The
SLAVONIC
NATIONS
in the Fight
AGAINST
FASCISM

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THE SLAVONIC NATIONS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST FASCISM

REPORT OF THE SLAVONIC MEETING HELD IN MOSCOW ON AUGUST 10 AND 11, 1941

FOREIGN LANGUAGES PUBLISHING HOUSE
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On August 10 and 11, 1941, a Slavonic meeting was held in Moscow, called on the initiative of a group of public men, military men, authors and scientists, representing the various Slavonic nations.

The meeting was opened by the Russian author Alexey Tolstoy, Member of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R., and speeches were delivered by General Marian Januszajtis, of the Polish Army; Prof. Zdenek Nejedly, the celebrated Bohemian scientist; Radule Stijenski, the Montenegrin poet; Dimitry Vlachov, the Macedonian publicist; Prof. Ondra Lysohorsky, the Czechoslovak poet; Prof. Bojidar Maslarić, of Serbia; Juro Salai, the Croatian publicist; Prof. Ondra Lysohorsky, the Czechoslovak poet; Prof. Bojidar Maslarić, of Serbia; Juro Salai, the Croatian publicist; Ivan Regent, the Slovene publicist; Dr. A. Stojanov, the Bulgarian publicist; Alexander Korneichuk, Ukrainian author and Member of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences; Wanda Wasilewska, the Polish authoress; Yanka Kupala, Byelorussian poet; Marek Čulen, Slovak publicist and Member of the Czechoslovak Parliament; and Ivan Lokota, Transcarpathian publicist and Member of the Czechoslovak Parliament.

In addition to the above, speeches were delivered by the German poet Johannes R. Becher and the German dramatist Friedrich Wolf, who on behalf of the better section of the German people fervently expressed solidarity with all the progressive nations that have risen to fight Hitlerism.

On behalf of the meeting, the Russian author Alexander Fadeyev read a manifesto addressed to all Slavonic nations. This manifesto was also read by Alexander Korneichuk in Ukrainian, Yanka Kupala in Byelorussian, Wanda Wasilewska in Polish, Prof. Zdenek Nejedly in Bohemian, Prof. Bojidar Maslarić in Serbian, Dr. A. Stojanov in Bulgarian, Marek Čulen in Slovakian, Ivan Regent in Slovenian and Juro Salai in Croatian. Herein are contained the reports of these speeches and the text of the manifesto.

The Publishers
OPENING SPEECH BY THE RUSSIAN AUTHOR
ALEXEY TOLSTOY

Slavs! Russians, Ukrainians, Byelorussians; Poles, Bohemians, Bulgarians, Slovenes and Transcarpathian Ukrainians—all you who speak any of the fraternal languages of our common Slavonic tongue; all you who once composed a single group of kindred tribes and fought for your independence, for your national culture, and for your right to labour in peace!

Slavs! The hour has come when the whole Slavonic world must unite in order speedily and completely to free itself from the yoke of Hitlerism. We shall unite as equals. Among us there must be neither great nor small. We have but one task and one object before us—to rout Hitler’s army and utterly to destroy the aggressive, militarist system of National-Socialism. We are imbued with but one ardent, all-embracing desire, and that is that the Slavonic nations, their neighbouring nations and states, and all other countries, may have the opportunity to develop within the limits of their respective states in peace and tranquillity. We do not aspire to supremacy or priority over other nations. We firmly and emphatically reject the very idea of Pan-Slavism which is a thoroughly reactionary trend, profoundly inimical to the equality of nations and to the lofty aims of state and national development. Our object is to unite our efforts in order to destroy the German fascist yoke, no matter at what sacrifice.
Slavs! Yesterday some believed that Hitler Germany could not interfere with their peaceful existence, and that Hitler's screed, Mein Kampf, in which he directs his poisonous sting at the hearts of the whole of the Slavonic people, was only an arrogant and clamorous boast. But today they are convinced that this program of German fascism is real and is being consistently pursued.

Hitler wrote: "The human mass of Slavs are merely racial offal and are not worthy of possessing their own lands—these must pass into the hands of the German lords; and the Slavs—the owners of the land—must be converted into landless proletarians." But the Slavs number over three hundred million, and they are prolific. . . . "I will," says Hitler, "systematically, and for a long period of years, separate the Slav males from the females so as to prevent their multiplication. I will put a stop to the fecundity of the Slavs by every means in my power. . . . Who can challenge my right to destroy millions of Slavs who multiply like insects. . . ."

Such is the program of German fascism. The Western Slav nations see today that these are not idle words, but real, bloody deeds. For some they have meant pauperization, compulsory labour under the lash of fascist overseers, the conversion of Slavs into two-legged beasts of burden, into slaves, or—sterilization, which the Germans have begun vigorously to practice in Poland. For others they have meant death from the fascist knife or bullet, death from torture in concentration camps, death from exhaustion and starvation.

No mercy from the fascists can be expected. They know no mercy. . . . And those who think that by lying low and saying nothing they will succeed in surviving this frightful period are very profoundly mistaken. Those who are meek and submissive will be crushed like beetles under the jackboot of fascism.

Away with meekness and submission! This will not save you in these terrible times. Slavs! Your hearts are burning with hatred for the fascist slave-drivers who have seized your lands and your homes! Your hearts are aflame with a holy hatred that inspires you to perform great and glorious deeds!

 Everywhere, at every step, your hatred is suggesting to you methods of fighting on a large, as well as a minor scale. Millions of Slavs—workers, peasants and intellectuals—with great and ever-increasing unity, must hinder, damage, dislocate and wreck the fascist military machine. The whole world has already heard of the heroism of the Bohemian workers who devise subtle methods of rendering the German lethal weapons harmless. The whole world has already heard about
the heroism of the Polish, Montenegrin, Serbian and Macedonian par-
tisans. The struggle is being waged by tens and hundreds of thousands—
it must now be waged by millions.

There is no time for waiting or for reflection! There must not be an
hour’s delay! Every Slav nation must, on its own initiative, enter the
common and united front of struggle for liberation, for independence,
for the peace and happiness of its present and future generations. Lib-
erty will not be brought to us on a golden salver; it must be won by
force of arms!

The Eastern Slavs—160,000,000 Russians, Ukrainians, and Byelo-
russians—in conjunction with the other nations of the Union of Soviet
Republics, and with mighty and freedom-loving Great Britain—have
been engaged for the past seven weeks in breaking the back of Hitler’s
armies. The German High Command has already withdrawn its gar-
risons from occupied cities, and is pouring youths and old men into its
armies. Hitler understands perfectly well that as soon as his armies
are compelled to pass to the defensive it will be the beginning of the
end for him. He is therefore making frenzied efforts to put off
the fatal hour. First at one point and then at another the fascist
High Command drives a wedge of tanks into our lines—and again
this wedge is converted into piles of bent and twisted metal and heaps
of German corpses. The enemy is powerful and dangerous, but he is
already showing signs of weariness and disintegration. His unsuc-
cessful lightning war is consuming his man-power and material re-
sources with lightning rapidity.

In six weeks over 1,500,000 Germans have been killed, wounded
or taken prisoner. The German army has lost one-third of its tanks,
one-fifth of its air force with its best airmen, and eight thousand guns.
But this is only the beginning of the war against the Red Army and the
forces of Great Britain. The extermination of the German man-power
and war material is proceeding on a more and more frightful scale.

Soon the hour will come when the bleeding fascist beast will be
forced to retreat towards the abyss that it has dug for itself. The hour
will come when instead of one hundred Serbs, or Poles, or partisans in
the mountains of Kraina, Macedonja and Montenegro being shot for
every German soldier that is killed—one thousand fascists will pay
with their lives for every tortured Serbian, Pole, Montenegrin, Slo-
evne and Macedonian.

No, the embers of Warsaw, Belgrade, Chachak, Yagodina and
Banya have not cooled! They are being fanned by holy hatred into a
conflagration that will consume and scatter to the winds the insane,
barbarous and blood-thirsty dream of the German fascists to enslave and exterminate the Slavonic world.

Slavs! We shall unite for struggle and for victory! We shall unite in order that every Slav country, like every other country, may freely and peacefully create its own culture, and provide the widest outlet for its talents. The Slavonic nations have made no small contribution to the world's store of culture and civilization. The fascists deny this. We are grateful to the German people for their splendid music, for their philosophy, and for their fine, ancient poetry; but we warn them that they must purge themselves of the filth of Hitler's fascism in order to save their own existence.

The ideas of justice and liberty are dear to the Slavonic peoples. We love liberty and peace; but we are formidable and stubborn in battle when we are attacked. Mussolini issued a decree inflicting capital punishment on any one who in any part of Macedonia was found in possession of arms. But the only response to this was the surrender of two rifles. It was the only response that Slavs could make.

Liberty or death! We want peace and prosperity for ourselves and our neighbours. We want the highest gifts of human liberty: the development of culture, art and science, prosperity and happiness. Culture and not war! For the sake of these lofty human aims—to arms, Slavs! Into the fray against the fascist barbarians who are intoxicated with blood and loot! Death to fascism!

Long live the liberated Slavonic world! Long live our great ally—Great Britain! Life and prosperity to all countries and to all nations who are fighting fascism!
To you I address myself, my brother Poles, and to all our brother Slavs now suffering torture at the hands of the German barbarians.

For a thousand years the Polish people have been fighting the cruel German invaders. In this struggle the Western tribes have fallen—the Obotrites and Wends; only the remnants of the Lugii have survived.

Today we are witnessing a new wave of frightful invasion by the ancient enemy of the Slavs.

Poland has been bleeding since the beginning of the war. She has lost an army a million strong, and her people are groaning in captivity. But Poland’s resistance and sacrifice upset the enemy’s plans. By striking at the Slavs in the East he got himself involved in war in the West. This held up his attack on the largest federation of Slavs—the Soviet Slav federation. This was Poland’s role and mission in this war. It also marked the beginning of the end of German fascism. At the price of incalculable sacrifice Poland, Bohemia, Yugoslavia and our other brothers gained the necessary time in which to ensure the victory of the Red Army.

To us Poles fell the duty and honour of starting—at the price of the martyrdom of our army and of our whole people—the decisive bat-
tle in this ancient historical struggle against German aggression against the Slavs.

But in order to conquer this powerful and ferocious enemy we must unite. This is a life and death struggle for the Slavs. The Slavs must unite for a common struggle against the invader.

We Poles found ourselves in exceptionally difficult conditions. The war came upon us at a time when we were engaged in one of our longstanding disputes with our neighbour, the Soviet Union. In spite of that, at the first opportunity, the Polish government concluded a pact with its neighbour.

In concluding this pact with the Soviet Union, General Sikorski’s government displayed profound political wisdom, profound confidence in the Polish people, and a genuine understanding of the process of history. That is why the Polish people will support Sikorski’s action.

Poles! It is our duty to put the Polish-Soviet Pact into operation at once! There can be no room for doubt now! The task before us now is to smash Hitlerism! This pact, and the assistance of the British people, guarantee our victory, the victory of all our brother Slavs and of the whole of progressive mankind.

Poland will also create an army to fight by the side of the Red Army. Its ranks must be filled quickly. But we must prepare to fight the murderers of Slav children also behind the enemy’s lines. We must prepare very carefully, however, for the enemy is cunning and cruel. We must not be thoughtless; we must not do anything half-heartedly! Organization, discipline and initiative in battle, persistence and courage—these are the ancient virtues of the Polish soldier.

The hour of decisive victory is nigh!

Poles! Slavs! The hour is approaching when we must avenge the age-long persecution of the Slavs, the extermination of the Western Slavs, and the oceans of blood and tears that have been shed by the rest of the Slavs.

We will fight not only for our own liberation, but for the liberation of all nations, and for a brighter human existence.

German fascism is the enemy not only of the Slavs and the French, but also of the English.

German fascism is the incarnation and crystallization of the base world of violence, of the world of slavery and tyranny.

By destroying German fascism we shall bring nearer the birth of a new world, of a new era in which violence and oppression will have no place. A new era in which the violence of man against man will
meet with the same condemnation and resistance as we are now according the German murderers of women and children.

Long live Poland!

May the Polish-Soviet Pact last long and flourish!

Long live the unity of all Slavs!

Let the German fascist enemy be swept from the face of the earth for ever!
SPEECH BY PROF. ZDENEK NEJEDLY, BOHEMIA

Dear brothers, Bohemians, Slovaks and Transcarpathian Ukrainians! We are addressing you at an important, extremely important moment in human history. Our future, the future of all Europe, the future of all mankind, is at stake. We know what that future will be. Hitler, the enemy of the whole human race, is obviously at his last gasp. In his rage he has furiously attacked the U.S.S.R. But what has come of it? He is bleeding from frightful wounds, and there can be no doubt that these wounds are fatal. But you all know how furious a beast can be when its end is approaching. And Hitler is worse than a beast. He has given sufficient evidence already of his ability to destroy, to kill and to torture. What will he do when his last moment comes? His fury will then know no bounds. And on whom will he first vent his fury? On us, Slavs.

The German fascists are filled with mortal hatred for all Slavs. They have clothed this hatred with all sorts of pseudo-scientific theories. At one moment they argue that the Slavs are an “inferior” race and therefore, the Germans, being the “superior race,” must enslave them. At another time they argue that the Germans need “living space” and must therefore occupy the lands of the Slavs. But the sentiment that runs through all these theories is hate, hate, and hate.

The Slav nations have realized this, and have therefore risen, as solid as a wall, against Hitler and his fascist gangs. We are receiving information from all Slav countries, and we know how valiantly Bohemians and Slovaks, Ukrainians and Poles, Serbs and Slovenes,
Croatians and Bulgars are fighting shoulder to shoulder. Today, there are no quarrels between one Slav nation and another. Today, all Slavs have but one enemy—Hitler Germany. They are faced with but one task—to exterminate Hitler and his troops. And they have but one aim—to win freedom for the Slav nations, so that each one, as an equal among equals, may live and work in peace and tranquillity for the good of its country, for the good of the whole nation, and for the good of the whole human race.

I and all of you here know very well how valiantly the Czechoslovaks are conducting themselves; what serious damage the Bohemian workers are causing Hitler's war industries; how the Bohemian peasants are skilfully concealing their crops from the German invaders; how the Bohemian intellectuals, university students, authors and artists are standing up to the fascist brutes. In short, all, to the last man and to the last child, are resisting.

But it cannot be denied that this is not yet enough. At a time like this the people can ensure their future only by their own efforts. Hitler is being opposed by the great and valiant Red Army. Hitler is being opposed by England. America is helping to fight Hitler. These are the three greatest powers in the world, whose economic resources and manpower are inexhaustible. But it would be a fatal mistake to think that any of these great powers will win freedom for us and that we need not do anything. The Bohemian people have always won their liberties primarily by their own efforts. Remember how well they fought! Remember, for example, how the Hussite heroes fought when, one might say, the whole world was against Bohemia! The Bohemians never surrendered, they never yielded, and achieved victory. This is what happened in the past, and this is what will happen today.

I know that it is the dream of all honest Bohemians, Slovaks and Transcarpathian Ukrainians to live and labour in peace and tranquillity. At present, the thought that a time will come again when we shall be able to live with our children around us in our beautiful Bohemia, and share the joys of our Slovak and Ukrainian brothers, seems to be a remote dream.

But to make this dream come true we must exert all our efforts to the very utmost. This is not the time for repose; it is a time of war, of frightful war for the purpose of making peace possible. We must therefore display the utmost daring and be prepared to do everything; such is our present historical, national and human task. It must not be the business merely of individuals to destroy Hitler; it must be the task of us all. And not only today, and not only by day, but all the
time; all the time, day and night, and with ever increasing intensity! What we are doing today will not be sufficient tomorrow. This is not a time for Private Schweiks. His behaviour was alright when we had to deal with the ramshackle Austrian empire. But German fascism is something entirely different; no weapon will be too firm, too sharp or too heavy to use against it. Destroy it then with all the means in your power! Destroy its soldiers, its arms, its stores and its transports! As the Taborites said in ancient times: This is not a time for clemency; it is the time for punishment and stern retribution.

And it is for this that I appeal to Bohemia; to our golden, Slavonic Prague; to all corners of our Bohemian land. It is for this that I appeal to my native Litomysl and to the whole of our beautiful Eastern Bohemia. It is for this that I appeal to Hronov, where lived our famous Jirásek, so that what he foretold may come true. And to the Domazliceans, and to all their villages; to dreamy Southern Bohemia, the birthplace of Jan Huss and of Jan Žižka; to the Province of Pilsen, and to our valiant miners in Podkrušnohoří, Most and Duchcov; to the broad fields stretching from Melnik to Pardubice, from Pojízno to Podbřezí; to Moravia, from Horácko to Ostrava; to all people of Hanna, to all Wallachians and Slovaks I appeal!

And I appeal to you, Slovaks, my brothers. I have always been your sincere friend and have always loved your beautiful Slovakia. Let the blow you hurl at Hitler and his dastardly crew resound like thunder! Let the glorious summits of your Tatra mountains gleam again above the heads of your warriors as they have more than once in the course of your glorious history!

And to you my brother Ukrainians in Transcarpathian Ukraine I appeal; to your dense and sombre forests; to the summits of your mountains; to your beautiful meadows. You, the land of Dorosh and of Nikolay Shuhay, will not lag behind the rest! On the contrary, the axes of your woodmen will be turned in the direction they are now needed.

To you all I appeal! The time has come when we must all go to the front, each in his own sector, and there fight in the front ranks. This is not a war of positions. It is a total war. Not only are our soldiers dying, but also our women and children. But so also are women and children fighting! So we, all of us, must enter the fray. And we will go into battle as the Taborites did of old. You know what the old song says: “Who are you God’s warriors”—the warriors from whom the Germans fled as soon as they heard of them. “Do not fear the foe; do not count his numbers.” Destroy the enemies of our native land with all the means in your power. This is now our battle cry; and this will carry us to victory.
EXEMPLARY FROM SPEECH DELIVERED IN VERSE BY
THE MONTENEGRIN POET RADULE STIJENSKI

To arms, O you youth of the Balkans!
Hark to the tanks of the fascists a-rumbling,
Your native soil sacred profaning,
Defiling the tombs of our grandsires,
And trampling their glorious remains,
Say who but the youth of the Balkans are heirs
To the courage of forefathers famed without peer?
Say youth of the Balkans—and did not your sires
Teach ye their cunning, how death to despise?
Then gather in militant patriot bands,
Like the avalanche sweep the foe out from your lands,
Forget for the time the sweet lips of your loves—
Your love is your rifle and her you must hug,
So keen let your sight be, your trigger hand firm,
Your bullet unerringly send to its billet
Right in the Swastika’s cursed black heart.
SPEECH BY DIMITRY VLACHOV, MACEDONIAN PUBLICIST

Brother Macedonians! Macedonian refugees and emigrants! It is to you I appeal at this moment when a fierce and stubborn life and death struggle is being waged against German fascism and its vassals. German fascism is the mortal enemy of the human race. It is destroying the culture of the Slavonic nations it has subjugated, closing their schools and prohibiting them from speaking their own language. It has plundered these countries, seized their factories and has driven their peasants from their land. In these countries Hitler Germany intends to establish the rule of the German princes and barons. Germany wants to convert the Slavonic countries into her colonies, and the masses of their inhabitants into her slaves.

German fascism has already reduced a number of flourishing Slavonic countries to ruins and has reduced their inhabitants to beggary. Fascism has destroyed the national and political independance of a number of countries. In Poland, the German fascists have exterminated three million people. In Serbia, Macedonia, Croatia and Montenegro, the fascists have killed hundreds of thousands of people. German fascism is deliberately sowing strife among the Slavonic nations and inciting one Slavonic nation against another. It is dividing up Slavonic lands, keeping part for itself and distributing the rest among its vassals. It is tearing asunder the living bodies of the Slavonic nations and doing its utmost to prevent the establishment of good-
neighbourly relations between them. In order to sow enmity among these fraternal nations German fascism poses as the benefactor of some and sets them up as alleged "free powers." As a matter of fact these so-called "free powers," like Croatia, for example, are nothing but slave countries. German fascism has converted Bulgaria into a colony.

To achieve its aim of exterminating the Slavonic nations, German fascism has perfidiously attacked the Soviet Union, has attacked our great Slavonic brothers, the Russians, Ukrainians, and Byelorussians, and all the other Soviet nations.

Against our martyred country and against our revolutionary Macedonian people Hitler has committed a heinous crime. On the pretext of liberating the Macedonian people from the rule of Yugoslavia he has placed their land at the mercy of that robber, Mussolini. Hitler Germany is lording it in our country, destroying its economy, robbing the Macedonian peasants and artisans, forcibly driving our brothers from their land, exploiting the Macedonian workers, persecuting us for speaking our own language and persecuting our intellectuals. The military tribunals are working day and night passing bloody sentences. Hitler Germany has converted our country into an African colony. German fascism and its myrmidons prosecute every Macedonian who fights for the ideas propounded by the founders of the revolutionary movement, such as Hoze Delchev, Damyan Gruyev, Georgy Petrov, Sandansky, and a host of others who were devoted to the cause of emancipation of the Macedonian people. This is the third time during the past thirty years that Macedonia is being torn asunder.

Our country is treated as if it were a piece of cloth—cut up into numerous pieces. And this is all the handiwork of the German fascists.

At this historic moment when the Slavonic nations—Russians, Ukrainians, and Byelorussians—and all the Soviet nations, have risen like giants against Hitler’s hordes; when the invincible Red Army is not only beating off their attacks, but is striking telling blows at the fascist hordes and inflicting enormous losses upon them; at this historic moment when the Slavonic nations are rallying their forces; when all the Slavonic and non-Slavonic peoples in the countries occupied by German fascism are waging a heroic struggle against Hitler Germany with all the means at their disposal; when the great Soviet Union has concluded an alliance with the great English people for the purpose of destroying Hitlerism; when America, with its vast resources, is assisting England and the Soviet Union—at this moment when a gigantic united front of freedom-loving nations is being formed
in Europe and throughout the world, Macedonia must take her proper place, and all Macedonians must—and will—play their part in this heroic struggle.

Brother Macedonians! The Macedonian nation, which in conjunction with the Bulgarian nation waged a prolonged war for national and cultural regeneration, which participated in all the national-liberation movements of the Balkan nations, which for half a century has been waging a revolutionary struggle for the political liberation of our martyred country; our nation, which has inscribed in its annals hundreds of armed collisions with its oppressors; including the great St. Elijah’s Day insurrection, when 20,000 Macedonians fought for three months against Abdul Hamid’s army of bashi-bazouks, 300,000 strong; Macedonia, which gave to the Slavs Cyril and Methody (the brothers Solunsky), Clement of Okhrida, and many other Slavonic educationalists; Macedonia, which gave the Bulgarian and Macedonian people a number of popular educators and revolutionary fighters—Macedonia and the Macedonian nation could not be on the side of the oppressors of its own and other nations. The struggle which our people are waging against the invaders proves that they are on the right side in the struggle against Hitler.

Macedonians! We are not alone in the struggle against brutal Hitlerism. This struggle is being waged by the heroic Red Army, and by the whole Soviet people. It is being vigorously waged in the Slavonic countries now occupied by Hitler. It is being waged by the whole democratic world. Already a mighty coalition of freedom-loving nations has been formed; and this coalition will triumph! Hitlerism will be exterminated, and the Macedonian people will at last achieve their freedom for ever.

Brother Macedonians! Shoulder to shoulder with all the Slavonic nations, and with all those who love freedom throughout the world—forward to the fight against fascism!

Long live the solidarity of the Slavonic nations!

Long live the great struggle for the liberation of the Slavonic and of all nations groaning under the jackboot of fascism!

Long live the Macedonian people! Long live Macedonia!
My dear countrymen!

I can see before me the pitheads in the coalfields of Ostrava, Orlov and Karvinna. I see clouds of smoke hovering over the factories and works in Vitkovice, Trynca and Lipin. I see the textile mills in Frydek, Mistek, and Frydland. I see Teschen, Opava, Tribor, Ratibor, Hučin, and Jablunky. I see the people of my native land harnessed in toil. And what toil?!

Mentally I peruse the pages of our history—from the time our people laboured in the fields of their feudal lords in the Middle Ages to the time of the lash of Marquis Hero—and I hear the voice of Peter Bezruč. Mentally, I peruse the records of the first world war and of the world economic crisis, and I see children dying of starvation in the villages of Ostrava and in the cottages of Beskid.

My dear brothers and sisters! You sowed corn for others to eat; you dug coal to warm other people’s habitations. But what is this compared with the jackboot that is now trampling upon our land? You miners in the Silesian mines—for whom are you digging coal today? For the greatest barbarian in human history, to enable him to drive his trains loaded with weapons against the Soviet Union. You workers in the Vitkov factories—what are your hammers forging? They are forging
weapons for the biggest clown in human history, whose dream is to establish the rule of his alleged "pure" nation and "pure" race over all the other nations and races, whom he dubs "impure"! And you spinners and weavers; for whom is the cloth that comes from your machines? For the most bloody hyena the world has ever seen, whose diabolical plan is not only to enslave, but to exterminate all the Slavonic nations; to exterminate not only their culture, but to exterminate them physically. Do you intend to go on working for this barbarian, for this clown, for this hyena? Do you intend to go on working for the enslavement of others, and for your own extermination?

For two years death has been stalking through Europe, wearing a mask with Hitler's swastika. The Prussian jackboot has trampled upon Austria. Its bloody fist has driven the swastika into Hradčany; Prussian bombs and tanks have crushed Warsaw; and this jackboot, this fist, these bombs and tanks have crushed Denmark, Norway, Belgium, Yugoslavia and Greece. They wanted to break the spirit of London; but on London the Prussian hyena broke its first fangs. Now, one hundred and seventy divisions of brown-clad robbers have hurled themselves upon Soviet Russia. But Soviet Russia rose up solid as a wall, yielded ground in the first few days in order to muster her forces, and now stands like a rock against which the hyena will break the rest of its fangs. Soviet Russia is invincible!

But should Europe wait until Russia has saved her? Every week, every day is precious. Every man, woman and child must know what these moments mean for the human race. They must know that this is not merely a war between Berlin and Rome on the one side and England and Russia on the other. It is a war between barbarism and civilization, between the instincts of the wild beast and the instincts of humanity. Every man and woman must understand that every time a German troop train is blown up a blow is struck on behalf of civilization and humanity; and that every German bomb made so that it will not explode, or catch fire, means the saving of many innocent lives. Every man and woman who has any conception of civilization and humanity must be convinced of this.

And this conviction must be held particularly by every Slav, irrespective of whether he, or she, lives on the banks of the Sava or Vltava, on the banks of the Vistula or the Volga. The German jackboot wants to crush us as it crushed the Polabian Slavs. The Germans think that since they failed to do this in past centuries they will succeed in doing so now. Poland and Yugoslavia are covered with a forest of gallows. In Poland three million people have already been exterminated.
Bohemians are being shamefully humiliated. The swastika is flying over Hradčany, the city of the Bohemian kings. Slovaks are being driven to fight for the alleged “pure” race against their so-called “impure” Slavonic brothers, the Russians. Yugoslavia is drenched with Croatian, Serbian and Slovene blood; defenceless people have been crushed by tanks.

What for? In order that the traitor Pavelič may sit in the tottering seat of the Croatian “government”?

The sacred moment has arrived for Slav to stretch out his hand to Slav to form a close ring in which the most dangerous hyena mankind has ever known may be caught and destroyed. On the ruins of the so-called Third Reich a new world and a new Europe will arise; and on the bones of the German robbers will be built up the freedom of all the Slavonic nations under which all, great and small, will be able to develop and flourish. In this great historic moment every Slav has a great duty to perform, so that when this brown beast is at last laid low everyone may be able to say with a clear conscience: “I had a hand in this.” Woe to those who hinder or betray this duty! Woe to those who have driven Slavs against their Slavonic brothers!

Dear countrymen! I was in Poland in the autumn of 1939, and I saw with my own eyes what German fascism means. I am speaking to you as one of you. My father was born in the coalfields of Ostrava, and my mother in the shadow of the Beskid mountains. I grew up among you, and my heart sang about the poverty prevailing in Beskid, and about the starvation of the Ostrava miners. That is why I was driven out like a dog. But I am standing at my post, proud of the fact that I was born in the land of Ondraš, Petr Bezruč and Leo Janaček. And the tradition that this trio has handed down to us is: to hate and destroy all those who desire to trample upon our Slavonic motherland. To defend and to develop the Slav culture of our Slavonic motherland must be the duty of everyone who says that his cradle stood in the shade of the Beskids.
Brother Serbs! Hitler has proclaimed all other nations an inferior race and the German nation a superior race, which is to rule over the whole world. In this reactionary theory the Slavs are proclaimed the most inferior race, which must first be reduced in numbers and then—those who survive—serve the German lords.

You have already tasted the bitter fruits of Hitler’s theory. How many Serbians, men, women and children, have been exterminated in the course of this year alone? To achieve this object Hitler pursued a policy of perfidy. He incited one Slavonic nation against another, and oppressed and crushed those who refused to submit. This has been the traditional policy of German expansion towards the nations of our Yugoslavia—the Serbs, Croatians and Slovenes.

But Hitler is not finding it easy to carry out this reactionary policy, because the Slav nations are not sheep which quietly go to the slaughter. This has been proved by the Serbs and Montenegrins; and it is now being proved again by the Russians, Ukrainians, Byelorussians, and many other nations. In this struggle, justice, progress and civilization are on the side of the Slavs. On the side of the Slavs stand the great freedom-loving nations Great Britain and the United States. Victory for us is certain; it is only a question of time. It is only a question as to how long fascism, the worst enemy of the Slavonic nations, can survive.
The Red Army has already inflicted many severe blows on the German army. The finest fascist divisions have already found their graves in Slavonic soil. The Red Army will strike the last telling and crushing blow at fascism, and will be its principal grave-digger. But the Serbian people will not wait while the Red Army and the armies of the other freedom-loving nations crush the enemy. Already the Serbian nation is fighting the German and the Italian invaders; but this fight must be intensified to a greater degree. The great Russian nation has more than once assisted the Serbian nation in its struggle for national independence. And today, when German fascism has hurled its crack forces against the great Soviet people, the Serbian nation must come to their aid. For this struggle is also the struggle for the liberation of the Serbian nation from the common enemy of all the Slavonic nations.

The most important thing now is to unite the Slavonic nations against their common enemy, fascism. Unity of the Serbs, Croatians and Slovenes for the common struggle—this is the most urgent need of the present day. Whoever opposes the unity of the Slavs is an accomplice of fascism, of Hitler, of Mussolini. Unity and alliance on the basis of national equality is our only guarantee of victory.

In this just war of ours there can be no neutrals; for whoever is not on our side is on the side of fascism, of Hitler, of Mussolini.

Brother Serbs, rise up for the struggle against the fascist hordes! Every honest Serb, no matter where he is, must do something to help our just cause. Every Serb must contribute his mite to the cause of destroying the fascist beast. Let Hitler feel that the ground is burning under his feet at every step!

Brother Serbs in Yugoslavia! Conduct your partisan warfare on even a bigger scale than you are doing now. Attack the German garrisons! Kill off the German soldiers and officers! Derail trains carrying German freight! Blow up bridges, ammunition dumps and petrol stores! Cut telephone wires! Not a grain of wheat, not a gram of meat and not a gram of lard must be allowed to fall into the hands of the fascists! Destroy Hitler’s agents in Serbia, such as Aćimović and his accomplices. Give the German invaders a taste of their own weapon! For every Serb that is killed, kill a hundred fascists and their accomplices! Revive the ancient Serbian fighting traditions! Follow in the footsteps of your ancestors Kolubara, Cer, Crnivrh, Kujmakčalan. The Serbian people can be liberated only by the efforts of the Serbian people themselves. Strengthen your fraternal solidarity, for this is the best guarantee of victory.
Let Hitler and all the fascists remember that the Serbian people go into battle singing the song of Jove, their ancient bard:

Historic days have come,
For Freedom into battle we have plunged.
And to the admiration of the world
The cursed foe are crushing.
Better death with honour
Than slavery to this power.
Into the battle
For our people,
Forward!
SPEECH BY JURO SALAI, CROATIAN PUBLICIST

Brother Croatians! Hitler’s fascist robbers have proclaimed a “crusade” against all Slavs, whom they regard as an “inferior race.” In their opinion, the Slavs must be the servants and slaves of the “superior race,” the German fascists. After seizing the lands of the South Slavs and subjugating the people, Hitler’s hordes hurled themselves against the great Slavonic power, the Soviet Union.

The Soviet people have risen to a man against the savage fascist hordes. They have gone into battle to defend their native land from the fascist barbarians. In this just war the Soviet Union has on its side the freedom-loving nations of England and America and the progressive nations throughout the world. The Croatian people also feel a strong sense of solidarity with the great Soviet people in the struggle against Hitler’s savage hordes, for they know very well that the Soviet Union has always supported the small nations, and the Slavonic nations in particular. The Croatian people have retaliated to fascist Germany’s attack on the Soviet Union by intensifying their struggle against the German fascists and their hirings.

The people in all the countries that have been seized by Hitler’s fascists have tasted the bitterness of this modern barbarian, but the Slavonic peoples have tasted it more than all.

Hitler wants to convert the Slavonic nations into slaves; and this he wants to do to the peoples of Yugoslavia. To achieve his object he
has collected a gang of the worst scoundrels in the country who, like Judas, are serving him for thirty pieces of silver.

Hitler has foisted on the Croatian people a king who is no more than his vassal. This is Duke Spoleto, brother of the bankrupt commander of the Italian forces in Abyssinia, Aosta. But this king is still in Italy; he is afraid to go to Yugoslavia, for he knows that the Croatian people will never submit to an alien yoke. He has chosen as his instrument the criminal Pavelić, who is performing bloody deeds at the behest of his masters. Tens of thousands of the best sons of the Croatian people have been herded in concentration camps. Hundreds of valiant fighters have been shot. To achieve his nefarious objects, Hitler, through his hireling Pavelić, is trying to sow national strife, particularly between Serbs and Croatians, in conformity with the principle of “divide and rule.”

But Pavelić, and his masters Hitler and Mussolini, are greatly mistaken if they think that their designs can succeed. The Croatian people still vividly remember the great popular champions of the unity of all Slavs—Strossmayer and Stepan Radić—who devoted their lives to this cause. Terrorism, plunder and violence are the only methods by which Hitler, his vassals and his hirelings can rule.

The freedom-loving Croatian people have never tolerated tyranny, and will not tolerate Hitler’s tyranny. As far back as 1573, during the Croatian peasant revolt, they adopted the motto of “Unity and freedom for all men.” Throughout its history the Croatian nation has waged a struggle for freedom against the alien yoke. Nor will the Croatian people submit to humiliation and subjugation at the hands of Hitler’s gangsters today. The Croatian people have already risen in revolt against Hitler’s abominable atrocities. Thousands of brave Croatian fighters have gathered in forests and caves, and have formed partisan units.

Shoulder to shoulder with the Serbs, Montenegrins and Slovenes, rise up against the fascists, the worst enemy of the Slavs, and of all progressive mankind! Destroy your oppressors! Fight fearlessly against Hitler’s hirelings, Pavelić and his gangs! Exterminate them! Prevent the organization of volunteer legions for the war against the Soviet Union! Blow up bridges and railways to prevent the Germans from transporting troops and munitions and from stealing your grain. Set fire to the invaders’ stores! Burn the crops in the fields rented by the invaders! See that they do not get a single grain of wheat!

Yours is a just cause, and victory must be yours! The common struggle of all the Slavonic nations—Serbs, Slovenes, Montenegrins,
Bohemians, Slovaks, Poles and the great Russian people—against Hitler's fascist robbers will ensure you liberty and equality.

Brother Croatians all over the world! Forward to the struggle against Hitler's barbarians, for the freedom and happiness of all the Slavonic nations and of all progressive mankind!

Long live the militant fraternity of the Croatians, Serbs and Slovenes against Hitler's barbarians and his hirelings!
SPEECH BY IVAN REGEN, SLOVENE JOURNALIST

Slovene people!

For a thousand years the Slovene nation groaned and bled under the heel of the German barons. For a thousand years it fought to free itself from its chains and to achieve a life of freedom as an equal member of the family of free and equal nations. The force it contended against was a hundred times stronger than its own. The German rulers tore the body of the Slovene nation to pieces and greedily drank its blood. In this unequal struggle fell the best sons of the Slovene nation, which lost its liberty, and even all semblance of nationhood. But it never gave way to despair. It persisted in its efforts; it fought and laboured, laboured and fought. As a result of the heroic efforts of its best sons it preserved its beautiful language, in which Presheren, Tsankar, Zupanchich, and other Slovene authors and poets produced their immortal works. It built up a profuse literature in all fields of human learning and achieved a high degree of culture. And from this struggle our Slovene nation—an equal member of the family of Slavonic nations—emerged victorious.

Now a new danger hovers over the Slovene nation, as it does over all Slavonic nations. The old spirit of the Teutonic Knights has revived in the shape of the German fascist gangsters who want to subjugate the whole world, to exterminate all the Slavonic nations, whom they regard as an inferior race, only fit to serve as manure for the fields.
that are to feed the scoundrelly Teutonic and other fascist bandits. Fascist Germany has perfidiously and treacherously attacked the peaceful Soviet Union in order to deprive the other Slavonic nations of all support and thus exterminate them; to wipe them from the face of the earth, or to reduce them to the vilest slavery. The barbarous massacre of Poles and Serbs, the savage reign of terror introduced against the Bohemians and Byelorussians, and the extermination of Slovenes in Italy, Carniola, Styria and Carinthia, prove beyond doubt that the fascists’ aims are really criminal and that they are levelled against the Slavs.

By perfidiously attacking peaceful nations the German fascists have already conquered a large part of Western Europe. But the moment they turned their criminal weapons against the Soviet Union they signed their own death warrant. The peoples of the Soviet Union, primarily the Russians, Ukrainians and Byelorussians, have barred the road to the fascist hordes; and day after day they are inflicting heavy blows upon them. In these historic days the heroic Red Army and the heroic peoples of the Soviet Union are showing how peace-loving peoples can fight for their country, for their freedom, for their independence and for their right to exist as an equal among equal nations. The fight now being waged by the heroic Red Army and the heroic peoples of the Soviet Union is a guarantee that the fascist yoke will be destroyed and swept from the face of the earth for ever. But the final blow will be more complete and victory will come the sooner if all the Slavonic nations unite, form a mighty army and fight to the last drop of blood against the fascist robbers, against all those who are aiding these barbarians, and against those who are ready to surrender to these fascist vipers.

Slovenes! The weapons that have been turned against the Soviet Union are turned against all the Slavonic nations, and hence, against us, too. True, we are the smallest member of the great Slavonic family; but the unfortunate idea that we can do nothing because we are too few has had a fatal effect upon the course of our national life. Now it is not a question of our numbers, but whether we cherish freedom and independence as people should who realize that “night is less fearful in the darkness of the tomb than days of slavery under the bright rays of the sun.”

Nations not only have a right to freedom, independence and equality; it is also their duty to fight for this right to the last drop of their blood. Our fight against fascism will be easier because we shall not fight alone. Fighting on our side is the great Russian nation, which in
the course of its history has always vanquished its enemies. Fighting on our side is the great English nation. We have on our side the United States of America, and all the democratic and freedom-loving nations in the world. Our number is not a matter of importance. What is important is our determination to fight and to win.

The enemy is fierce and cruel. The butcher has no mercy for his victims. This the Slovenes know from bitter experience. Therefore, we must be fierce in our struggle. Fascism knows no mercy; therefore, we must show fascism no mercy. We must show our hatred and contempt for it at every moment and at every step. We must cause the fascists all the damage we can, make their lives intolerable, disorganize their industries, spoil the materials intended for the German army, sabotage wherever we can, and form partisan units to wage relentless war against fascism and for a brighter future for our nation.

Slovenes! If we want to find the road to the land where, as our Presheren put it, "the children of the Slavs can freely choose their own faith and laws," we must in conjunction with all the Slavonic nations, and particularly with the great Russian nation, fight heroically against fascism—the enemy of all Slavs and of all mankind.

Long live the Slovene nation!
Long live the Slovene partisans!
Long live the heroic Red Army and the heroic Soviet Union!
Into the battle for final victory!
SPEECH BY DR. A. STOJANOV, BULGARIAN PUBLICIST

Bulgarians, men and women!

In his ambition to become the ruler of Europe and to make her the prey of the German imperialists, Hitler has launched a bloody crusade against the Slavs. He has proclaimed the Slavs an “inferior” race, fit to serve only as manure for the “superior” German race. Moreover, he has placed the Slavs on “the lowest rung of European races.” Hitler’s “race theory” dooms the Slavonic nations to extinction.

Hitler has already destroyed the state and political independence of Czechoslovakia, Poland and Yugoslavia. These countries he has looted; he is destroying their national culture; he has closed their schools and universities; he is ruthlessly exterminating their intelligentsia, and is herding thousands of workers and intellectuals in concentration camps, or sending them into slavery to Germany.

Hitlerism has brought untold disaster to the Slavonic countries the Germans have occupied. Its obvious purpose is to eradicate the Slav spirit and to convert the future generations of the Slavonic nations into slaves for the German princes and barons.

Following the principle of “divide and rule,” Hitler is sowing strife among the Slavonic nations, and for this purpose is utilizing the services of despicable traitors in the respective countries. He incites some Slavonic nations against others, and foists “führers” upon them in the persons of these despicable traitors and betrayers of their people.
In our country, Bulgaria, corrupt individuals and traitors have been found who have renounced their Slavonic kinship and are driving the Bulgarian people into the abyss of economic, political and cultural slavery.

In spite of the recently expressed desire of the Bulgarian people that a pact of mutual assistance be concluded with the fraternal Russian people, the present rulers of Bulgaria, far from obeying the will of the people, submitted to Hitler and Mussolini, invited German troops to Bulgaria, and helped Hitler to strike Yugoslavia in the back. Now these rulers want to drive the Bulgarian people into war against their liberator, Russia.

Is it not disgraceful that Bulgarians could be found who, to please the German invaders, declare that there is no such thing as a Slavonic nation, that the Bulgarians are not Slavs, and that Russia is not a Slavonic country?

The whole world is aware of the profound love and gratitude the Bulgarian people feel for their brothers, the Russian people.

What have Hitler, his generals and the German Gestapo brought the Bulgarian people? What do they hold out for them in the future? That we all know. While proclaiming the advent of a new order in Europe, they are behaving like the complete masters of our country, doing exactly as they please with the lives, the property, the blood and the honour of our people. They are forging chains of slavery for us.

The Bulgarian nation has produced men like Father Paisia, Father Sophronia, and other giants of the period of our renaissance. From its ranks have sprung men like Botev, Levski, Karavelov, Venkovski and other heroes of the struggle for national liberation. Our people have more than once risen in revolt against the foreign yoke. The Bulgarian people will never take the side of those who enslave other nations!

Now that all Slavs are rallying for the fight in defence of the liberty, honour and national independence of all the Slavonic nations, the Bulgarian nation also considers it to be its sacred duty to throw all its efforts into this struggle, which is a struggle for its own liberty, honour and independence.

Notwithstanding cruel persecution and the sacrifices it entails, the struggle against Hitler Germany—the worst enemy of the Slavs and of the whole human race—is flaring up in all Slavonic countries; and it will go on until Hitlerism and its agents are crushed and destroyed.

The national ideals of the Bulgarian nation cannot be achieved with the help of vampires and cannibals. They cannot be achieved under the patronage of conquerors like Hitler and Mussolini; the policy of
their Bulgarian agents only serves to compromise Bulgarian national aspirations in the eyes of the democratic and progressive world. Only by fighting resolutely against German fascism will the Bulgarian nation prevent Hitler's obedient servants in Bulgaria from imposing on its forehead the brand of shame.

True to its national-liberation traditions, the Bulgarian nation will take its place in the united Slavonic front. The foundations of this front, that will number many million in its ranks, have been laid by the pacts the Soviet Union has concluded with the governments of Poland, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia.

The alliance between the U.S.S.R. and Great Britain—the greatest military and the greatest naval power in the world—and the cooperation of the United States of America—the country with the largest economic resources in the world—guarantee the victory of the Slavonic nations.

The sons and daughters of the Bulgarian nation must take their place in the front ranks in this arduous but glorious struggle for the liberty and independence of the Bulgarian nation. The future of the Bulgarian nation, the future of all Slavonic nations, the future of civilized mankind is at stake.

Hitlerism must and will be crushed!
Long live free and independent Bulgaria!
Long live the fraternity of the Slavonic nations!
Brother Slavs!

For two years the German robbers have been ravaging the ancient lands of the Slavs, wrecking their towns and burning their villages. Hitler is determined to destroy the free and peaceful Slavonic states; to convert us into slaves; to exterminate us. This is not a mere threat; it is not merely the wild delirium of the German Nazis; it is the cannibal Hitler's cool, calculated and deliberate plan, worked out in all its details.

Brother Slavs! A dire menace hangs over us! The fascists have already slaughtered three million Poles. The blood of hundreds of thousands of Bohemians, Slovaks, Carpathian Ukrainians, Croats, Montenegrins and Slovenes; the blood of six thousand killed and mutilated people in Lvov alone; the blood of the best sons of the Russian, Ukrainian, Byelorussian and other nations of the great Soviet Union who have fallen in battle against the fascist armies; the tears of martyred children and women call to us Slavs to unite against universally hated Hitler and his fascist hordes.

This is not the first time that the German robbers have tried to conquer our countries by fire and sword; to rob us of our fertile lands, of our beautiful cities and flourishing villages; to destroy our great culture and to convert us into their slaves.
From the depths of the heart of our great Ukrainian poet Taras Shevchenko there welled up words of holy wrath against the German conquerors. He raised his voice in defence of the Bohemian and of all Slavonic nations. He clearly realized that the object of the German conquerors was to break up the family of Slavs and to exterminate the Slavonic nations one by one.

He wrote:

Thus the Germans burned
The house and family of the Slavs;
The family of the Slavs broke up
And stealthily into the land released
The venomous serpent of discord.

The flowing rivers of blood
Quenched the raging fires,
The Germans among themselves shared out
The orphans and smoking pyres.
And Slavonic children,
Reared in chains,
Forgot in cruel captivity
That they had lived in a living world.
But in the smouldering ashes
The spark of brotherhood gleamed;
Gleamed, glowed, and waited
For men firm and bold,
And waited not in vain . . . .

And when the opportune moment arrived the great family of Slavonic nations rose to a man against the barbarous German invaders who found their graves in Slavonic soil. This was the case in ancient times. It was the case in 1918, when the Ukrainians, Russians and Byelorussians put the German invaders to ignominious flight. And today, the freedom-loving Ukrainian nation has risen to a man to fight fascism. Fighting shoulder to shoulder, Russians, Ukrainians, Byelorussians and all the other nations of the great Soviet Union, have already struck telling blows at Hitler’s crack troops and have shattered the myth that the German army is invincible. The ground is becoming too hot for the fascists. Day and night, without respite, the gallant Red Army and the brave partisans are raining blows upon them.

In every house and in every home Ukrainians have sworn to die rather than become the slaves of hated Hitler. The enemy came to
seize our rich harvest; but it was not fields of waving corn that he found in those parts of the Ukraine that he occupied, but a seared land and the burning hatred of the people. Wherever the bloody fascist jackboot trod it found a wilderness. We do not regret the loss of this great wealth created by the labours of our people, for we know that the victory of German fascism would spell the doom of our free Ukrainian state, the doom of our national culture, shameful slavery and the doom of our nation.

Brother Slavs! In the name of forty million Ukrainians, I call upon you to unite for a holy war against our worst enemies—German fascism and its vassals.

The Ukrainian people are firmly convinced that in this struggle all the Slavonic nations—equal brothers of one common family—will unite and deliver a crushing blow to Hitler’s hordes and thus rid mankind of this bloody fascist nightmare. We know that victory does not come of its own accord. Let us, then, make conditions for the enemy impossible. Wherever the black spider of the fascist swastika, bloated with blood, appears, it must be crushed!

The German and Italian fascists and their vassals cannot withstand the onslaught of our great Slavonic nations, and of our ally, the heroic English nation.

We shall be victorious because on our side we have the great Red Army, all the heroic Slavonic nations, and all the progressive nations throughout the world.

The Ukrainian people heartily welcome the unity of all nations for the common struggle against our worst enemy—Hitler Germany.

The Ukrainian people will strain every nerve to achieve the speedy defeat of German fascism, which is the enemy of all mankind.

Death to fascism!

Long live the great family of free and equal Slavonic nations, united in a holy war against the piratical invasion of German fascism and its vassals!
Poles! The enemy has ravaged our country. He has reduced the villages inhabited by our Polish peasants to charred ruins and ashes, and the towns in which our workers laboured to heaps of wreckage.

In September 1939, we were attacked by our ancient enemy, the true successors of the haughty crusader knights and of the Prussian robber barons. Unbridled fascist imperialism has continued the worst and most sordid traditions of history. Its first victim was Poland.

And oceans of blood were spilt; the smoke of burning villages and hamlets rose to the skies. Tens of thousands have perished under the rain of bombs. Hundreds of thousands have died an awful death in prisons and concentration camps. Poland has been converted into a wilderness. The Germans have wrecked all the monuments of our culture, have sent to Germany everything that could be taken away, and millions of the inhabitants of Poland have been doomed to die of starvation. The savage brutality of Hitlerism has revealed itself to the full in our land.

After Poland came the turn of other countries: And at last, intoxicated with blood, their heads turned by easy victories, the fascists rushed eastward, believing that they could exterminate the whole Slavonic race, destroy the Slavonic nations and convert their lands into German colonies. The ancient plans of the crusaders and the ambitions
of the Prussians have been revived. An iron avalanche rushed upon the
frontiers of the Soviet Union.

But Hitler found that he was wrong in believing that he could sweep
across the Land of Soviets as easily as he had swept through the other
countries of Europe. Here tank collided with tank, steel clashed with
steel, and the blind strength of drunken fascist robbers collided with
the conscious, true and self-sacrificing strength of the Red Army.

A frightful struggle ensued, the like of which history has never
known; a struggle for the whole world.

In this struggle the Slavonic nations must take part to a man. Hitler
hates us more than any other nation, and declares that we do not de­
serve to be called human. The victory of fascism would mean our ex­
tinction.

Poles! Among the great family of Slavonic nations we were the first
to fall victims to aggression.

We cannot wait with folded arms until the heroism of the Red Army
and the dauntless heroism of the English people smash the ranks of the
brown-clad hordes.

The ruins of Warsaw, the ravaged, trampled and desecrated soil
of Poland call us to the fight. We are being called by the heart-rending
shrieks of those who are daily tortured and dying under the bloody heel
of the invader. We are being called to the fight by the great traditions
of our nation, which has fought heroically for its freedom and whose
spirit has never been broken.

A Polish army is arising on the soil of the Soviet Union. Polish sol­
diers will march against the enemy, against the brown beast. Polish
soldiers will avenge the ruined cities, the blood, the tortures and tears
of their people. Shoulder to shoulder with the Red Army, our Polish
army will fight the enemy of our country, the enemy of the Slavs, the
enemy of the human race.

And Poles will rise to the fight in Poland itself, in the enemy's rear.
This fight must be intensified a hundred-fold. Miners of Silesia, clench
your fists! Metallists of Warsaw, your place is in the ranks of the fight­
ers! Spinners and weavers of Lodz, builders of Cracow—into the fray!
Peasants! Hurl yourselves upon the enemy!

Fight, destroy the enemy, every minute and at every step. Show
him no mercy or pity! Make him pay for the ruin, for the death, for
the starvation he has caused; for the insults and humiliation to which he
has subjected our country!

Into the fray! Blow up bridges, derail troop trains, burn stores,
wreck railways, cut telegraph and telephone lines. Let every wood be-
come an armed camp, every village an ambush, and every house a fortress.

Poles! The nation that produced Copernicus, Mickiewicz, Chopin, Kosciuszko, Yaroslav Dombrowski, and Ludwik Warynski will never be a nation of slaves! Drive the enemy from Polish soil!

The whole world, everybody who deserves to be called human has united for the fight against Hitler. The Red Army is fighting with a heroism unprecedented in history. English planes are reducing German cities to ashes. Ships loaded with arms are sailing from America. In the occupied countries the flames of revolt are rising higher and higher. Partisan warfare is raging in Yugoslavia, and sabotage in Czechoslovakia. The ground is becoming too hot for the brown beasts. We are not alone! The whole civilized world, all those to whom human liberty and human dignity are dear, are with us!

To arms! The day of victory is drawing nigh! Poles! Remember the magnificent pages of your history! The time has come to revive your insurrectionary traditions!

To arms!
Brother Slavs!

I heartily greet you in the name of the Byelorussian people and on their behalf call upon you to join us in the ruthless struggle against bloody fascism, our common enemy.

The great family of Slavonic nations which are bound by a common history as well as by ancient kinship have been attacked by a horde of modern cannibals who, with unprecedented ferocity are destroying the culture accumulated in our countries for centuries and threaten to exterminate our peoples.

Like your countries, part of my native Byelorussia has also suffered the savage invasion of the barbarous fascists, who are being incited to murder and plunder by the insane and inhuman gang of Hitlerites.

My people have had to suffer the bombardment of peaceful cities, the brutal massacre of old people, women and children, and the burning of villages and hamlets. But no atrocities, however savage, can break its heroic resistance to the arrogant invaders; and no persecution can shake its confidence that under the blows of the Red Army the hour of retribution will soon strike. Every drop of our blood, every tear shed by our children, will be avenged a hundredfold on these fascist enemies of the human race.

The Byelorussian nation, jointly with the other nations of the Soviet Union, is not only fighting in the ranks of the valiant Red Army,
but is waging a fierce and relentless struggle against the enemy in his rear, organizing an ever increasing number of partisan units. Not leaving the enemy a crumb of bread or a drop of water, the peasants of the devastated villages retreat into the forests, and thence make bold sorties upon the enemy, capture his weapons, destroy his man-power, wreck his tanks, cut his communications and give him no rest, night or day. Under the constant rain of blows of the partisans the enemy is made to feel that occupied territory is not yet conquered territory; that the freedom-loving Byelorussian people will never submit to him.

Brother Slavs! Your countries, too, are suffering all the horrors of the fascist invasion. But you, too, like my people, will refuse to submit to these savage monsters.

We rejoice to hear that every day the Poles, Bohemians and Serbs are rising in greater and more formidable numbers against the common enemy—Hitlerism.

In this hour of trial the Slavonic nations, united in one great family in which none claims priority, are rising against the foe.

The Red Army is heroically defending every inch of Soviet soil and repelling the brutal enemy; and the blows it is striking at the enemy ranks become weightier hour by hour.

Let us, then, bravely and staunchly keep up the struggle to the very end. By our common efforts we shall completely vanquish fascism and make it impossible for the monstrous and inhuman deeds of Hitlerism to be perpetrated in any country again.

Long live the equality and friendship of all the Slavonic nations!

Up with the struggle for our liberty, for our independence, for victory!
SPEECH BY MAREK ČULEN, MEMBER OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PARLIAMENT

For working people there is no more terrifying word than “war.” Religious people in Slovakia pray to God to save them from famine, pestilence and war.

Slovak fathers and mothers used to tell their children of the horrors and sufferings they had to endure during the first world war.

But today we again hear women weeping in parting from their sons, husbands and brothers. Slovakia is again experiencing the horrors of war. Why? Because the Slovak Judases—Tuka, Mach and Tisso are driving Slovak youths and men into fratricidal slaughter. Slovaks are being compelled to shed their blood for Hitler, whose aim is to drive us from the land of our forefathers to enable German colonists to settle on it. Slovak women and children are weeping and Slovaks are dying in order to accomplish the nefarious designs of the bloody Nazi fiends, who have lost all human semblance, who are able only to kill and destroy, and who now want to exterminate the Slavonic nations, including our small nation.

The traitors Tuka, Mach and Tisso have sold Slovakia to these devils, and their treachery will be recalled with curses even by our grandchildren.

Mothers, fathers, they have sold you too! They have taken your sons, and have sent them to the front to shed their blood for German fascism, for Hitler, against Russia, which has always recognized the
right of the Slovak people to independence and freedom, and which always helped you like an elder brother. These traitors have robbed you of your sons, your husbands and your brothers; they are the grave-diggers of Slovak liberty.

Harvest time has arrived, the corn must be reaped, sheaved and threshed. Autumn will soon be here, and with it ploughing time. The second hay crop must be brought in, potatoes dug, the fields cleared, the seeds sown, and preparations must be made for the coming year. Then winter will come. It will be necessary to go into the mountains to cut wood. Who will do all this? Who will help you, wife? Who will be there to advise you? You have been robbed of your horses, and now you will be robbed of your cows and oxen. What animals will you harness? And how will you cope with all this work? And as soon as you bring anything home from the fields the agents of Tuka, Mach and Tisso will take it from you and send it to Germany, to feed the German armies. What do they care about the sufferings of the Slovak people? What do they care about the lives of your sons, husbands and fathers? They hold nothing sacred! They have no human feelings! They are sensitive only to the ring of coins, these wretched Judases!

Slovak men and women! Stay the hand of the assassin! Conceal your provisions wherever you can. Destroy everything that might be useful to the German fascists. Tears will not help you. Only fighting and resistance will help you.

And you, young Slovaks, avenge yourselves on these murderers for everything. Take up guns, axes, any weapon that comes to your hands. Flee to the woods and mountains and organize partisan units. Attack the German gangs. Break up the roads, blow up bridges, and wreck the railways. Derail troop trains going to the front. Show no mercy! An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth! Avenge your mothers and sisters, your brothers and fathers. Strike hard at the enemy who hates the Slovak nation.

And you, Slovak soldiers at the front! Do not fight the Russians! Turn your weapons against the German curs and avenge your wives and children, and the martyrdom your nation is suffering. Strike, slash, hack the German fascist murderers of your people wherever you encounter them. Remember that death is better than slavery.

My brothers, remember that the future belongs to the bold and the brave.

Into the fight, side by side with the Red Army, side by side with the Russians against the German butchers! For the freedom of the Slovak nation!
SPEECH BY IVAN LOKOTA, MEMBER OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PARLIAMENT

My dear brother and sister Ukrainians! I call upon you to enter the fight against the fascists who are destroying our Ukrainian culture and our national rights and customs.

I very well remember how the Magyars wanted to assimilate us all, but they failed. They merely succeeded in corrupting our language. Among us of the older generation, a small percentage is literate; but the majority of the population is illiterate, because the Magyar authorities did not want our people to be educated.

Nor have we forgotten that in 1914, in the village of Bychkovo, three of the inhabitants—Mishka Pudmalyusky, Michael Pudmalyusky and Nikolai Bratanyuk—were hanged; and in other villages—Rakhov and others—many people were hanged.

The Magyar squires did not want us to be educated or to know anything about the lives of other nations. We were compelled to work like slaves in their manorial fields, woods and factories. In the last war they wanted to use us against the Russians and Serbs, but we refused to fight against our brothers and surrendered at the first opportunity.

Now that the German fascists have crushed Czechoslovakia and have delivered our Transcarpathian Ukraine to the Magyars, the Magyar fascists have again closed the Ukrainian schools. Our students and teachers have been flung into jail or herded in concentration camps.
Now they are making another attempt to exterminate our Ukrainian people and are committing unspeakable atrocities.

In the village of Tribushana they rounded up six men, took them into the woods and tortured them to death. They cut off their noses and ears, put out their eyes, and then killed them.

The fascists, both German and Magyar, want to enslave the whole Ukrainian nation. That is why they have attacked the Soviet Union.

My dear brothers and sisters! The time has come to rise for a life and death struggle for our freedom.

Organize partisan units. Take up arms. Attack the fascist gangs. Wreck the railways and roads. Derail munition and food trains. Commit sabotage in the factories and mines. Destroy everything that might serve to supply the fascist front.

Ruthlessly annihilate our enemy till victory shall be ours.
I, as a German anti-fascist author, heartily welcome this meeting of the freedom-loving Slavonic nations. The great achievements of the Slavs in all spheres of human activity are common knowledge. I consider it my duty to come here and say that the shameful race theory propounded for a number of years by the present criminal government of Germany has nothing in common whatever with the real sentiments and ideas of the best elements of the German people. In order to foist their barbarous rule upon other nations the fascist clique had first of all to enslave the German people. If the German people were free they would never allow themselves to be used for such a bloody and hopeless undertaking.

It is very distressing indeed—and this is particularly felt by all honest Germans—that the most despicable and unscrupulous lie that was ever uttered has been spread in the German language; that in the name of Germany cruelties have been committed that far exceed the worst abominations that have ever occurred in human history.

Fascism is trying to cover up its crimes, its own unfitness, by propounding the insane idea that all other races but the German are “unfit.” It is well known that it does not include even the whole German nation in the category of the “fit race.” It includes only the chosen few; only the fascist gangsters who wear the emblem of death—the
skull and crossbones — and whom Hitler sends out to “conquer living space.”

The best representatives of the German people have always highly appreciated the great cultural values that the Slavonic nations have bestowed upon mankind, such as the immortal works of Chaikovsky and Pushkin, Gogol and Tolstoy, Maxim Gorky and Mickiewicz, and the best productions of Bulgarian, Yugoslavian and Bohemian art and literature.

In the hearts of all honest Germans there is no room for racial hatred of any kind. It celebrates its orgies only in the premises of the Ministry for Propaganda and in the pot-houses where those who wear the emblem of death meet their boon companions. In spite of all the efforts exerted by Goebbels—that dwarfish monster who advertises himself as a sample of the “superior” race; in spite of all the efforts of Hitler’s entourage and of the whole fascist gang of butchers, sadists and sots, their “race theory” will crumble to dust like all their other lies, and the German people will once again fill their lungs with air untainted with fascist decay.

The Slavonic nations are demanding nothing more than their sacred right to live as free nations among other nations. This demand is supported by the best elements of the German people. They are of the opinion that the vital interests of the German nation can be secured and protected only by peace and cooperation with all free nations.
I speak here as an anti-fascist German author whom Hitler has robbed of German citizenship, and who has found in the Soviet Union a second fatherland. I speak here as one who has watched Hitler's fascism for the course of several years. My books have been burned and my plays banned by the Hitler regime.

We German anti-fascist authors know that in addition to the burning of the Reichstag, the burning of books is one of the symbols of the Third Reich. The National-Socialists have a profound contempt for culture, and at the same time they stand in great dread of the power of the spirit. The revolver, the bonfire and the military machine—these are their customary and, as they think, convincing arguments.

The second characteristic feature of the Nazis is that they primarily attack the weak. This is their "art" of winning victories. First Hitler attacked the small nations whose independence and national life he wanted to destroy. We German anti-fascists knew, however, that as soon as Hitler met a powerful and determined opponent his whole system would totter.

This hour has struck! Hitler has attacked the Soviet Union, the state of workers and peasants and of fraternally united nations; and he has found that this fraternal alliance of the free nations of the Soviet State is as solid as a rock, that the Red Army of this state is capable
of offering his military machine formidable resistance. The Red Army has already struck Hitler's army very severe blows in a number of places.

During the past few weeks a wave of resistance to Hitler's tyranny, and a new wave of striving for freedom has swept over the whole of Europe. All the freedom-loving nations of the world will join in this mighty movement, and not the least of these will be the freedom-loving elements of the German people. You must not forget that many tens of thousands of the best representatives of the German people are languishing in the concentration camps and prisons of the Hitler regime. Hitler is not the German people. The day will come when the German people will wipe out the brown blot of shame!

The world is now faced with two possibilities. Either freedom-loving cultured humanity will live; or Hitler's barbarism, with its "Divisions of Death," will convert the world into a heap of ruins.

Freedom-loving humanity will live!
Hitler will vanish from the face of the earth!

The Red Army is offering determined resistance. It is fighting for its motherland. Its fight is also the fight of all the oppressed and freedom-loving nations of the world!

Down with the Hitler tyranny!
Hail the liberation of all the oppressed and freedom-loving nations!
MANIFESTO TO THE OPPRESSED SLAVONIC NATIONS
ISSUED BY THE MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
SLAVONIC NATIONS

Oppressed brother Slavs!

The world is engulfed in the flames of the most sanguinary and
devastating war the history of man has known.

This war has been thrust upon the world by bloodthirsty German
fascism. The peoples of France, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Austria,
Holland, Belgium, Denmark, Norway, Yugoslavia and Greece are
groaning under the tyranny of the German fascists and of their henchmen,
the fascists of Italy, Hungary, Rumania and Finland.

Hitlerism entertains particular hatred for the Slavonic nations.
The nefarious plan of German fascism is to seize our ancient Slavonic
lands and to hand them over for ever to the German barons and the
Italian and Hungarian aristocracy, and to convert all Slavs into
slaves for ever.

German fascism does not even shrink from physically exterminating
the Slavs. Hitler and his fascist clique openly say that it is necessary
to "exterminate Slavs wholesale," and this abominable plan is being
carried out with unexampled ferocity.

German fascism has subjugated and dismembered Czechoslovakia,
one of the most cultured and industrious countries in Europe. A con-
siderable part of the Slavonic lands have been presented to the Hun-
garian landlords; the same fate has befallen Transcarpathian Ukraine.
Over 100,000 Bohemians, Slovaks and Carpathian Ukrainians are
languishing in jail and in concentration camps.

German fascism has crushed the Polish republic and in the course
of eighteen months has exterminated about three million Poles. In
Gratz and Wolfsberg, in Austria, Hitler has organized a "slave mar-
ket" where Polish peasants and workers are sold by auction to Ger-
man landlords and factory owners.

Hitler's hordes, leading the fascists of Italy and Hungary on a string,
have ravaged Yugoslavia. Belgrade is in ruins. In the first few days
32,000 peaceful inhabitants were brutally murdered. The Yugoslav
state has been shared out like booty among the piratical German, Ital-
ian and Hungarian fascists. In the course of three months over eighty
thousand Serbs have been slaughtered.
In Bulgaria, which has been sold to Hitler by the ruling clique of traitors, the German troops are behaving like the masters of the country. The Bulgarian people are being forced into war against their brother Slavs. The population of Bulgaria is being subjected to a fierce regime of terror and plunder.

German fascism's treacherous attack on the Soviet Union is meeting with the stern resistance of the Red Army and of the entire Russian, Ukrainian, Byelorussian nations, as well as of all the other nations of the Soviet Union. In the districts of Soviet Ukraine and Byelorussia that the enemy has succeeded in capturing, untold outrages and brutalities are being perpetrated against the peaceful inhabitants. The fascists are burning whole villages, are shooting, hanging and torturing thousands of peasants, are raping women and murdering children. In Lvov alone, in the first few days the Germans were masters there, they killed and tortured no less than six thousand inhabitants.

Thus, all the freedom-loving Slavonic nations—Bohemians, Slovaks, Carpathian Ukrainians, Poles, Serbs, Croatians, Slovenes, Bulgars, Russians, Ukrainians and Byelorussians—have been subjected to the bloody aggression of German fascism.

Oppressed brother Slavs! Mortal danger hovers over us.

The hour has struck when the whole Slavonic world must unite to secure the speedy and utter defeat of German fascism.

We shall unite as equals. We have but one task and one aim—to rout Hitler's armies and to exterminate Hitlerism. We are imbued with but one ardent and all-embracing desire—that the Slavonic nations, as well as all other nations, may be able freely and peacefully to develop within the limits of their own states. We firmly and emphatically reject the very idea of Pan-Slavism, which is a thoroughly reactionary trend profoundly inimical to the equality of nations and to the lofty aims of national development for all the states which Russian tsarism once utilized for its imperialist aims. Our task is by our joint efforts to overthrow the yoke of German fascism, no matter at what sacrifice.

Oppressed brother Slavs! Let the flames of holy war sweep like a storm through all the Slavonic lands that have been and are being subjugated by Hitlerism! Let every plot of Slavonic soil become the grave of the enemy and a base for liberation from the Hitler yoke!

Sap the strength and disintegrate the ranks of Hitler's armies by every means in your power!
Sabotage every measure of the hated Hitler regime! Burn military stores; cut telegraph and telephone lines; derail enemy troop and munition trains; ruthlessly destroy the enemy’s man-power, and extend still further the nation-wide partisan war for liberation from the Hitler yoke!

Blood for blood! Death for death! Wreak ruthless vengeance upon the enemy for our subjugated lands, for our ruined cities and burned villages; for those killed and tortured in prisons and concentration camps; for the tears of our women, for the death of our children, and for all the humiliation to which our nations have been subjected!

Oppressed brother Slavs! The enemy is cunning and strong; but united we are a hundred times stronger than he. The peoples of the Soviet Union and the Red Army are with us. With us are all the democratic countries, and the whole of progressive mankind.

Rise up for the war of liberation from Hitlerism!

Death to the gangs of Hitler and Mussolini, the butchers of the Slavonic nations!

Long live our victory over bloody Hitlerism!

ALEXEY TOLSTOY, Russian author; Member of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R.

ALEXANDER KORNEICHUK, Ukrainian author; Member of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences.

YANKA KUPALA, Byelorussian poet.

GENERAL MARIAN JANUSZAJTIS, of the Polish Army.

WANDA WASILEWSKA, Polish authoress.

PROF. ZDENEK NEJEDLY, Bohemian publicist.

MAREK ČULEN, Slovak publicist and Member of the Czechoslovak Parliament.

IVAN LOKOTA, Transcarpathian Ukraine; publicist and Member of the Czechoslovak Parliament.

PROF. ONDRA LYSOHORSKY, Czechoslovak poet.

PROF. BOJIDAR MASLARIĆ, Serbian publicist.

JURO SALAI, Croatian publicist.

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