To The British Soldier In Palestine!

We, members of the National Military Organisation in Erets Israel address you as soldiers address soldiers:

You have joined the armed forces, left your homes and families, exposed your lives to danger not as mercenaries, but as free and proud men determined to defend your country, against the enemy of yours, the monstrous enemy of all humanity — Hitlerite Germany.

The Hebrew Youth, however, was for 5 years denied the opportunity. In spite of its most ardent desire, to fight our mortal foe, as it was robbed of the basic idea which inspires all nations participating in this global war, the idea, that the goal of its effort and sacrifices is a free homeland.

The political gamble so glibly conducted by unsanctimonious politicians and so hypocritically camouflaged with fine phrases about „Justice“ and „Freedom“, resulted, in our case in the following: that thousands of young Jews of Erets Israel who voluntarily joined the Army have been degraded to auxiliary services in the desert and elsewhere instead of taking part under their national banner, in the military operations on the many battlefields of the world; that the gates of our homeland, which must be a homeland for every Jew, have been shut and barred in face of the unprecedented massacres of our brethren in Nazi-Europe; that five millions of Jews — our parents, brothers, sisters and children — who, were it not for the bad faith of your politicians, should and could have been rescued, were exterminated in the European slaughter-houses.

This is the tragic situation we face and it imposed on us the necessity of starting a struggle for the liberation of our own country and for the rescue of our persecuted nation. It is not only our natural right, but above all our sacred duty to rise and fight, even with the cost of our life, in order to put an end to our people’s sufferings, in order to give it, after so many ages of dispersion and persecutions, its home, so that it may live in peace, security and honour.

This struggle is not directed against you. We appreciate that you shed your blood on many fronts and in many countries; we know that many among you condemn the official hypocrisy and many are looking — as we are — for a better world in which every nation and every individual will be given an opportunity of free and undisturbed development.

Nor is this struggle historically directed against your country. No Jewish Government will pursue any other policy than that of friendship with the British Commonwealth and with other free nations. But friendship must be mutual.

Now, we are fighting against a regime based on bad faith, on repudiation of solemn pledges and international obligations, a regime of treachery and oppression. This little country belongs to us. It is our old historic motherland, dreamt of by tens of generations, sacred by the blood of heroes and fighters. It was promised to us. It is the only haven for millions of homeless Jews.

The declared aim, however, of your rulers is to prevent our people from repatriation and restoration: their policy is to keep by force the door of our country closed to the survivors of the Nazi massacres; their decision to impose on us the status of a permanent minority, the well-known „existence“ of a GHETTO.

It is this regime of oppression we are fighting against. And we are determined to continue our struggle, if necessary, to the last man in our ranks. And so is every free and proud Jew in Erets-Israel.

But it appears that the mercenaries and instruments of this regime, the police and C. I. D. men — those „heroes“ of the Palestine Gestapo who succeeded in evading the dangers of the battlefield — are not strong enough and not courageous enough to overcome the revolt of free men. So they resort to you, soldiers on leave from the war fronts, in order to be assuaged in their „noble“ job. Recently, in Jerusalem, Tel-Aviv and Petach-Tikva, units of the Army took part in mass searches, chasing Young fighters, who shed their blood for a Justa Causa of no precedent in human history.

We are, indeed, proud of the fact that the Government of oppression has been compelled to bring in brigades and divisions, tanks and planes in order to try — in vain! — to destroy the spirit of freedom of the regenerated Hebrew Youth. But we are bound, on the other hand, to ask you:

Is it for that purpose, that you left your home and joined the Army? Does your duty consist in oppressing Jews in their homeland? Don’t you realise the humiliation to which you are subjected by participating in such police-actions? Is THIS your task in this war, which is being called by Your politicians „war of liberation“?

THINK OF IT!

HAIRGUN HATZVAI HALEUMI
BERETS-ISRAEL
(National Military Organisation)