



[Helsingin Sanomat, August 27, 1943.]

# Foreign policy and position of Finland.

## The letter of 33 citizens to the President of the Republic.

On August 20, a letter signed by 33 citizens and dated August 4th, was confidentially, so assumed, handed over to the President of the Republic.

But after this, however, reports about the letter and even actual extracts from it were published in the foreign press, and many, with their names on the letter, were publicly mentioned there. To avoid misunderstandings and false conclusions about the contents of the letter, it was considered to be necessary to publish the letter in its entirety. The wording of the letter is as follows,

Mr. President of the Republic!

The undersigned citizens representing various political parties have expressed their desire to make it known to you, Mr. President of the Republic, their worries about the signs of deterioration in the general political situation of our country and now, in many respects, clearly visible, which have caused the spreading of anxious atmosphere in our country.

The decision, when the Diet, on the Independence Day of 1941, was able to reunite most of the territory ceded at the Moscow peace treaty [1940] with the rest of the country, fulfilled the very desires that our people had been wishing for. However, the people of Finland was unwilling to take part in the conflicts of the great powers, it was only ready to suffer the heavy sacrifices just for such kind of goals, which from its own point of view were absolutely necessary and unavoidable.

Our army has now for a long time stood still in its defensive position, and no major military events have occurred. But, despite of this, a substantial part of our people has not been able to avoid seeing that the position of our country is in a slide into a perilous, or maybe even a disastrous situation regarding the future of our country. There is no need to go into details to prove this argument, the truth for this is self-evident.

Particularly, the continuous and gradual deterioration that has lately taken place in our relations with the United States of America has been specifically alarming. Since the US envoy here left the country, a series of events have caused the general public in our country to get worried, a clear proof for this is, for instance, the recent foundation of the Finnish-American society. In our opinion one of the most important goals of our foreign policy to be adopted is the attempt to restore our relations with the United States of America good and confidential again. — Moreover, we are fully aware that the present situation demands also other actions to be taken by our state leadership. In this context we will only shortly express our opinion that it should be considered necessary for our state leadership to take measures through which we might be able to withdraw ourselves from the current great power war, and to secure through appropriate negotiations the independence, freedom and peace of our country. Such alternatives should, in our opinion, be explored and sought out immediately without delay.

As we have now, this way, wanted to make our concern about the position and future of our country known to you, Mr. President of the Republic, we express our desire that you, as leader of our foreign policy, would pay attention to the points we mentioned above.

Helsinki, August 4, 1943.

M.P., business representative Gunnar A n d e r s s o n, editor Henrik A n t e l l, M.A. Kurt A n t e l l, M.P., baron Ernst von B o r n, M.P., professor Ernst E s t l a n d e r, M.P., Ph.D. C. O. F r i e t s c h, M.P., professor R. F u r u h j e l m, M.P., M.A., editor-in-chief U. H a n n u l a, M.P., vicar L. A. H e l j a s, editor-in-chief Gunnar H e n r i k s s o n, Ph.D. Eirik H o r n b o r g, M.A. Arvo I n k i l ä, M.P., local government councillor J. L. J e r n, head of department Y. K a l l i n e n, editor-in-chief Frans K e r ä n e n, city mayor J. W. K e t o, M.P., M.A. Sylvi-Kyllikki K i l p i, M.P. Gottfried L i n d s t r ö m, M.P., chief director Mauno P e k k a l a, M.P. M. P e l t o n e n, prof. Hugo E. P i p p i n g, Ph.D., headmaster Y. R u u t u, M.P., farmer Yrjö S c h i l d t, editor-in-chief E. S u n d q u i s t, M.P., editor Arvi T u r k k a, M.P., M.A. Ralf T ö r n g r e n, editor-in-chief Fredrik V a l r o s, M.P., farmer Y. W e l l i n g, M.P., estate owner K. J. W e n m a n, M.P., editor Atos V i r t a n e n, M.P., prof. Väinö V o i o n m a a, Ph.D., M.Sc. (Eng.) Laurin Z i l l i a c u s, M.P., editor John Ö s t e r h o l m.