

## POLISH IMPERIALISTIC DESIGNS TOWARDS EAST GALICIA

### A NOTE FROM THE UKRAINIAN GOVERNMENT OF GALICIA TO THE PEACE CONFERENCE AT PARIS

Berne, Switzerland, March 13, 1919.

Inasmuch as the negotiations at Lviv for an armistice between the Poles and Ukrainians have been discontinued, and in view of the fact that the mission of General Bartelmy has been unsuccessful, my Government has entrusted me with the duty of giving the Peace Conference at Paris the following information:

The failure of General Bartelmy's mission should not surprise anyone who had an opportunity of carefully following the tactics of this mission. After his arrival in Lviv, about the end of January, 1919, General Bartelmy did not try to hide the fact that he had brought ammunition for the Poles. From the very beginning he made no attempt to disguise his partiality to the Poles; he participated in Polish military parades; he made inspections of the Polish front lines; he constantly emphasized in his speeches the brotherhood of Poles and Frenchmen; he did, in fact, everything that would compromise him in his position of arbitrator in the quarrels between the Poles and Ukrainians. On the other hand he declared publicly that he did not know the Ukrainians; he did not strive to be informed about them, but on the contrary he did just the reverse of what the English and American missions had done. He estranged the Ukrainian military envoys with his haughty treatment of them. He refused to have any relations with the Government of West Ukraine, which commands the Ukrainian army in Galicia, and peremptorily refused to visit the Ukrainian fighting line, where he could examine the conditions personally. At the same time General Bartelmy did not hesitate to send false reports in which the Ukrainian soldiers were slandered as Bolsheviks, handits, murderers of women and children, etc. At the opening negotiations General Bartelmy should have known that the Ukrainians would consent to a truce of arms only when the basis of the negotiations was the determination of the ethnographic Polish-Ukrainian boundaries in accordance with the principle of President Wilson. Meanwhile he condescended magnanimously to offer the Ukrainians half of their ethnographic territory, the whole of which has been occupied by the Ukrainians for the last four months, making his offer rest upon a supposed agreement of the Allies. When one considers that General Bartelmy submitted his terms to the Ukrainians at a time when these terms were of vital importance to the Poles, inasmuch as military successes were insuring the capture of Lviv, and that he thereby strengthened the position of the Poles, one can easily imagine the feeling prevailing in political and military circles. In these circumstances the resumption of hostilities was a political and military necessity.

The Ukrainian Government regrets to say that it has been unable to employ its forces on the eastern front against the Bolsheviks, but is in fact, obliged to transfer some of its forces on the eastern front to the western front in order to defend the land against the Poles. If the western frontiers of Ukraine are not determined, then the settlement of not only the Ukrainian but also the Eastern European question will be impossible. This is just the reason why the Ukrainian Government, unable to fight on two fronts, feels compelled to concentrate all its forces for the defense of its land against Polish invasion, and afterwards for the systematic liberation of the remaining Ukrainian lands in the east. If our efforts do not meet the success we desired, the blame will rest chiefly upon General Bartelmy, who evidently had no intention of devoting himself to the settlement of the difficulties between the Poles and Ukrainians, but on the contrary intended to paralyze the struggle of the Ukrainians and thereby to further the interests of the Poles.

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