

Why have you come to Mourmansk?

Comrade!

Why have you come to Mourmansk? You have been told in England that the demand for men on the Western front is greater than ever. You know that in England men of 45 and over are being called to the colours because of the urgent need of men in France. Yet you are brought here, right in the Arctic Sea, a thousand miles from the battle front.

For what purpose? Your government tells us that it has no hostile intentions towards us. That it does not desire to occupy our territory. That it will not interfere with our internal affairs. That you have been sent here only for the purpose of defending our Mourman railway against the Finns and the Germans. Comrade it is not true!

When anybody offers to put himself to considerable trouble and expense on your behalf, ~~unsuspecting, you get a false receipt of his mission.~~ We have not asked your government to help us to defend our country. We know that their intentions are quite other than those they express to us.

The Mourman railway is in no danger either from the Germans or Finns. If you look at a map you will see that the railways and roads from the West of Finland end hundreds of miles short of the Mourman railway. If the Finns want to approach our border they must traverse hundreds of miles of marshy forest land, and you know how difficult it is for an army to do that.

Neither can the Germans threaten the railway.

If the Germans want to attack the Mourman railway they must first take Petrograd, and march through our country hundreds of miles, from Petrograd to Petrozavodsk. We are no longer at war with Germany. The Germans cannot advance on Petrograd without first declaring war on us again. Their is no likelihood of this happening. Except this, that if you come south, the Germans may use this as a pretext to advance further into our country.

~~Therefore, you are not required to defend us. On the contrary, your presence here increases our danger. Why then have you been brought here? We will tell you.~~

You have been brought here to occupy our country in the interest of Allied capitalists.

You have been brought here to overthrow our revolution, and bring back the reign of Tzarism!!!

You cannot believe this. You say that the British government would, never do such a thing. Let the facts speak for themselves.

The English capitalist newspapers, 'Times', 'Morning Post', 'Daily Telegraph' are writing every day about erecting a 'strong resolute government' in Russia. Do these papers represent the views of democracy, or do they represent the views of the financiers, capitalists, and profiteers of England? These papers also constantly refer to the wealth of timber contained in our northern territory, which they say would be sufficient to pay for the loans which the financiers, capitalists, and profiteers lent to a corrupt and tyrannical Tzarism. Capitalists, and financiers are not the friends of English workers, nor Russian workers, nor the workers of any country. Who controls the government of England to-day? The workers or the financial oligarchy? The financial oligarchy. They are ordering and directing your landing in Mourmansk. You are being used in the interest of the profiteers, who are profiting out of the lives and labours of the working people.

Your government is interfering in our internal affairs. It has established its own control in the district you occupy. It has cut off our telegraphic communication with outside. It is attempting to seduce our citizens into fighting against us. At Kem your government shot four members of our local Soviet.

Your government denies that it did so, but we have positive proof that it did.

The Czecho-Slovaks!

You know that on the Volga, right in the heart of our country, the Czecho-Slovaks are openly striving to crush our Revolution. They said they wanted to fight the Germans, but they have remained here, and are fighting us. They say they are fighting for liberty, but they are fighting to bring back the Tzarist régime. They are extending into Siberia wherever they go they suppress our Soviets (Councils of workers Delegates), hang its members, and put Tzarist-officers in its place. These Czecho-Slovaks are gathering around themselves the corrupt, and reactionary officials of the Tzarist régime. It is the same crowd that betrayed Kitchener, that sold the guns and munitions made in British factories, to the Germans that disorganised our army, and who were just about to sell Russia to the Germans, when we made our Revolution.

The one object of the Czecho-Slovaks, and this crowd, is to crush our Revolution, and bring

back Tzarism. They have officially declared that to be their object. And this has the un concealed, nay outspoken support of the Allied governments.

The Allied governments and the Allied press are applauding the deeds of the Czecho-Slovaks. The French consulate made a speech in which he congratulated them on the task they had undertaken. They are financed by the Allied Military Mission. Their operations are directed by French officers.

Your landing in Mourmansk is part of the scheme, to co-operate with the Czecho-Slovaks.

You will be fighting, not against enemies but against working people like yourself.

For the first time in history, the working people have got control of their country. The workers of all countries are striving to achieve this object. We in Russia have succeeded. We have thrown of the rule, of the Tzar, of landlords, and of capitalists. But we have still tremendous difficulties to overcome. We cannot build a new society in a day. We desire to be left alone.

We ask you, are you going to help to crush us? To help to give Russia back to the landlords, the capitalists, and Tzar?

You in your Trade Unions have been fighting capitalists, you know what it is.

Comrades!

Englishmen!

You who pride yourselves on your love of liberty!

Comrades! Descendants of the great chartists! You who have always expressed sympathy with the Russian revolution, are you going to assist in crushing the first effort of working people to free themselves from their sweaters and exploiters?

Remember this! If the Russian revolution is crushed, then the power of the capitalists will be enormously strengthened in every country, and the fight for economic freedom will be put back for a hundred years!

N. Lenin, Pres. Council Peoples Commissaries.

G. Tchitcherine, Peoples Commissary for Foreign Affairs.