

## Ukrainian People!

Since time immemorial you have lived on your ancestral land, which is soaked with blood and sweat, thickly sown with the bones of your forefathers, grandparents and parents – the best sons of Ukraine, fighters for its liberty and for you, the people.

Know! There was a time when Ukraine ruled the world. Your land flowed with milk and honey then. There was a powerful Ukrainian princely state that protected all Ukrainians. That stood on guard for their lives, property and growth.

But the riches of your lands always lured hordes of invaders who were starving to death on their Masurian sand dunes, Tatar deserts and Muscovite swamps. Time and again they attacked your land, captured slaves, robbed and ruined your villages and towns.

You never gave up. For long centuries hordes of invaders smashed themselves on your forefathers' chests. But in the end, exhausted by a ceaseless struggle with overwhelming enemies, you fell. Enemies destroyed your state, ruined your capital Kyiv. You went into bondage for long centuries. But you did not lay down your arms. You began an unequal but ever more heroic and bloody struggle that continues to this day.

In the flames of the Cossack insurrections, the flames of the Cossack revolution, you created a new Ukrainian Cossack State. And then, guarded by Cossack sabres, muskets and cannon, Ukraine blossomed again.

But the fierce enemy Moscow came again, imprisoned you and turned your grandfathers into serfs.

Once again you did not lay down your arms. You produced Shevchenko and the new uprising of 1917–1921. You, Ukrainian People, took up arms and began to create a third Ukrainian state, the Ukrainian National Republic.

For three long years your best sons under the leadership of Otaman Symon Petliura fought against the whole world, against Moscow, Poland, Romania, the Hungarians, the Entente and other peoples who reached out for your land. But there was not enough strength to resist. Your age-old enemies, the Muscovites, once again destroyed your young state, divided you amongst themselves and reduced you to serfdom... But even then you did not lay down your arms. They were raised by the hand of Your Leader, Colonel Yevhen Konovalets', and the only Ukrainian revolutionary state-building political force, which he created, the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN).

You have been waging the struggle on every front and in every sphere of life throughout the Ukrainian lands.

You are waging it in the name of the testament that Colonel Yevhen Konovalets' left: "You will attain a Ukrainian State or you will perish in the battle for it."

...For twenty long years the battle did not cease and blood continued to flow. Every day somewhere in the Ukrainian land shots were fired, machine-guns rattled and grenades exploded. Your best sons, Ukrainian people, bearers of the ideas of Volodymyr, Baida, Bohdan, Mazepa, Shevchenko, Petliura, Kruty, Shchebrak, Ukrainian Nationalists were repelling the enemy's advance.

...You know them. They have always been with you. They organized you, instructed and prepared you and led you into battle, marches, and labour.

...They have never laid down their arms. Neither when Colonel Konovalets' died at the hands of a Russian executioner nor when a Muscovite deluge flooded almost all Ukraine.

They have always been with you. You have seen them at work, in battle and in the moments of their heroic death.

...Today they are continuing to wage the struggle under their new leader, Stepan Bandera.

They are they soldiers of the Ukrainian National Revolution. They are members of the OUN. They are the OUN.

Ukrainian People!

Until now we have worked underground. There we prepared for an uprising and beat back the enemy who wanted to destroy both you and us.

Now we are coming out into the open. We are beginning an open armed struggle.

...The Muscovite prison of peoples, the USSR, is collapsing.

The Leadership of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists has proclaimed an INDEPENDENT UNITED UKRAINIAN STATE on all the Ukrainian lands.

But this Independence must be defended in battle.

On the order of Stepan Bandera, on the order of the Homeland Leadership of the OUN, the first columns of fighters, soldiers of the Ukrainian National Revolution, have gone into battle. They are already fighting the enemy.

Ukrainian People! You never threw down your weapons. In a thousand-year-old struggle you acquired once and for all one of the best lands in the world.

Do not throw down your weapons now! Take them in hand and destroy the enemy. Join in the building of the Ukrainian Independent State.

Join the ranks of the Ukrainian Revolutionary Army, the ranks of the OUN.

Because only the OUN will lead you along the right path, as it has done until now.

People! Know! Moscow, Poland, the Hungarians, the Jews are your enemies.

Destroy them.

Know! Your leadership is the Leadership of Ukrainian Nationalists, is the OUN.

Your Leader is Stepan Bandera.

Your goal is an Independent United Ukrainian State.

Your path is the path of the Ukrainian National Revolution, the path of armed

struggle, the path of the OUN.

Glory to Ukraine!

Glory to the Heroes

Glory to the Leader!

The Homeland Leadership of Ukrainian Nationalists in the Western Ukrainian  
Lands and the Maternal Ukrainian Lands. 1941.