order from the headquarters of the 48th Armored Tank Corps of the German Army states: "The way to uphold internal order in a Ukrainian village is with a club." And here is an order by the German commandant of the town of Andreyevka, Kharkov Region, November 9, 1941: "The burgomaster is appointed by the German Command and all his orders must be obeyed. Disobedience is punishable by death."

An excerpt from a message addressed by the German authorities to the collective farmers of the village of Bagata-Chernishina, Kharkov Region, reads: "You must work for the German Army five days a week. Whoever fails to report will receive 25 lashes." The punishment officially prescribed and decreed by the German Command for refusal to submit to cruel exploitation for the benefit of the Germans is from 25 to 30 lashes. For mass refusal of collective farmers and individual peasants to report for work, the orders of the German Command provide punitive expeditions. In the possession of captured Hitlerite soldiers and officers were found photographs showing scenes of corporal punishment and mass executions of peasants committed by the punitive detachments of the occupation authorities. Circulars of the German Command show that the rural population is compelled to witness such punishments and executions. To frighten the inhabitants, the bodies of the victims shot and hanged are not allowed to be buried for weeks. The number of Soviet peasants and other peaceful inhabitants abducted by the German fascist occupants and sent to the rear runs into hundreds of thousands and probably more.

The German Command, criminally violating age-old laws and customs of warfare, orders its troops to make prisoners of all the male civilian population, and in many localities of women as well, and subjects them to the regime established by the Hitlerites for war prisoners. For the peaceful inhabitants who are taken prisoner this means not only slave labor, but often death from hunger, disease, floggings and organized mass executions. Thus, in the camp for "war prisoners" near Minsk, where some 100,000 persons are kept in the open, most of them male peasants from Byelorussia, aged 15 to 60, hundreds of persons die every day from hunger, disease, beatings and shootings. Bodies of the dead are not removed for long periods. Prisoners are left without food and water for five and six days at a stretch. During distribution of food, only those prisoners nearest the distribution center manage to obtain food. At each distribution several scores are killed. Camp guards frequently amuse themselves by opening machine gun fire at a level of one meter above the ground, forcing such prisoners as are moving about the camp to crawl on the ground.

In a camp for "war prisoners" near Kiev where 7,000 persons are concentrated, the number of captured Red Army men is but 15 per cent, the rest being peaceful Ukrainian civilians doomed to slave labor and extermination. The same regime of hunger and death exists in dozens of other camps set up for the peaceful civilian population, classified as "war prisoners."

The abduction of peaceful citizens to the German rear, which had been widely practiced by the German fascist army during its advance, now assumes a particularly cruel and widespread aspect in places nearest the rear of the retreating German army, at the direct orders of the German High Command. In a number of documents seized by Red Army units in headquarters of smashed German units, reference is made to order of the High Command No. 2974-41, of December 6, 1941, which directs that all adult males in occupied localities be sent to war prisoner camps. In an order sent to the 37th Infantry Regiment, dated December 2, 1941 and entitled "Concerning Removal of the Civilian Population," a precise plan is given for wholesale abduction and transportation to the German rear of the entire population of seven villages in the period December 4-12. Paragraph 7 of this order reads: "Necessary harshness in the execution of this order is unavoidable. From the moment the order for removal is made public to the population, strict vigilance must be exercised that no one shall leave the inhabited localities."

An order of December 12, 1941, issued during retreat, by the commander of 101st Motorized Regiment of the 18th Tank Division, reads: "All males who are able to bear arms are to be detained and sent to concentration points for war prisoners. Women and children from defense points of the front line are to be driven westward, while those from the second line of defense are to be driven to one place of concentration at the discretion of the military units. All men and women appearing in the sector of the division, whether on foot, skis or sleighs, are to be fired on without warning."

The abducted civilian population, including women and children, is forced while in transit to serve retreating German units—to clear roads, carry shells, carry food to pillboxes and trenches under fire, and perform any work ordered by the supervisors. The tragic fate of the inhabitants of the village of Dubovtsi (Northwestern Front) serves as an example which is repeated many times in the regions under German occupation. After ordering the village of Dubovtsi burned down, the German commandant announced to the inhabitants that all persons remaining in the village after 8 p.m. would be shot; that they must go westward and submissively obey all orders of the German soldiers escorting them. Fourteen peasants of this village, of whom seven were women, were shot by the invaders for refusing to leave their native place. The other inhabitants, including women with infants, without warm clothing and regardless of winter cold, were driven westward by the Germans, without rest, without food, without halts, forced constantly to carry out labor beyond their endurance. One by one they fell from fatigue. Whole families froze to death on the way, but the columns were constantly replenished by inhabitants from other villages which lay in the path of the retreating armies. Those who survived were ad-

monished by the following order: "The German Command warns that refusal to work will be punished by hanging." It was only the speedy arrival of Red Army units that saved such part of the peaceful population as remained alive. In a similar manner, 6,080 persons from occupied districts of the Moscow Region were forcibly removed to the German rear.

There is not a single inhabited locality in the liberated sections of Smolensk Region where similar pictures of cruelty and tyranny have not come to light--the same abduction of the peaceful population into captivity, either wholesale, or by separating men from their families, or by tearing women from their children. Only an insignificant minority succeeds in coming back to their native places. Those who return bring tales of unheard of humiliation, hard slave labor, wholesale death of captive inhabitants from hunger and torture, of the sick and the weakened wounded being put to death by the fascists.

Destruction of the National Culture of the Peoples of the USSR Fallen Under the Yoke of the German Invaders

Documents and evidence prove that the German fascist army and occupation authorities do not stop at any means of oppression, at any forms of humiliation and insult to national feelings, faiths and convictions of the population.

Desecration and destruction of historical and cultural monuments in occupied Soviet territories, and also the destruction of numerous cultural institutions created by the Soviet Government, is part of a monstrous and stupid plan conceived and carried out by the Hitlerite Government aiming at destruction of Russian national culture and the national cultures of the peoples of the Soviet Union, and at forcible Germanization of Russians, Ukrainians, Byelorussians, Lithuanians, Latvians, Estonians and other nationalities of the USSR.

Only the fascist degenerates could set themselves the stupid aim of uprooting the great Russian culture and the cultures of other Soviet nationalities, which under Soviet rule have entered upon a road of unprecedented national resurgence and prosperity. And yet, the innumerable orders and instructions of the German Command and occupation authorities testify to the fact that the Hitlerites, in their blind hatred for the peoples of the Soviet Union, stop at nothing to degrade the national dignity of the Soviet peoples, thereby revealing to the world the loathsome, inhuman essence of German fascism.

A notorious order issued by Field Marshal von Reichenau contained an outright call to commit acts of vandalism. The German army was told that "no historic or artistic values in the East possess any importance." General Chot, chief of the 17th German Army, in his order No. 0973-41, demands that his subordinates completely assimilate the idea, typical of the thickheaded fascists, that "a healthy sense of revenge and revulsion for everything Russian must not be suppressed in the soldiers, but on the contrary must be encouraged by all means."

With the characteristic fascist narrowmindedness of its abominable "race ideology," the Hitlerite Government trains its army in a spirit of

hatred for all manifestations of Russian culture, although the great, worldwide importance of this culture is known to everybody. In a "memorandum" found on many German officers, entitled "Twelve Commandments of Conduct for Germans in the East and for the Treatment of Russians" the following instructions are given, unworthy of civilized men:

"Since the occupied regions must be German conquests for a long time, you must be cognizant that you are the representatives of Greater Germany and of New Europe. Therefore you must carry out with dignity even the most cruel and relentless measures dictated by German interests. Otherwise you will not be able to occupy responsible positions in the fatherland. Keep the Russians at a distance from yourselves. Never forget that they are not Germans but Slavs. Beware of the Russian intelligentsia, both the new Soviet intellectuals and the emigres—they are good for nothing. You will never change a Russian's opinions. Do not converse with them; act!"

True to their habit of destroying universally recognized treasures of culture, the Hitlerites have carried out in occupied Soviet territories the widespread destruction of libraries, from small club and school libraries to priceless collections of manuscripts and books including the rarest bibliographic treasures. In temporarily captured parts of Moscow Region the occupants looted and destroyed 112 libraries, four museums and 54 theaters and movie houses. The Hitlerites looted and then burned the famous Borodino museum which contained historical relics of Russia's struggle against Napoleon's army in 1812, dearly cherished by the Russian people. The occupants looted and burned the Pushkin home—converted into a museum—in the village of Polotnyani Zavod. In the city of Kaluga the Nazis took pains to destroy the exhibits in the house where Tsiolkovsky, the famous Russian scientist whose contributions to aeronautics won world fame, once lived and worked. The fascist vandals used Tsiolkovsky's portraits as targets for pistol practice. Priceless models of dirigibles and draftsman's instruments were trampled underfoot. One room of the museum was converted into a henhouse. The furniture was burned.

One of the Soviet Union's oldest agricultural institutions, the Schatilov Selection Station located in Orel Region, was destroyed by the occupants, who blew up or burned 55 of its buildings, including the agronomic and other laboratories, the museum, the library with its 40,000 volumes and a school. In the Ukraine and Byelorussia the Hitlerites carried out their program of destroying cultural institutions and historical monuments with even greater frenzy. In Byelorussia, the occupants plundered and destroyed the Byelorussian Academy of Sciences, with its rare collection of historic documents and books, and the Goretzk Agricultural Academy, which recently celebrated its 100th Anniversary, and demolished hundreds of schools and clubs and scores of theaters, musical institutions and rare examples of the people's art.

There is no limit to the desecration of monuments and centers of Ukrainian history, culture and art by Hitler's vandals. As an example of the constant attempts to degrade the national dignity of the Ukrainian people, suffice it to mention that the occupants, after destroying the

Korolenko Library in Kharkov, proceeded to pave a muddy street with its books for the convenience of German motor vehicles.

In launching an attack on the Soviet Union, the Hitler Government entertained the miserable illusion that it would succeed in planting upon Soviet soil the abominable ideas and practice of race hatred which German fascism carries everywhere, but which the cultured peoples of the entire world reject with contempt. In their fascist stupidity, the Hitlerites counted on the hope that by their attack on the USSR they would succeed in dividing the Soviet peoples and in severing the fraternal unity of our peoples. They hoped to break them and enslave them one by one, to destroy the national culture of the free Soviet peoples and then to accomplish their preposterously idiotic plan of Germanizing the peoples of our land.

In the Goering "Green File" quoted above (Section 2, entitled "Local Population"), the fascists go into elaborate detail concerning this plan: "In the Baltic countries, the German authorities must rely for support on the German population and utilize the antagonisms among Lithuanians, Estonians, Latvians and Russians for the benefit of Germany. . . . In Byelorussia consideration must be given to the fact that the Byelorussians are intellectually far inferior to the Great Russians, Jews and Poles who live there. . . . In the south, all possible antagonisms between the Ukrainians and Great Russians must be used in our favor. . . . In the Caucasus we must take advantage of the antagonisms among the natives—Georgians, Armenians, Tatars, and Russians—and take into consideration the particular animosity which the Armenians feel toward us. . . ."

All the German fascist invaders' hopes of planting national animosities among the peoples of the USSR, thus facilitating their task of robbing and exploiting our country for the benefit of German fascism, proved in vain. These miserable calculations completely miscarried and thereby doomed the entire bloody campaign of Hitlerism against the Soviet Union to failure.

Nor do the Hitlerite occupants spare the religious feelings of churchgoers. They burned, looted, blew up and desecrated hundreds of churches in Soviet territory, including numerous irreplaceable monuments of ancient church architecture. In 13 districts of Moscow Region, the occupants destroyed 42 churches. In the ancient Russian city of Staritsa, the Hitlerites burned the 16th century monastery, among the ruins of which the advancing Red Army units discovered heaps of naked corpses of tortured Red Army prisoners.

The priest, Father Ambrosius Ivanov, reported from the village of Iklin-skoye, Moscow Region: "Prior to the arrival of the Germans the church was in excellent condition. The German officer told me to remove everything from the church. . . . In the middle of the night, troops arrived, occupied the church and brought in horses. . . . They proceeded to break and destroy everything in the church in order to build bunks. . . . They threw everything out—the altar, the holy gates, the church standards, and the holy shrouds. In a word, they turned the temple into a robbers' den."

The Cathedral in the town of Vereya was first looted by the occupants, who stole all the church equipment, and then was turned into a torture chamber where, after the German retreat, the mutilated bodies of 26

Red Army men were found. In the village of Troitskoye, the Germans stole holy vestments from the church and used them as horse blankets. In the village of Gosteshevo, the Germans looted the church, tore up church standards, scattered books, robbed the priest, Mikhail Strakhov, and carried him off to another region. In the village of Kholm, near Mozhaisk, the Germans robbed and beat the 80-year-old local priest. In their retreat from Mozhaisk, the Germans blew up the Church of the Ascension, the Church of the Holy Trinity, and the Cathedral of Nicolai the Thaumaturgist. As a rule, before they retreat the Germans lock inhabitants of burning villages into churches and then set fire to the church buildings with the people locked in them.

There is no limit to the hideous crimes committed by the German fascists and their accomplices. There is no crime at which the Hitlerites would stop in their attempt violently to enforce their rule over our motherland. All this testifies to the fact that the criminal gang which calls itself the Hitler Government strives not only to plunder our people and destroy the cities and villages they have built, to uproot the great culture of the peoples of the USSR, but also to enslave the Soviet peoples, and turn our glorious motherland into a colony under the fascist yoke.

Atrocities and Acts of Violence Committed Upon the Peaceful Population in Occupied Soviet Districts

The inhuman brutality meted out by the Hitlerite clique—which came into being through violence over its own people—to the population of European countries under temporary occupation by Hitler Germany, has been exceeded one hundredfold by the German Army's misdeeds in occupied Soviet territory. Compared to the carnage committed upon the peaceful Soviet population by the Hitlerites, the bloodiest pages of human history and of the present war become pale. This carnage fully reveals the bloodthirsty, criminal plans of the fascists, who are bent on exterminating the Russian, Ukrainian, Byelorussian and other peoples of the Soviet Union. These monstrous fascist plans motivate the orders and instructions of the German Command when it calls for the extermination of Soviet citizens.

Thus, for example, instructions issued by the German High Command, entitled "Treatment of Civilian Population and Enemy War Prisoners," declare that "officers are held responsible that orders for relentless treatment of the civilian population be strictly carried out." These instructions further prescribe "coercion by violence of the entire population." Instructions sent out by the German Command as a guide for occupation authorities in Byelorussia read: "Any hostile conduct on the part of the population toward the German armed forces and their organizations is punishable by death. Whoever harbors Red Army men or guerrillas, is to be punished by death. If the guerrilla is not found, hostages are to be taken from the population. These hostages must be hanged if the culprits or their accomplices are not surrendered within 24 hours. On the following day, double the number of hostages are to be hanged in the same place."

Paragraph 7 of Order No. 431-41, issued by the German commandant of the city of Feodosia, Captain Eberhardt, says: "During an alarm, any citizen appearing on the street is to be shot. Groups of citizens who appear in the street must be surrounded and shot without mercy. Leaders and instigators are to be hanged publicly."

An instruction to the 260th German Division, relating to the question of treatment of the civilian population, contains a reprimand to certain officers because "the necessary harshness has not been universally applied."

Orders posted by occupation authorities in Soviet towns and villages provide the death penalty on the most varied grounds: for appearing on the street after five o'clock in the evening, for sheltering strangers overnight, for failure to surrender a Red Army man, for failure to surrender property, for an attempt to put out a fire in an inhabited locality designated for destruction by fire, for moving from one locality to another, for refusal to perform forced labor, etc. To this it must be added that the majority of executions are carried out by the occupants on grounds not provided for in their orders, often merely to intimidate and exterminate the Soviet people and satisfy a thirst for blood, incomprehensible to a civilized being but fostered and encouraged in the German army by the Hitlerites.

In all cities and almost all villages where the Hitlerites set foot, their first act is to carry out public executions of employees of Soviet institutions and enterprises, of guerrillas and of civilians suspected of aiding them. The executions instituted by the Hitlerite army often assume forms which seem inconceivable in our times. For instance, a heinous execution took place in the town of Soltsy, Leningrad Region. The teacher Ageyev and a youth by the name of Baranov were impaled on suspicion of sympathizing with guerrillas. Their bodies were not permitted to be removed from the stakes for two weeks.

The Hitlerite hangmen invent inhuman tortures, which they mete out to Soviet peasant men and women, to collective and individual farmers and to village intellectuals. In the village of Protasovo, Dubensky District, Tula Region, the Hitlerites stripped naked the chairman of the collective farm, Morozov, and forced him to kneel in a cold building for two days. After this they drove him through the village, then buried him in the ground up to his waist. For over a week they did not permit the body to be buried.

In the village Soviet of Pokrovskoye, Cheremisinov District, Kursk Region, the fascists stripped the peasant Alekhin and forced him to dig his own grave. They forced him to lie down in the grave several times to measure the proper length. When the grave was completed, they broke his arms, cut off his ears, gouged out his eyes, and then shot him. In the village of Donets, Dolzhansky District, Orel Region, the Hitlerites bound the 17-year-old girl Nadezhda Maltseva and ordered her mother, Maria Maltseva, to put her on a pyre of straw and set fire to it. The mother fainted, whereupon the Hitlerites themselves put straw around the girl and set her on fire. When the mother came to, she rushed to the fire and pulled out her daughter. With a blow of a rifle butt, they killed the mother. Then they shot the girl and threw her body into the fire.

To appeal to the brutal German occupants for mercy is useless. Complaints by inhabitants at the violence of the German authorities are invariably described as "Bolshevist propaganda" or "sympathy with the guerrillas," and they often result in the shooting of the complainants. The circumstances under which the peasant woman Ustinova of the village of Ovsiannikovo, Solnechnogorsk District, Moscow Region, met her death, are typical. This mother of five children came to the German Staff Headquarters to plead that confiscated clothing be returned to her children, who were suffering from the cold. Ustinova was shot by a German officer at the doorstep of the Staff Headquarters.

Many thousands of Soviet women, children and old people have perished from hunger and cold in open fields and forests where they were driven when the retreating German invaders burned inhabited localities. The list of mass murders committed by the Hitlerite occupants upon peaceful civilians is endless.

Tortures and killings are often characterized by exceptional ferocity. Children are beaten to death before the eyes of their parents, and adults in the sight of their children. Manhunts are organized in which people are killed by hand grenades and machine guns, and set afire and buried alive. Others are drenched with water in freezing weather and turned into pillars of ice. Bodies are mutilated. The Hitlerites make sport of living and dead, beating them into a bloody pulp. Thousands of city dwellers are shot down; whole village populations are exterminated.

On January 7, 1942, 110 peaceful inhabitants of the village of Pobul, Kozelsk District, Smolensk Region, met a horrible death. Nine old men, 51 women and 50 children were set upon by the fascists, who proceeded to slash them with knives, to bayonet them, throw hand grenades at them and shoot at them with automatic rifles and machine guns. According to a report dated March 15, 1942, the retreating Hitlerites inflicted similar carnage upon the peasants of the village of Lykovo, Orel Region. Out of 730 inhabitants, only 50 escaped death. In villages of the Lotoshinsky District, Moscow Region, the Hitlerites burned alive 13 families of collective farmers. They tortured to death and hanged 153 collective farmers, men and women. They shot to death 507 persons, among them many women and children. In the city of Novozybkov the occupants in one night put to death 380 families—more than 1,000 old men, women and children. Scores of children were buried half-alive.

Information about similar bloody atrocities is continually pouring in from Russian, Ukrainian, Byelorussian, Moldavian, Latvian, Estonian and Karelian-Finnish towns and villages awaiting liberation. Thus, from the Ukrainian towns of Gadyach and Zenkovo, Poltava Region, recently came a report of the horrible torture and death of 280 citizens. Their bodies were thrown into a common pit, into which were also thrown living children, who were buried together with their parents. From Kharkov come reports that in January 1942, 370 hostages were executed, including Ukrainian and Russian workers, office employees, and representatives of the intelligentsia, as a reprisal for the activities of Ukrainian guerrillas.

The massacre of over a thousand peaceful citizens, of which 245 were Crimean Tatars, in the city of Feodosia, will forever be included in the

bloody list of Hitler's crimes. Mothers with their babies, old men, pregnant women and youths were placed on scores of trucks and carried to a suburb, where they were placed in front of a pit in groups and mowed down by machine guns. They were all buried together, including those that still showed signs of life. Over 3,000 peaceful citizens were killed by the Hitlerites in the city of Taganrog on October 27, 1941. Upon order of the German Command, the inhabitants came with their families to a school building, bringing with them three days' supply of food as ordered by the Command. The Hitlerites took away the food and drove them all outside the town. There they separated from the crowd a group of about 100 persons, led them a few yards away and mowed them down with automatic rifles within sight of the rest of the doomed. Thereupon began the systematic shooting of the men, women, children and aged in groups of 100.

After the liberation of Kerch by our units, there came to light the shocking details of one of the most fiendish crimes that the German army perpetrated on Soviet territory—the shooting of over 7,000 civilians. The German commandant's office assembled the population by ruse, having posted Order No. 4 directing that citizens were to appear in Sennaya Square. After they assembled they were seized, driven outside the city and mowed down by machine gun fire.

According to incomplete reports, in three Byelorussian cities alone, the German occupants executed over 28,000 peaceful inhabitants: 6,000 in Vitebsk, 10,000 in Pinsk, and over 12,000 in Minsk. Hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians, Russians, Jews, Moldavians and peaceful citizens of other nationalities perished at the hands of German hangmen in Ukrainian cities. In the city of Kharkov alone, the Hitlerites executed 14,000 persons during the first days of the occupation.

Innumerable pieces of evidence attest to the fact that the violations of women's honor, committed by the fascist hordes throughout all the temporarily occupied territories of the Soviet Union, have taken place with the full approval of the German Command. In the majority of cases, these acts are accompanied by murder of the victims, as well as by the killing of those women and girls who resist being taken to brothels opened by the German army. In Kaluga, several Soviet women who were forcibly placed in military brothels committed suicide, being unable to stand the indignity. In the village of Masleno, Chudsk District, Lenin-grad Region, which was burned by the Germans, the naked, frozen bodies of eight women and girls were found in the streets, ravished and shot by the Hitlerites, who had cut off their victims' noses, mutilated their faces and ripped open their abdomens with bayonets. In the Byelorussian village of Kholmy, Mogilevsk Region, the fascists seized six girls between the ages of 15 and 17, violated them, cut off their breasts, gouged out their eyes, and then killed them. A young collective farm girl named Aksenova was tied by her legs to the tops of two trees bent over for the purpose, and then ripped in two. These are only a few examples out of thousands of similar crimes which have been uncovered and officially recorded in cities and villages liberated by the Red Army.

The German fascist Command not only allows but actually prescribes the killing of women and children. Organized murder of children is

presented in some of the orders as a measure of combating the guerrilla movement. Thus, the order issued by the Commander of the 254th German Division, Lieutenant General von Beschnitt, on December 2, 1941, characterized as "careless complacency" the fact that "old men, women and children of all ages" are moved behind the German lines. He orders to "shoot without warning at every civilian person, regardless of age or sex, who may come near the front line"; also, that "burgomasters should be held responsible for immediately notifying the local commandant of any strangers who may appear, particularly children," and "any person suspected of espionage is to be shot on the spot."

The occupants subject children and youths to the most bestial tortures. Among the 160 children wounded and maimed by torture—victims of Hitlerite terror from the liberated districts of the Moscow Region—who have been placed in the Rusakov Hospital in Moscow, there is 14-year-old Vania Gromov, from the village of Novinky. The Nazis cut off his arm with a rusty saw after strapping him to a chair. The 12-year-old boy Vania Kriukov, from the village of Kriukovo in the Kursk Region, was seized by Germans who chopped off both his hands above the wrists, and then drove him, bleeding, toward the Soviet lines.

On January 9, 1942, SS Guards, shortly before the Red Army drove them out of the village of Ksti in the Kalinin Region, forcibly assembled all old men, women and children in the outskirts of the village. Having forced mothers to bring along their children, the fascists began in the most horrifying manner to murder one child after another in the presence of their mothers. An SS Guard tore a two-year-old boy from the arms of a peasant woman, Garayeva, and squashed his head against a post. Her two daughters, aged six and seven, were shot. A similar fate was meted out to many other children. Later approximately 70 women and old men were driven into a barn and burned.

In the village of Potapovo, Smolensk Region, the Hitlerites placed delayed action mines in two houses in which 47 women and children were locked with no suspicion of the threatened danger. On January 26, 1942, at 7 o'clock in the evening, both houses blew up in sight of the guards on watch. All 47 persons perished.

An affidavit made January 14, 1942, by citizens of the villages of Alferievo and Timkovo, Moscow Region, testified that the occupants, after robbing all inhabitants of the villages and setting fire to every structure, drove nearly 100 women, children and old men, comprising the entire population of both villages, into an open field and opened machine gun fire on them. Forty-two persons, including mothers with infants, and children of different ages, were killed outright, and over 20 others were wounded. The fascists did not allow medical aid or removal of the wounded, who perished in the open field from wounds and cold. The survivors, including children, were taken along by the Germans to shield their retreat from the fire of advancing Red Army units. Along the way they were forced, under threat of tortures and shooting, to clear snow from the roads, to dig graves and perform all kinds of hard labor. They were stripped of their warm clothing and kept out in the cold without food. Those weakened from hard work were beaten with rifle butts or shot.

A group of women and children from the village of Rechitsa, Smolensk Region, went to their death like heroes. On February 1, 1942, the Germans undertook a counter-attack against the village of Boodskiye Vyselki. They placed women and children of Rechitsa in front of their attacking units. When the women and children approached the Soviet positions they boldly cried out to the Red Army men: "Shoot, behind us are Germans"! The Hitlerites opened fire on the brave patriots, killing four children and three adults, including E. I. Shishkina and her 8-month-old-son Yuri; S. M. Zhukovskaya and her sons—Gennady, 15 years, and Valentine, 13 years—and the 14-year-old girl Anna Yurkova.

Some of the crimes committed by the German occupants in the first weeks of their predatory attack upon the USSR, particularly the fiendish extermination of the civilian population of Byelorussia, the Ukraine and the Baltic Soviet Republics, are only now being documented. Thus, in smashing the German SS Cavalry Brigade in the vicinity of the town of Toropets in January 1942, Red Army units found a report of the 1st Cavalry Regiment of the above brigade relating to the "pacification" of the Starobin District in Byelorussia. The commander of the regiment reported that along with 239 prisoners, a detachment of his regiment shot 6,504 peaceful citizens. The report further stated that this detachment acted in accordance with Order No. 42, issued to the regiment July 27, 1941. Commander von Magill, of the 2nd Regiment of the same brigade, states in his "Report on Carrying out the Pripjat Punitive Operation of July 27—August 11, 1941": "We drove the women and children into the swamps. However, this did not produce the proper effect in view of the fact that the swamps were not sufficiently deep for drowning. In the majority of cases the bottom can be reached at a depth of one meter." In the same headquarters was found Telegram No. 37 sent by the Commander of the SS Cavalry Brigade to the cavalry detachment of the same 2nd Cavalry Regiment, and dated August 2, 1941. It states that the Imperial Fuehrer of the SS Guards and the policeman Himmler, finds that the number of exterminated peaceful citizens is "too insignificant." He thereupon points out that "it is necessary to act in a radical manner," that the "commanders of the units are too soft in carrying out operations," and orders daily reports made on the number of civilians shot down.

The liberation of Kerch made it possible to reveal the following heinous crime of the occupants, a crime which stands out even among other innumerable bloody atrocities: The local German commandant's office ordered parents to send their children to school. Obeying the order, 245 children with textbooks and composition books in their hands started to classes. None of them returned home. Only after the city was liberated were 245 bodies of these children found in a deep ditch eight kilometers from the city. Documents and photographs of this monstrous crime are at the disposal of the Soviet Government.

The civilized world should know about the organized mass murder of the sick practiced by the Hitlerites in the hospitals of occupied Soviet cities and villages. Of the many known crimes of this nature it suffices to cite the following example, the details of which are notarized in a document bearing the signatures of a specially created commission

of competent experts composed of Dr. Ilovich, Dr. Kashchenko, Dr. Tveritin, Dr. Obnovlensky, Prof. Verazinsky, Prof. Brades, Dr. Abramov, and Dr. Fedoseyev:

In the village of Burashevo, Kalinin Region, German officers and soldiers put to death 530 patients in Dr. Litvinov's hospital. When the Hitlerites occupied the hospital on November 15, 1941, they first looted all the food supplies, thereby condemning the patients to death by hunger. Then they ordered several sections of the hospital "cleaned out" and proceeded to throw out some of the patients who were too weak to move by themselves. Many patients were bayoneted and shot to death. Eighty who escaped by being removed to the village of Brednevo were shot the next day. The remaining patients were poisoned and put to death with lethal doses of narcotic drugs such as morphine, scopolamine, veronal and sodium-amytal. A number of hospital buildings were later turned into stables. During their retreat the Hitlerites set fire to five hospital buildings, a nursery and six dwellings.

All these facts testify that the gang of brigands which goes under the name of the German Government has set as its goal the extermination of our people. The Hitlerites do not stop at any atrocities or bestial crimes, at violations of law and mass murder in order to achieve this misanthropic fascist plan.

Extermination of Soviet War Prisoners

That the Hitler Government is a gang of murderers and that it aims at the extermination of our citizens may be seen also from the monstrous crimes of the Hitlerites with regard to Soviet war prisoners. The Soviet Government is in possession of many hundreds of new documents which substantiate the bloody crimes against Soviet war prisoners as already revealed in the note of the Government of the USSR of November 25, 1941. It has been irrefutably established that the German Command, in its desire to avenge the defeats suffered by its army in the last few months, has introduced the widespread practice of physical destruction of Soviet war prisoners.

Along the whole front extending from the Arctic to the Black Sea, bodies of tortured Soviet prisoners were found. In practically every case these bodies bear the marks of horrible tortures inflicted before the murder. Red Army units discover in pillboxes, earthworks and in inhabited localities captured from the Germans, bodies of Soviet war prisoners who were murdered after being subjected to fiendish tortures. Very frequent are instances, similar to the following, which have been notarized in affidavits and signed by eye-witnesses:

On March 2 and 6, 1942, nine bodies of captured Red Army men were found on the Crimean front in the region of Height 66.3 and the village of Jantora. The bodies had been so badly mutilated that only two could be identified. Fingernails were torn out, eyes gouged out, and one body had the whole right side of its chest cut away. Others showed evidence of torture by fire, numerous knife wounds and broken jaws.

In Feodosia dozens of bodies of tortured Azerbaijan Red Army men were found. Among them were Ismani Tiresade Jaforov, whose eyes were gouged out and ears cut off; Kulizade Alibekov, whose arms had

been wrenched and who was later bayoneted; the corporal Islammamed Ali Ogli was found with his belly ripped open; Mustafa Ogli Askerov was found tied with wire to a pole.

Similar atrocities are being committed in the far north by the Finnish accomplices of the German fascists. When Red Army units advanced on the Karelian front they found scores of bodies of wounded Red Army men tortured to death by the Finnish fascists. Red Army man Satayev was found with eyes gouged out, lips cut away and tongue torn out. Red Army man Grebennikov had an ear cut off, eyes gouged out and cartridge cases pushed into his eye sockets. After subjecting Red Army man Lazarenko to long torture, the Finns crushed his skull and stuffed it with bread crusts. They drove cartridges into his nostrils and branded a five-pointed star on his chest with a hot iron.

Here are several other instances of the mass murder of Soviet prisoners, from a long tragic list of such murders: In the village of Krasnoperovo, Smolensk Region, advancing Red Army units found 29 stripped bodies of captured Red Army men and commanders without a trace of a bullet wound. They had all been killed with knives. In the same district, in the village of Babayevo, the Hitlerites put 58 Red Army prisoners and two nurses against a stack of hay which they then set on fire. When the doomed made an attempt to run away from the fire, the Germans shot them. In the village of Kuleshovka, the Germans captured 16 seriously wounded soldiers and commanders, stripped them, tore off their bandages, subjected them to hunger, bayoneted them, broke their arms, cut open their wounds and subjected them to other tortures, after which they locked the survivors in a house and burned them. In the village of Strenevo, Kalinin Region, the Germans locked up 50 wounded Red Army prisoners and burned them.

In the city of Volokolamsk the occupants kept Red Army men, locked on the fifth floor of house No. 3/6, Proletarskaya Ulitsa, from leaving the house while it burned. Those who attempted to escape or jump out of windows were shot. Sixty prisoners perished in the fire or were shot. In the village of Popovka, Tula Region, the Germans drove 140 Red Army prisoners into a barn and set it on fire; 95 perished in the flames.

About six kilometers from the station of Pogostye, Leningrad Region, Germans retreating under pressure of Red Army units shot 150 Soviet prisoners with dum-dum bullets after they had subjected them to horrible beatings and fiendish tortures. The majority of prisoners had their ears and fingers cut off and eyes gouged out, and others had one or both arms cut off and tongues torn out. Three had stars branded on their backs. Shortly before the liberation of the town of Kondrovo, Smolensk Region, by Red Army units in December 1941, the Germans shot over 200 Red Army prisoners outside the town. They first stripped the prisoners and drove them through the town, shooting those who were too weak to continue the march and firing on local inhabitants who came out to throw bread to the prisoners.

Recently a number of cases have been established showing that the German Command uses Soviet prisoners to clear minefields and do other hazardous work. Near the villages of Bolshaya and Malaya Vloya, scores of prisoners in close formation were driven by the Germans over minefields for four days; each day several prisoners were blown up by

mines. This method of killing prisoners is provided for in an order of the German Command. Order No. 109 sent to the 203rd Infantry Regiment states: "The Commander-in-Chief, Field Marshal von Rundstedt, has ordered that, outside of military engagements, the clearing of minefields is to be carried out with Russian prisoners in order to save German blood. This also applies to German mines."

Prisoners are deprived of their clothing, particularly warm clothing, in accordance with the systematic plan of plunder encouraged by the German Command. In winter conditions this means certain death. An order issued by the staff of the 88th Regiment, 34th German Infantry Division, entitled "On the State of Equipment," suggests: "Strip the Russian prisoners of their footwear without hesitation." That this order is not a mere isolated incident is to be seen from the fact that even before the treacherous attack upon the USSR, the German Command made provision for equipping their units by such methods. Among the papers of the 234th Infantry Regiment, 56th Division, was found Circular No. 121-41 dated June 6, 1941 and entitled "Concerning the Principles of Equipment in the Eastern Area." Page 8 of this circular contains the following: "We should not figure on supplying clothing. Therefore it is particularly important to strip prisoners of usable footwear and make immediate use of all serviceable clothing, underwear, socks etc."

As a means of achieving mass extermination of Soviet prisoners, they are deprived of food and thus condemned to slow death from starvation. In many cases they are poisoned with food known to be bad. Soviet authorities are in possession of Order No. 202 issued by the staff of the above-mentioned 88th Regiment, which states: "Dead horses are to serve as food for the Russian prisoners. Such points (where dead horses are piled up) are marked by signs. They are located along the paved highway in Maloyaroslavets and in the villages of Romanovo and Belousovo."

Order No. 166-41 sent to the 60th Motorized Infantry Division openly demands mass murder of prisoners. It states: "Russian soldiers and minor officers are very determined in battle and even the smallest unit always resists attack. Therefore, any humane treatment of prisoners cannot be allowed. Extermination of the enemy by fire or cold weapons must be continued until he is rendered completely harmless. . . ."

Order No. 1-3058 issued by the German Command, dealing with the treatment of Soviet prisoners, contains the following: "The slightest sign of insubordination must be met in an energetic and direct way. Arms are to be used without mercy and sticks, canes and whips should not be used. Softness, even toward an obedient and industrious prisoner, only displays weakness and it should not be practiced." (from paragraph 2). "While at work you must keep at a distance from the prisoners and thus make possible immediate use of weapons." (from paragraph 3)

Even that was insufficient. An order of the German Army in the name of Hitler as its Commander-in-Chief, dated January 14, 1942, states in paragraph 2: "Any leniency or humane treatment to a prisoner is to be strictly discouraged. A German soldier must always make a prisoner feel his superiority . . . Any hesitation in the use of arms on a

prisoner is dangerous. The Commander-in-Chief trusts that this order will be fully carried out."

The Soviet Government is in constant receipt of reliable information about the plight of Red Army prisoners in German-occupied territories of the USSR, in the German deep rear and in German-occupied European countries. This information testifies to a further deterioration of the lot of Red Army prisoners, whose conditions are particularly bad as compared with prisoners of other countries. It testifies that Soviet prisoners are dying of starvation and disease and that a regime of foul cruelties and bloody repression is being applied to Red Army men by the Hitlerite authorities, who long since trampled upon the most elementary rules of international law and human morals.

The memorandum submitted by the Government of the Polish Republic to the Soviet Ambassador in London, on February 13, 1942, concerning the plight of Soviet prisoners on Polish territory and in a number of occupied Soviet regions, adds innumerable data to our own information of the inhuman treatment given Soviet prisoners by the German authorities. The Polish memorandum rightly states that "the treatment of Soviet prisoners probably constitutes the most odious page of German barbarism."

Despite all this, the Soviet Government, true to its principles of humanity and respect for its international obligations, does not intend to take retaliatory measures on German prisoners even in these circumstances, and as heretofore adheres to the obligations undertaken by the Soviet Union with regard to the treatment of prisoners as stipulated in the Hague Convention of 1907, which was also signed but treacherously violated by Germany.

At the same time the Soviet Government declares that the criminal Hitlerite rulers and their accomplices, who are guilty of the murder of Soviet prisoners, must bear the full weight of responsibility for these monstrous atrocities. The interests of all freedom-loving peoples, the interests of all humanity, demand that an end be put, as soon as possible and for all time, to the gang of maddened murderers which calls itself the government of Hitler Germany.

Such are the atrocities and crimes committed by the German fascist gangsters against the peaceful Soviet population and prisoners, in comparison with which the crimes and atrocities of Genghis Khan, Baty and Mamai look pale. Such is the German fascist yoke which the bloody Hitler prepared for the peoples of the Soviet Union, which in its foul cruelty exceeds all the atrocities of the Tatar-Mongolian yoke known to history.

The Soviet Government, in the well known Order-of-the-Day of People's Commissar of Defense Stalin, February 23, 1942, declared that the peoples of the Soviet Union and the Red Army "have not and cannot have any feeling of race hatred toward other peoples, including the German people," that the Red Army is educated in the "spirit of equality of all peoples and races, in the spirit of respect for the rights of other peoples," that the Red Army "does not have and cannot have such idiotic aims" as the "extermination of the German people and the destruction of the German State."

With all the more reason and with all the more right, the Red Army and Red Navy will proceed to destroy and annihilate the German fascist invaders, defending the freedom, honor and independence of our motherland, defending the freedom and happiness of the people of our country, against the German imperialists.

Let Hitler and the Hitlerite highwaymen set themselves such ridiculous aims as the enslavement of the peoples of the Soviet Union and the destruction of the Soviet State. Nothing but ridicule will be evoked by these clownish attempts of pygmies from Berlin who strive to appear as omnipotent giants. Don Quixote also once entertained the aim to turn the world upside down, yet he ended in becoming the laughing stock of the people. Facts of the near future will show that such idiotic aims may be entertained only by dreamers and adventurers who achieved power by accident and whose fall is inevitable and unavoidable.

In revealing to the whole world the criminal deeds of the Hitlerites, manifested through innumerable crimes, robberies, destruction, devastation, humiliations, atrocities, violence and mass murders committed by them in the occupied Soviet districts, and bringing this to the attention of all governments with which the USSR has diplomatic relations, the Government of the Soviet Union on behalf of the peoples of the Soviet Union declares:

The Hitler Government and its accomplices will not escape the stern responsibility and deserved punishment for all their unheard-of crimes committed against the peoples of the USSR and against all freedom-loving peoples.

Signed: MOLOTOV

Moscow, April 27, 1942