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**NOTE**

SUBMITTED BY

**V. MOLOTOV,**

PEOPLE'S COMMISSAR OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
OF THE U.S.S.R.,

**CONCERNING THE UNIVERSAL ROBBERY  
AND DESPOLIATION OF THE POPULATION,  
AND THE MONSTROUS ATROCITIES  
PERPETRATED BY THE GERMAN AUTHORITIES  
ON OCCUPIED SOVIET TERRITORY**



FOREIGN LANGUAGES PUBLISHING HOUSE  
MOSCOW 1942

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*Viacheslav Molotov, People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., has sent the following note to the Ambassadors and Ministers of all countries with which the U.S.S.R. maintains diplomatic relations:*

By the authority of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, I have the honour to acquaint you with the following:

The liberation by units of the Red Army in the process of its continuing successful counter-offensive of a number of towns and rural localities which were temporarily in the hands of the German invaders revealed and continues to reveal with daily increasing clarity an unprecedented picture of universal robbery and despoliation, and of horrible acts of violence, brutality and mass murder perpetrated against the civil population by the German fascist invaders during their offensive, in the course of occupation, and during their retreat. The Soviet Government has in its possession numerous documents testifying to the fact that the looting and plunder of the population, accompanied by brutalities and mass murders, were common to all districts which came under the heel of the German invaders. Irrefutable facts go to prove that the regime of plunder and bloody terror exercised against the civil population of the occupied towns and villages does not represent excesses on the part of single undisciplined military units, or individual German officers and soldiers, but is a definite pre-arranged system, encouraged by the German government and the German command which have deliberately cultivated the lowest animal instincts in their army, among their officers and men.

Every step of the German fascist army and its allies on the occupied Soviet territory of the Ukraine and Moldavia, Bielorussia and Lithuania, Latvia and Esthonia, the Karelo-Finnish territory and the Russian districts and regions is marked by the ruin or destruction of countless material and cultural values of our people, the loss by the civil population of the property it had acquired by diligent toil, the setting up of a regime of penal labour, starvation and sanguinary reprisals so full of horror that in comparison the most heinous crimes known to human history fade into insignificance.

The Soviet government and its agencies are keeping a detailed record of all these atrocious crimes of the Hitlerite army, and the Soviet people in their just wrath demand and will obtain retribution.

The Soviet government considers it its duty to place before the whole civilized world, before all honest people in every land, its statement of facts setting forth the monstrous crimes committed by the Hitlerite army against the civil population of the territory of the Soviet Union which it has seized.

## I

Wherever the German invaders have set foot on Soviet territory, they have brought with them the ruin and destruction of our cities, villages and hamlets. Dozens of cities and thousands of villages and hamlets in the temporarily occupied areas of the Soviet Union have been ravaged by them or burnt to the ground. Numerous facts are on record attesting the wanton destruction or demolition by German troops of municipal buildings, enterprises and structures, and even of whole sections of towns, as was the case in Minsk, Kiev, Novgorod, Kharkov, Rostov, Kalinin and elsewhere. Towns such as Istra, Klin and Rogachevo in the Moscow region, Yepifan in the Tula region, Yelna in the Smolensk region and a great number of others have been reduced to ruins. Hundreds of villages and hamlets in the Ukraine and in Bielorussia, and in the Moscow, Leningrad, Tula and other regions of our country have been swept off the face of the earth. In the village of Dedilovo, Tula region, 960 out of 998 houses were burnt by the occupants; in the village of Pozhidayevka, Kursk region, out of 602 houses 554 were burnt; in the village of Ozeretskoye, Krassnaya Polyana district, Moscow region, 225 houses out of 232 were burnt. The village of Kobneshki of the same district, numbering 123 houses, has been entirely consumed by incendiary fire. In the Vyssokovo district, Moscow region, in the village of Nekrassino, 85 houses out of 99 were burnt; in the village of Baklanovo 66 out of 69. On leaving the villages of Krassnaya Polyana, Myshetskoye, Ozherelye and Vyssokovo of the Moscow region, the Germans ordered a detail of automatic gunmen to pour bottles of liquid fuel upon the houses, which were then set on fire. Any inhabitants making attempts to extinguish the flames the Germans fired upon with their automatic rifles. On 80 farmsteads in the village of Myshetskoye, 5 houses are left standing; on 200 farmsteads in Ozherelye—8. In the village of Vyssokovo out of 76 houses 3 are intact; and for the words: "Do not burn my hut," F. K. Grigoryev, a seventy year-old peasant, was shot dead.

In this criminally base destruction of our towns and villages is expressed the venomous hatred of the Hitlerites towards our country, towards the labour and achievements of the Soviet people and towards everything that has been accomplished in the way of bettering the lives of farmers, workers and professional people in the U.S.S.R. And these villainous crimes of the invaders are perpetrated everywhere and are practised on instruction from the higher authorities. An order seized not long ago near the town of Verkhovye, Orel region, issued to the 512th German Infantry Regiment and signed by Colonel Schitnig stated with unparalleled impudence: "A zone liable to be evacuated according to circumstances must, after the withdrawal of the troops, present a waste... At points where complete destruction has to be achieved, all the houses are to be burnt, for which purpose they are first to be stuffed with straw, particularly stone houses. Structures of stone are to be blown up; this applies particularly to all available cellars. Measures for the creation of devastated zones are to be prepared beforehand and carried out relentlessly and completely."

In razing to the ground our towns and villages, the German command demands of its troops that a "waste zone" be created in all Soviet localities from which the invaders are successfully expelled by the Red Army. But wherever they still find themselves on our territory, the invaders continue their misdeeds, converting like the bandits that they are inhabited localities into "waste zones." They blow up and burn dwelling houses, public buildings, factories, works, schools, libraries, hospitals and churches.

In the villages occupied by German authority, the peaceful farming population is subjected to unrestrained assault and robbery. The farmers are deprived of their property, acquired by the stubborn toil of decades; deprived of their huts, cattle, cereals, clothing—of everything, down to the last little shirt of their children and the last handful of grain. In many instances the rural population, including old people, women and children, are driven out of their dwellings by the Germans at the very commencement of the occupation and are compelled to seek shelter in mud huts, dug-outs, the forest, or even entirely under the open sky. In broad daylight the occupants divest of clothing and foot-gear any one they meet on the road, including children, savagely illtreating those who set up a protest or offer any kind of resistance to such highway robbery.

In the villages, now freed by the Red Army, of the Rostov and Voroshilovgrad regions in the Ukraine, the farmers repeatedly had to comply with the piratical demands of the occupants as successive German army

units passed through the locality in question and each unit renewed the searches, massacres, incendiarism and executions for failure to deliver up provisions. The same brutality was practiced in the Moscow, Kalinin, Tula, Orel, Leningrad and other regions, out of which the remnants of the German troops are now being driven by the Red Army.

Thus, in the village of Maslovo, Tula region, German officers and soldiers took away from the population all their food, and brought things to such a pass that every day one or two people in the village died of starvation. German-occupied villages where these things occurred are to be met with everywhere. Everywhere in the occupied villages the Germans confiscate all the stores of food, slaughter the cattle and poultry, take away the grain and other foodstuffs and like the meanest of thieves steal all the household utensils, clothing, underwear, foot-gear, furniture and children's playthings. In the village of Golubovka, Voroshilovgrad region, the Germans subjected the inhabitants, from whom they had already on a previous occasion taken food stores, to supplemental exactions, taking away the very last bits of food from women and children, and all the clothing and household goods, including pillows, blankets and kitchen utensils, that it was possible to carry off. Occurrences such as the following were widespread. In the village of Golubovka, the Germans took away from M. I. Leshchenko, a collective farm woman and mother of three young children, her children's shirts and coats and all the food that was left for them; in the same village a German officer and several soldiers, breaking into the house of V. I. Matienko, a school-mistress, carried off all her own and her children's things, while the furniture which they could not take with them they chopped up with an axe. In the village of Prudnoye, Tula region, the German soldiers broke into a house where 150 invalids were lodged, and carried off all their warm clothes and their food stores, threatening the helpless people with their arms. Shortly before the liberation by Red Army units of the village of Kolodeznaya, Tula region, on the 7th of December, the Germans shot 32 men and women in that village, alleging that they had failed to deliver up all their warm things; in the village of Vlassovo, Moscow region, one of the collective farm women who offered resistance when the Germans were stealing cabbage and potatoes was wounded with an automatic rifle, and when the wounded woman began to cry out and curse the Germans, calling them bandits and robbers, they shot her dead with their automatic rifles, after which they used them on the inhabitants of the village who had gathered. The German troops set up everywhere a regime of bloody repression on the pretext that not all

the food, not all the warm clothes have been delivered up, or that the delivery of clothing and food was not proceeding with sufficient speed, or some such excuse. All attempts to complain to the German authorities about the marauders and robbers are regarded as "Communist propaganda" and sympathy with the Soviet power, which leads to new reprisals.

With a view to preventing the farm property and cattle from slipping out of their robber clutches, the Germans set up on the collective farms their own, fascist "managers," for which office they round up in Germany all sorts of filthy lucre fiends in the Hitlerite Party and sometimes pick choice specimens of villainy from among our own citizenry. In their orders the German occupants arrogantly declare: "Collective farm land and collective farm property pass into the possession of the German army." In one such order dated July 9th the German command ordained as follows: "Within 48 hours of the publication of the present order, all former collective farm property in possession of the villagers is to be delivered up to the respective managers. All those failing to comply will be shot." That is how the gangsters ill-treat our farmers and rob them of what is theirs.

The urban population also was subjected to unbridled robbery in the areas temporarily occupied by the Germans. Throughout the occupied cities the German officers and soldiers broke into the homes of the workers, office employees, professional people and old age pensioners there, and without taking anything into account or stopping at any kind of thievery, they grabbed whatever came to hand, from valuables to common kitchen utensils. This marauding and looting was always accompanied with murderous measures of repression.

Thus, in Orel, in the very centre of the city, the Germans set up a gallows on which they hanged an old man who had raised his voice in protest against the campaign of robbery, and beside him they hanged several other citizens who had refused to help the Hitlerites rob their fellow-citizens of their clothes and underwear.

In Rostov-on-Don, now liberated by the Red Army, the Germans looted all the shops, pulled the clothes off the backs and the boots off the feet of passers-by in the streets, took away their watches and other valuables and looted the city from house to house, senselessly destroying everything that they could not take with them.

In the town of Istra, Moscow region, the occupants stripped the inhabitants of literally everything they owned: underwear, clothes, crockery, furniture, etc. The occupants divested the local inhabitants, men and women workers, of their clothes right in the streets. The bulk of the in-

habitants were robbed of firewood and turned out of their homes. On December 10, the Germans drove about two thousand inhabitants of this city with their children into a church in the village of Darno, where many of them died of cold and starvation. On withdrawing from Istra, the Germans burnt the town in culmination of the dastardly crimes they had committed there.

The orgy of robbery indulged in by the German officers and soldiers spread throughout all the Soviet areas they had seized. German authorities legitimize marauding in their armies and encourage robbery and violence. The German government sees in this practice the realization of their bandit "principle" that every German combatant must feel "a personal interest in the war." Thus, in a secret instruction of July 17, 1941, addressed to all commanders of propaganda squads in the German army and discovered by Red Army troops during the rout of the 68th German Infantry Division, explicit directions are given to "foster in every officer and soldier of the German army the feeling that he has a material interest at stake in the war..."

Orders of the same kind instigating the army to mass robbery and murder of the civil population are published also in the armies of other countries fighting on the side of Germany. Thus, in order No. 24220 issued by the Chief of Staff of the 14th Roumanian Division, Colonel Nicolaescu, we read:

"Grain, big cattle, small cattle and poultry must all be taken from the inhabitants for the army. In every house a thorough search must be made and everything must be taken, leaving nothing... Anyone offering the slightest resistance is to be shot on the spot and his house burnt."

On the German-Soviet front, and especially at the approaches to Moscow, a steadily increasing number of fascist officers and soldiers is to be met with dressed in clothes they have looted, their pockets crammed with stolen articles and their tanks stuffed with women's and children's wearing apparel that they have torn from the bodies of their victims. The German army is becoming more and more an army of predatory robbers and marauders who put to wrack and ruin the flourishing towns and villages of the Soviet Union, looting and destroying all kind of property, the well earned belongings of the labouring population of our villages and towns, the fruit of its honest toil. These are facts testifying to the extreme moral depravity and degeneracy in the Hitlerite army, the robbery, thievery and marauding of which have earned it the contempt and wrathful execrations of the whole Soviet people.

## II

Wherever German troops and German authorities have made their appearance on Soviet territory, there has been immediately established a regime of brutal exploitation, deprivation of rights and tyranny over the defenceless civil population. The invaders have introduced a regime of penal labour for the civil population which has been ruined and deprived of its means of existence. The Hitlerites, after occupying or destroying the homes of Soviet citizens, drove many of them, in utter disregard of age and state of health, into concentration camps, and compelled them, under threat of torture, shooting or death from starvation, to perform gratuitously various kinds of arduous labour, including work of a military nature. In a number of cases, civilians who had been employed on one or another job of a military nature were summarily shot to ensure secrecy.

Thus, for instance, in the village of Kolpino, Smolensk region, the invaders drove all the farmers to work on building bridges and dug-outs for the German units. Upon the completion of these fortifications, all these farmers were shot.

In order to keep secret the building of fortifications on the right bank of the Dnieper in the area of the Ukrainian village of Kryakov, the Germans, upon the completion of this construction shot forty of the local inhabitants and Red Army prisoners who had taken part in the building.

Although located long distances from each other, the inhabitants of a number of the districts liberated by the Red Army declare with unanimity that the Germans employed the civil population for the particularly dangerous work of clearing sectors and objectives lying ahead of the advancing German units of mines.

A number of documents of the German command seized by units of the Red Army during its offensive operations near Rostov show that the employment of the local population for particularly dangerous military work is provided for by special instructions of the German command. For instance, an order of the 76th German Infantry Division dated the 11th of October and dealing with the clearing of mines states in Section 6:

"For work dangerous to life, prisoners and individuals picked from the local population must be employed."

This is only one of the many outrageous violations of international rules and human morals which stain the record of the German command.

The German authorities declare the civil population forcibly sent off for compulsory labour to be "prisoners of war," and they are maintained as such. It has been established that in the despatches of the staffs of the German army, farmers and other civilians who have fallen into the hands

of the Germans and who have been compelled to perform compulsory labour are automatically counted in as prisoners of war, thereby artificially and illegally inflating their number. In this way the inhuman regime established by the German fascist authorities for prisoners of war becomes the lot of also the civil population.

Near the town of Plavsk in the Tula region a camp was organized in which prisoners of war and the civil population from the surrounding villages were confined together. Among the farmers imprisoned in this camp were juveniles and old people. The food consisted of two potatoes and a small portion of barley gruel every 24 hours. The farmers in this camp were deprived of water and had to quench their thirst with snow. The number of deaths in the camp amounted to 25-30 persons daily. If the prisoners gathered in groups, the Germans opened fire on them without warning. In the village of Berezniki, Poltava region, an order was posted up by the German command which stated that civilians failing to report for work would be shot.

Many thousands of the civil population are not only forced by the invaders to perform compulsory labour in the surrounding districts but are shipped far into the interior of Germany for involuntary servitude to the German landlords at starvation wages.

Hundreds of farmers from the villages of Luchane, Semitsa, Dubovetskoye, Korolevshchina and Abramovshchina, of the Ilyinsk district alone of the Smolensk region, who had been shipped off for compulsory labour, have disappeared and their whereabouts are unknown.

Having entered on the 22nd of November the village of Faustovo in the Zvenigorod district of the Moscow region, the German authorities gathered together the entire population, and selecting men and robust women despatched them far into their hinterland.

Upon retreating, the Germans drove into their hinterland the population of the villages of Yershovo, Skokovo and Funkovo in the Zvenigorod district, as well as the population of the village of Yesipovo of the Solnechnogorsk district, Moscow region, having first set fire to all of these villages. The same occurred in a number of other, now liberated villages of the Moscow, Kalinin, Tula, Ryazan and Orel regions.

On withdrawing from the Ukrainian villages of Khudoyarovo, Novy Liman and a number of other villages of the Shevchenko district in the Kharkov region, the Germans reduced them to ashes and forced the entire adult population to leave with them.

Penal labour and concentration camp regimes have been set up by the Germans also in the occupied Soviet towns.

Thus, after the occupation of the city of Kiev, the Germans drove to work the entire civil population, from the age of 11 to 60, irrespective of profession, sex, state of health or nationality. Invalids who were unable to stand on their feet were fined 50 rubles daily by the Germans for the work days they missed.

In the town of Pyatikhatka, Dniepropetrovsk region, also in the Ukraine, the Germans forcibly compelled the entire population to repair roads, making the people work 20 hours a day without giving them either bread or water. Aged men and women who collapsed from exhaustion were beaten with the butt-ends of rifles and regardless of everything were driven to work under the threat of brutal punishment and shooting.

In Kharkov the invaders decided to single out the local Ukrainian intelligentsia for a special act of mockery. On the 5th of November instructions were issued to all actors to appear for registration at the Shevchenko Theatre. When they had gathered, they were surrounded by German soldiers, harnessed to carts and driven along the most crowded streets to the river for water.

In all the occupied regions the German government has appointed local fascist potentates, picking for this purpose all sorts of scoundrels from the Hitler party clan who pay no attention to civil rights or national peculiarities of the population which they want to Germanize while exterminating those dissatisfied. The German authorities are doing all they can to stamp out every sign of existence of the republics flourishing in the Soviet state—the Ukraine, Bielorussia, Lithuania, Latvia, Esthonia and Moldavia. The German invaders know that these Soviet republics have done enormous work in bringing about a regeneration of their respective peoples along the line of a maximum development of their national cultures, as has been done by all the peoples living in fraternal collaboration in the Soviet Union. The thick-skulled fascists will yet discover that they will never succeed in Germanizing and subjugating these peoples. The malicious hatred of the German invaders for the freedom-loving Russian people, and the freedom-loving peoples of the Ukraine, Bielorussia, Latvia, Lithuania, Esthonia and Moldavia knows no bounds. The wrecking of the Ukrainian, Bielorussian and other national cultures, the destruction of national monuments, schools and literatures, and the compulsory Germanization of the population, irrespective of nationality, follow in the wake of the German occupation with the same criminal regularity as do plunder, violence, incendiarism and mass murder.

In their fiendish persecution of Russian culture, the German invaders

have revealed the utter depravity and Vandalism of German fascism. For a period of six weeks the Germans occupied the world-renowned Yassnaya Polyana estate where Leo Tolstoi, one of the greatest geniuses of mankind, was born, lived and created. This famous memorial to Russian culture, which was cleared of invaders by Red Army units on December 14, was wrecked, befouled and finally burned by the Nazi Vandals. The tomb of the great writer was desecrated by the invaders. Irreplaceable relics relating to the life and work of Leo Tolstoi—rare manuscripts, books and paintings—have either been stolen by the German military or thrown away and destroyed. A German officer named Schwarz, in reply to the request of one of the staff of the museum to stop using the personal furniture and books of the great writer for firewood and to use other wood available for this purpose, declared: "We don't need firewood; we shall burn everything connected with the name of your Tolstoi."

When on the 15th of December the town of Klin was liberated by Soviet troops, it was found that the house in which P. I. Tschaikovsky, the great Russian composer, had lived and worked and which the Soviet state had turned into a museum had been wrecked and plundered by Nazi officers and soldiers. In the very museum building the perverse invaders set up a garage for motorcycles and heated this garage with manuscripts, books, furniture and other museum exhibits, part of which had in any case been stolen by the German invaders. In doing this, the Nazi officers knew that they were defiling, trampling under foot, some of the most splendid monuments of Russian culture.

During their occupation of the town of Istra, the German troops established a munition dump in a celebrated ancient Russian monastery, known as that of New Jerusalem, founded as early as 1654 and restored in the 18th century by the great architects Rastrelli and Kazakov. The New Jerusalem monastery was outstanding as an historical and religious landmark of the Russian people and famous as one of the largest and most beautiful of edifices. However, this did not prevent the German fascist rascals during their retreat from Istra from blowing up their munition dump in New Jerusalem, thereby reducing this irreplaceable monument of Russian Church history to a heap of ruins.

Among the numerous other acts of Vandalism and desecration committed by the Germans against cultural monuments of the peoples of the U.S.S.R., mention must be made of the destruction by the occupants of the monument of the great Ukrainian poet Taras Shevchenko erected in the town of Kanev in the Ukraine, of the house in the town of Tikhvin in which

the great Russian composer Rimsky-Korsakov lived, and of the house of the world-famous Russian writer Chekhov in Tagarrog.

In the districts of the Soviet Republics occupied by them the German invaders stop at nothing to outrage the national feelings of the Russians, Ukrainians, Bielorrussians, Latvians, Lithuanians, Esthonians and Moldavians. This applies also to individuals belonging to the other nationalities of the U.S.S.R. whom they subject, wherever they encounter them on their bloody path, to the same brutality and outrage, namely, Jews, Georgians, Armenians, Uzbeks, Azerbaijanians, Tajiks, and representatives of other Soviet peoples, all of whom are bound together by feelings of fraternal friendship and collaboration in the Soviet Union.

Claiming to be the representatives of a "higher race," and demanding of the freedom-loving peoples of the Soviet Union the docility of slaves and servile labour performed under the whip, the Hitlerites have by their contemptible and oppressive behaviour evoked indescribable indignation and hatred on the part of all the peoples and among all sections of society in the Soviet Union. The German invaders, who masquerade as the German "higher race," want not only to oppress their own people but also to enslave other peoples. To the Soviet districts occupied by them they bring penal labour, desolation and starvation, and besides they outrage human dignity and national sentiment. The German army invaded our territory in order to annihilate the free life and culture of the peoples of the Soviet Union, to Germanize these peoples and transform them into slaves. It is precisely because of this that the peoples of the Soviet Union have united against the hated German army of oppression to form an unyielding and impregnable force.

### III

There are no bounds to the wrath and indignation aroused among the Soviet population and in the Red Army by the innumerable despicable acts of violence, the outrage of women's honour and the mass murder of Soviet citizens, men and women, perpetrated by the German fascist officers and soldiers. Wherever the dominion of the German bayonet is established, there is set up an intolerable regime of sanguinary terror, agonizing torture and brutal murder. The robberies everywhere committed by the German officers and soldiers are invariably accompanied by the beating up or murder of tremendous numbers of guiltless people. For failure to deliver up all food provisions to the last crumb and all clothing to the last shirt, the Germans torment and hang old and young, women and children. At the forced labour jobs people are beaten and shot for not fulfilling in full measure the established standards of output.

On June 30 the Hitlerite gangsters entered the city of Lvov, and on the very next day massacred the population under the slogan of "Beat the Jews and the Poles." After hundreds had been put to death the Hitler bandits held an "exhibition" of the victims in the building of an arcade. The mutilated bodies, mostly those of women, were piled up along the walls of the houses. In a conspicuous place of this ghastly "exhibition" was laid the corpse of a woman to which her baby had been made fast by a bayonet.

Such have been the monstrous brutalities of the fascists from the very outset of the war. Wading through the blood of the innocent the Hitlerite miscreants are continuing their dastardly crimes.

In the hamlet of Krassnaya Polyana, in the vicinity of Moscow, the fascist blackguards assembled on December 2 all the local inhabitants between the ages of 15 and 60, put them under lock and key in the cold building of the District Executive Committee in which all the window panes were knocked out, and kept them there for eight days on end without even bread or water. The infant children of A. Zaitseva, T. Gudkina, O. Naletkina and M. Mikhailova, women workers of the Krassnaya Polyana factory who were among those imprisoned, died in the arms of their mothers during the torturous ordeal.

Numerous instances are on record of Soviet children having been used as practice targets by the Hitlerites.

In the village of Biely Rast, Krassnaya Polyana district, a company of drunken German soldiers put up twelve-year-old Volodia Tkachev in the porch of one of the houses as a target and started firing their automatic rifles at the boy. His whole body was riddled with bullets. After that the gangsters began to fire random shots at the windows of houses. They stopped I. Mossolova, a collective farm woman who was passing by in the street with her three children, and shot her and her children dead right then and there.

In the village of Voskressenskoye, Dubinino district, the Hitlerites used as their target a boy three years of age, aiming volleys from their machine-guns at him.

In the district centre of Volovo, Kursk region, where the Germans stayed for the space of four hours, a German officer killed the two-year old son of a woman named Boikova by hitting the child's head against a wall because it was crying.

In the Village Soviet of Slobin, Orel region, the fascists killed a two-year old baby, whose parents, named Kratov, were collective farmers, because his crying disturbed their sleep.

In the village of Semenovskoye, Kalinin region, the Germans raped Olga Tikhonova, 25 years old, the wife of a Red Army man and mother of three children, who was in the last stage of pregnancy, having previously bound her arms with cord. After violating her the Germans cut her throat, stabbed her in both breasts and then bored them out in a transport of sadism. In the same village the Germans shot a boy of thirteen and cut a five-pointed star on his forehead.

In November, K. Ivanova, a telegraph operator of the town of Kalinin, accompanied by her thirteen-year old son Leonid, went to visit relatives in the village of Burashevo, near Kalinin. When they left the town they were noticed by some Hitlerites who began shooting at them from a distance of 60 meters, as a result of which the boy was killed. The mother made several attempts to pick up and remove the child's body, but whenever she tried to do so the Germans opened fire and she had to leave the body there. For eight days the German soldiers would not let her take away the body. Only when the place was occupied by our troops could the mother remove and bury it.

In Rostov-on-Don, fifteen-year-old Vitya Cherevichny, a pupil of an industrial school, was playing in the courtyard with his pigeons. Some German soldiers who were passing began to take away the birds. The boy protested. The Germans led him away and at the corner of Line 28 and 2nd Maisky Street shot him for his refusal to give up his pigeons. The Hitlerites with the heels of their boots mutilated his face past recognition.

The village of Bassmanovo, Glinka district, Smolensk region, liberated by our troops early in September, presented a picture of utter ruin and devastation after the Germans had held sway in it. On the very first day of occupation, the fascist fiends drove out into the fields over 200 school-children, both boys and girls, who had come to the village to help in the harvesting, surrounded them, and brutally shot them all. A large group of the girls they carried off with them to the rear, reserved "for heir officers."

The capture of a town or village is usually marked at once by the erection of a gallows on which the German executioners hang the first civilians they come across. Moreover, they leave the bodies hanging on the gallows for several days and even weeks. They do the same with the people they shoot in the streets of the towns and villages, leaving the bodies lying about for days on end.

After the seizure of Kharkov, the Germans hanged several people in the windows of a large house in the centre of the city. On the 16th of November, 19 persons, one of whom was a woman, were hanged there on

the balconies of a number of houses. In the Village Soviet of Cherepess, Velikiye Luki district, Kalinin region, the fascist occupants shot 7 peasant families and burnt the bodies on bonfires.

In one of the houses of the town of Tikhvin, Leningrad region, was found the body of First Grade Army Surgeon Ramzantsev. His nose was cut off, his arms wrenched, his head scalped, and there were several bayonet wounds in his neck.

In the village of Voronki in the Ukraine, the Germans placed 40 wounded Red Army men they had taken prisoner and army nurses in the premises of a former hospital. They took away from the medical personnel all the surgical dressings, medicines, food stuffs and other supplies. Then they raped and shot the nurses and placed sentries near the wounded men, allowing nobody to come near them for four days. Some of the wounded died and the rest were later thrown into the river, the local inhabitants being forbidden to remove the dead bodies. None of the Germans are called to account for the murder of Soviet citizens, however senseless the crime may have been; on the contrary, such murders are encouraged by the German authorities.

Criminal outrages on women and young girls are general in the occupied areas.

In the Ukrainian village of Borodayevka, Dniepropetrovsk region, the fascists raped every single one of the women and girls.

In the village of Berezovka, Smolensk region, drunken German soldiers raped and carried off with them all women and girls between the ages of 16 and 30.

In the city of Smolensk, the German command opened a house of prostitution for officers in one of the hotels, into which hundreds of women and girls were forcibly driven. They were pitilessly dragged along the pavement by their arms and hair.

Wherever they come the German bandits break into the houses, rape women and girls before the eyes of their kinfolk and children, scoffing at the women they have violated, and brutally torturing and even murdering their ravished victims.

In the city of Lvov, 32 women working in a garment factory were raped and then murdered by German storm troopers. Drunken German soldiers dragged the girls and young women of Lvov into Kosciuszko Park, where they brutally raped them. An old priest, V. L. Pomaznev, who, cross in hand, tried to prevent the outrages, was beaten by the fascists. They then tore off his cassock, scorched his beard and stabbed him to death with their bayonets.

Near the town of Borissov, in Bielorussia, 75 women and girls who tried to flee at the approach of the German troops fell into their hands. The Germans first raped and then brutally murdered 36 of their number. L. I. Melchukova, a girl of 16, the soldiers, by order of a German officer named Hummer, marched off into the forest where they raped her. Some time later, some other women who had also been dragged into the forest saw boards near the trees; Melchukova had been pinned to these boards by bayonets and was in a dying condition. The Germans cut off her breasts in the presence of these women, among whom were V. I. Alperenko and V. I. Bereznikova.

On retreating from the village of Borovki, Zvenigorod district, Moscow region, the fascists forcibly carried off several women, tearing them away from their little children in spite of their prayers and entreaties.

In the town of Tikhvin, M. Kolodetskaya, a girl of fifteen, on being wounded by a shell fragment was taken to a hospital (a former monastery) where there were wounded German soldiers. Regardless of her wounded condition the girl was raped by a group of German soldiers and died as the result.

Information is being received daily from the towns and villages recently freed of German occupants, particularly those located in the various districts of the Moscow, Leningrad, Kalinin, Tula, Orel, Kursk, Voroshilovgrad, Stalino and Rostov regions, telling of the dastardly outrages committed against women, girls and children during the period of occupation. The malefactors frequently murdered their victims.

The Hitlerites, however, do not content themselves with the killing of individual Soviet people. Looming large, because of their ghastly atrocity, in the annals of Hitlerite lawlessness and terrorism on German occupied Soviet territory are the mass murders of Soviet citizens which are a usual concomitant of the temporary seizure by the Germans of Soviet towns, villages and other inhabited places.

Here are a few instances of mass murder perpetrated by the Germans affecting entire villages. In Yaskino, a village of the Smolensk region, the Hitlerites shot all old people and adolescents, and burnt the houses to the ground. In the village of Pochinok of the same region, the Germans drove all the old men, old women and children into the premises of the collective farm office, locked the doors and burnt them all alive. In the Ukrainian village of Yemelchino, Zhitomir region, the Germans locked 68 people into a small hut and tightly nailed up the doors and windows, causing everybody inside to die of asphyxiation. In the village of Yershovo, Zvenigorod district, Moscow region, now liberated by our troops, the

Germans before withdrawing drove about 100<sup>7</sup> civilians and wounded Red Army men into the church, locked them in and blew up the building. In the village of Agrafenovka, Rostov region, the fascists on November 16 arrested the whole male population between the ages of 16 and 70 and shot one out of every three.

Horrible massacres and pogroms were carried out by the German invaders in Kiev, the capital of the Ukraine. In the course of a few days the German bandits tormented and murdered 52,000 men, women, old people and children, ruthlessly doing to death all Ukrainians, Russians and Jews there who had in any way displayed devotion to the Soviet power. Citizens who succeeded in escaping from Kiev give a blood-curdling picture of one of these mass executions. A large number of Jews, including women and children of all ages, were assembled in the Jewish cemetery. Before shooting them the Germans made them strip naked and then beat them. The first group they marked for execution they made lie down at the bottom of a ditch, face downward, and shot them with automatic rifles; the dead bodies were lightly strewn over with earth; the next batch was made to lie in a row over the first and was shot in the same way.

Many massacres were committed by the German occupants in other Ukrainian towns as well, the sanguinary murders being particularly directed at the unarmed, defenceless Jews of the working population. According to findings which are as yet incomplete, no fewer than 6,000 people were shot in Lvov and over 8,000 in Odessa; about 8,500 were shot or hanged in Kamenets Podolsk; over 10,500 people were machine-gunned in Dniepropetrovsk; over 3,000 local inhabitants were shot in Mariupol, including large numbers of old men, women and children, every single one of whom had been robbed and stripped naked before being put to death. In Kerch, according to preliminary figures, approximately 7,000 people were murdered by the German fascist fiends.

The bloodthirsty deeds of the Nazis in the town of Rostov have become widely known. During their ten days' stay in Rostov the Germans not only wreaked vengeance on separate individuals and families, but in their murderous frenzy annihilated dozens and hundreds of inhabitants, especially in the working-class districts of the city. Near the house of the Railway Board, German machine-gunners shot 48 people in broad daylight. Sixty people were shot by the Hitlerite assassins on the sidewalks of the central street of Rostov. In the Armenian cemetery 200 were murdered. Even after being expelled from Rostov by our troops, the German generals and officers publicly boasted that they would return to Rostov expressly to settle accounts with the inhabitants who had

actively helped in driving the accursed enemy from their native city.

In addition to all that has been stated here, the Soviet government disposes of documentary material bearing on the systematically repeated atrocities of the German command, such as the use of Soviet civilians as cover for German troops in fighting the Red Army.

On August 28, 1941, German fascist troops attempted to force the river Ipput. Powerless to overcome the stubborn resistance put up by the Red Army units, they called together the population of the Bielorussian town of Dobrush, Gomel region, and, threatening to shoot those who refused, drove women, children and old people before them, using them as a shield as they went into the attack in battle formation.

The same dastardly crime against the civil population was repeated by the German command in the Vybori Collective Farm sector of the Leningrad region and also in the district of Yelna, Smolensk region. The fascist blackguards continue to resort to this brutal and cowardly artifice right up to the present day. On December 8 the Hitlerites made use of the local civil population to cover their retreat from the village of Yamnoye, Tula region. On December 12, in that same district, they assembled 120 persons—old people and children—and made them go in front of their troops during the engagements with the advancing units of the Red Army. In the fights for the liberation of the city of Kalinin, units of the German 303rd Regiment, 162nd Division, in their efforts to launch a counter-attack, assembled the women in one of the suburban villages, placed them in front of the troops and thus went into action. Fortunately the Soviet troops succeeded in beating off the attack by driving a wedge between the Hitlerites and their victims, which saved the lives of the women.

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The cruelty and lust for blood displayed by the German fascist army in its incursion into our territory knows no bounds. The Hitler army is not conducting an ordinary war but a gangster war aiming at the annihilation of the peaceful nations, who stand in the way of the criminal ambition of the German fascists to rule over other nations and over the entire world.

The Hitlerite government of Germany, which has perfidiously attacked the Soviet Union, respects neither the rules of international law nor the requirements of human morality. It wages war first and foremost against the unarmed population, against the women, children and old folks, thereby revealing its blackguard nature in all its baseness. This robber government, which recognizes only force and violence, must be over-

thrown by the crushing strength of the freedom-loving peoples, and among them the Soviet peoples, which will carry their great task of liberation to completion.

Not only the Red Army but the whole of our people, the many millions of it, is full of flaming hatred of its enemies, and thirsts for vengeance without mercy for the spilt blood and broken lives of Soviet citizens. The Soviet people will never forget the atrocities, the acts of violence and destruction and the insults inflicted on the civil population of our country by the brutal bands of German invaders—they will not forget nor will they forgive.

In bringing all the atrocities perpetrated by the German invaders to the cognizance of all governments with which the U.S.S.R. maintains diplomatic relations, the Soviet government declares that it places the entire responsibility for these inhuman and murderous actions of the German troops upon the criminal Hitlerite government of Germany.

The government of the U.S.S.R. further declares with unshakeable conviction that the liberation struggle of the Soviet Union is a struggle not only for the rights and the freedom of the peoples of the Soviet Union, but also for the rights and the freedom of all the liberty-loving nations of the earth, and that this war can end only in the complete defeat of the Hitlerite armies and in a complete victory over Hitlerite tyranny.

Accept, etc.

V. MOLOTOV

*Moscow, January 6, 1942.*