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Editor The Times,
Victoria, B. C.

A. J. Gibson
PA. Secretary
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Sir,

I am told that in your issue of December 22nd there appeared a letter over the signature of T. H. Toynbee which constituted a denial of the Polish right to territory now forcibly occupied by Russia. Recently the Times has carried a further letter, signed Clyde Frazee which contains a bitter and abusive attack on the Polish government-in-exile. I am surprised to see that these letters have gone unchallenged. Since no better-qualified person has come forward to do so, may I put a few facts before your readers?

First, as to Mr. Frazee's letter. Apart from the unwisdom and bad taste of such an attack upon an Allied government, does he not see that what he says of what he calls "the Polish Government-in-hiding" is just as true of, say, the governments of Norway or the Netherlands, which are also temporarily established in London? Can he suppose that such governments would be able to exist, even underground, in occupied territory?

I did not see Mr. Toynbee's letter, so I can only reply to it in general terms. There can be, and is, no question of Poland's right to the territory now demanded by Russia. Throughout all history it has been acknowledged to be part of Poland, and was so acknowledged by Lenin himself when in 1921 the Soviets signed their bilateral agreement with Poland at Riga. It was so acknowledged again by the present Soviet government in 1941 when it signed an agreement with Premier Sikorski admitting that treaties it has concluded with Germany for the partitioning of Poland were invalid. Of the very mixed population of the territory in question (commonly and misleadingly called White Russia - it is actually White Ruthenia) the largest group, roughly 5,000,000 are Poles, only 150,000 (about 1% of the total) are Russians. If the Soviets believe that this minority will not be fairly treated by Poland, there should be little difficulty in repatriating it.

By the Versailles Treaty the eastern boundary of Poland was not defined: but the Poles were authorized to organize an administration for the area bounded by a line running from Grodno to the upper Bug - the so-called Curzon line. It specified, however, that this decision was "without any prejudice as to the decision which later would definitely fix the eastern frontier of Poland" and in the last paragraph it stated that "the rights of Poland to territories east of that line... are specifically reserved". The Curzon line was so named because on July 10th, 1920, the then British Foreign Secretary, Lord Curzon, proposed it to Russia and Poland (then at war) as a line which, after the conclusion of an armistice, should separate the two armies: it being understood that the Red Army should stop 50 kilometers east of that line. It was never more than a provisional project which neither Russia nor Poland accepted.

In conclusion, I should like to quote from an article written by the well-known Canadian commentator, Willson Woodside, who cannot be accused of the slightest sympathy for the forces of reaction or