

## UKRAINE AND RUSSIA

BY THE DELEGATION OF THE UKRAINIAN REPUBLIC AT PARIS,  
TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE PEACE CONFERENCE

Sir:

The Delegation of the Ukrainian Republic, having full power from its Government, asks you kindly to transmit to the Peace Conference at Paris, the following note, which is a development of the one already presented to you, on the subject of the recognition of Ukraine as an independent and free State:

The greatest enemy of the independence of the Ukrainian Republic is Russia with her present Bolshevik Government, following the same imperial policy which was pursued by the government of the Tsar and the provisional government of Russia—thus she wishes to pass over the body of Ukraine, in order to be able to put one hand on the Dardanelles and the Suez Canal, and the other on the Persian Gulf.

This is why the Ukrainian Government has waged a bitter war against the Bolshevik Government of Russia for more than a year with little interruption. This struggle will continue until the Bolshevik Government of Russia completely renounces its imperialistic designs. In this war Ukraine only defends her country and does not encroach upon the ethnographical frontiers of Russia, because she feels that she has no right to interfere in the internal affairs of a neighboring State.

It is true that the Bolshevik Government of Russia, in the desire of concealing its imperialistic intentions, always accused the Ukrainian Government, saying that the latter energetically opposed the pacifist propaganda of the Bolshevik ideas on the frontier of Ukraine and prevented the development of these same ideas in Western Europe by the intermediary of Rumania and Hungary.

In this war against the imperialistic intentions of the Bolshevik Government of Russia, the Ukrainian Republic did not remain isolated; the other independent states, notably Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, White Ruthenia, and Georgia, with whom the Ukrainian Republic is on the most friendly terms, were also opposed to the Bolshevik designs.

The independent Republic of Ukraine in association with all these states encircling the Bolshevik Russia in this way puts a check upon the imperialistic intentions of the Bolsheviks of Russia.

It is also necessary to remark that the former Russia, without any regard to her alliance with France, was always under a direct and strong German influence, which always upheld Russia, whole and undivided, in her struggle against the separatist efforts of the people. At the same time Germany exploited Russia from an economic point of view, especially by her traditional "Drang nach Osten", and she made one way pass by Constantinople and Bagdad and another by the German Colonies in Ukraine, thus leading towards Central Asia.

With the object of reconstructing this one and undivided Russia, Germany tried to strike a blow at the independence of the Ukrainian Republic by a "coup d'etat" in April, 1918; she effected the appointment of her agent Skoropadsky as dictator of Ukraine.

Now the Bolshevik Government of Russia is preparing to unite with Germany for a future attack on Western Europe. The independent Ukrainian Republic in union with the states already named, forms a strong barrier separating Russia from Germany, and this barrier will prevent them from uniting.

For this reason the recognition of the independence and sovereignty of the Ukrainian Republic by the Allies and the United States of America, seems an indispensable act and is the only means of reestablishing permanent tranquillity and order in Eastern Europe.

I am, Sir, Yours faithfully,

*Gregory Sidorenko,*

Minister of Roads and Communications and Chairman  
of the Delegation of the Republic of Ukraine.