DECLARATION OF THE PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT
OF FINLAND

As a result of the will of the people – who is filled with hatred and anger against the miserable Cajander-Erkko-Tanner cabinet for its criminal policy – a new Provisional Government of the People is today formed in eastern Finland. It now calls the whole people of Finland to a decisive battle to overthrow the tyranny of henchmen and war provocaters.

This reactionary, greedy plutocracy, which in 1918 soaked the democratic freedom of toilers in Finland into bloodstreams with the help of the foreign imperialistic military, and made the lives of toilers hell in our butchers captured motherland. After selling the interests of our independence to the Finnish plutocrats, along with all kinds of imperialistic enemies of the peoples of Finland and the Soviet Union, they incessantly intrigued in creating anti-Soviet plots and finally plunged our country into the furnace of war against the socialist Soviet Union, a great friend of the Finnish people.

In this critical situation the deep ranks of the Finnish working people, who always had wanted and do want to live in peace with the peoples of the Soviet land, felt as their natural right and sacred duty to take the fate of their country of birth to their own steady hands. The people has already risen in various parts of the country and pronounced the birth of the Democratic Republic. A part of soldiers in the Finnish Army have already taken the side of this new government, supported by the people.

The Soviet Union that never has threatened or disturbed Finland, who always has respected her independence and who for two decades has tolerated vicious war provocations from the side of adventurous rulers of White Finland has now at last seen it as necessary, with forces of the Red Army, to put an end to this danger, which has created a threat to her security. This very purpose fully coincides also with the vital interests of our people. Therefore, the popular masses of Finland welcome the gallant, invincible Red Army and greet it knowing that the Red Army will arrive in Finland not as conqueror but as the friend and liberator of our people.

The People's Government of Finland, firmly assured that the Soviet Union cherishes no intentions aimed against the independence of our country, fully accepts the activity of the Red Army in the territory of Finland and will support it. The People's Government of Finland, considers it of being of great help for the people of Finland by the Soviet Union so that with a concerted effort, the dangerous hotbed of war created by the criminal government of war provocators could with combined efforts be destroyed as soon as possible.

For accomplishment of this duty as soon as possible the People's Government of Finland asks the Soviet Government to give all necessary help through the use of the Red Army.
For taking part in the united battle, hand in hand with the heroic Red Army, the People's Government of Finland has already created the first Finnish Army Corps, which during the coming battles will be supplemented with revolutionary workers and farmers voluntarily joining it, and which will be the strong core of the coming People's Army of Finland. The first Finnish Army Corps has the honour of bringing to the capital the banner of the People's Government of Finland and hoisting it on the top of the Presidential Palace, as a token of jubilation for toilers, and as token of dread for the enemies of the people.

Our state has to be a democratic republic that serves the interests of the people - in distinction from the plutocratic republic of Cajanders and Erkkos, which serves the interests of capitalists and real property owners. But our state is not a Soviet state in character, because the Soviet system cannot be established simply by a government decree without the acceptance of the people as a whole, and especially that of the farmers.

Therefore, our government is the People's Government of the Democratic Republic of Finland. It will find its support in the wide popular front of working people. In its present form the People's Government of Finland considers itself to be a provisional government. After its arrival in Helsinki, capital of the country, its composition will be reshuffled and supplemented right away with the representatives of various parties and groups of the working people's popular front. Its final consistency, powers and actions will be confirmed by the Parliament, elected on the basis of a universal, equal, direct and secret suffrage.

The People's Government of Finland sees its primary duty to be the suppression of the government of Finnish butchers, crushing of its armed forces, concluding peace and guaranteeing independence and security of Finland by bringing about strong ties of friendship with the Soviet Union.

The People's Government of Finland approaches the Soviet Government with a proposition to conclude an agreement of mutual aid between Finland and the Soviet Union and asks for fulfilment of the centuries long wish of the Finnish people, rejoining the people of Karelia with the people of Finland by incorporating it into a united and independent state of Finland. The People's Government of Finland rests fully assured that the firm course it chose to follow in carrying into force friendly relations with the Soviet Union makes it possible for the Soviet government to accept this kind of proposition.

The People's Government desires to maintain friendly relations also with other countries. It recognizes the economic and financial commitments with other countries if these commitments do not contradict the sovereignty of Finland or the country in question does not take hostile actions against the Democratic Republic of Finland and her People's Government.

In its domestic policy the People's Government sets for itself the following tasks:

1) creation of the People's Army of Finland
2) subjecting large private banks and large industrial enterprises under state
control and providing support for mid-range and small enterprises;
3) carrying out specific measures to abolish unemployment completely;
4) shortening the working hours to eight, securing a 2-week-long summer
vacation for workers and lowering housing rents for workers and other wage-
earners;
5) expropriation the lands of large farm owners but leaving alone the lands and
the property of small farmers; conveying the expropriated lands to landless
population or as supplementary land to small farmers;
6) exempt farmers from overdue back taxes;
7) extensive cover-all state subsidies for raising the economic situation of
underprivileged farmers, primarily giving them more land, pasture, and if
possible, for their domestic use, forested areas, expropriated from the large
farm owners;
8) a large scale democratization of the constitution and the administrative
structures of public administration and judicial system in Finland;
9) raising of state funds for education and reshuffling of the educational
institution for securing ways for the education of children of workers and other
people with inadequate income, and in all ways taking care for advancement of
general education, science, literature and arts in a progressive spirit.

The plutocratic government of Cajander and Erkko, hated by the population, which
has done everything it can to ruin our motherland, and having lost all support among
the people, has as far we know now resigned. This hated government is replaced by
the government of Tanner. But Tanner is a similar enemy of the people as Cajander
was. The government of Tanner is not a single bit better, it could even be worse that
that of Sajander*. Dislike for it equals that of the Cajander government.

May those butchers be ousted far from Finland! May the whole bankrupt cabinet
gang be beaten to the ground!
Rise, you long suffered working people of Finland! May you go upright to fight
against tyranny of your oppressors and butchers.
Rise all citizen, for whom the future of motherland is dear!
Let us shake the sinister reactionary gang off the shoulders of the people!
Let us pave the way for the rise of well-being and culture of the people, for making
the centuries-long national wishes of our people to come true!

MAY THE MATTER DEAR TO THE LIVES AND HEARTS OF WORKERS,
FARMERS AND THE WORKING EDUCATED CLASS WIN!
UNDER THE BANNER OF THE FREE AND INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF FINLAND
- FORWARD, TO THE VICTORY!

At Terijoki, the 1st of December, 1939
THE PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT OF FINLAND
The president of the People's Government and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland
Otto Kuusinen

The vicepresident of the People's Government and Minister of Finances Mauri Rosenberg

Minister for Defense Aksel Anttila
Minister for the Interior Tuure Lehen.
Minister for Agriculture Armas Äikiä.
Minister for Education Inkeri Lehtinen.
Minister for Karelian Affairs Paavo Prokkonen.

*) Misprint in the original. Translation from Finnish by Pauli Kruhse