Sir,

The many criticisms of our action against Bolshevism in Russia, require a marshalling of facts to place before a public which is evidently puzzled and perturbed.

People are getting lost on a maze of Peace Negotiations, and Leagues of Nations.

Russia at the beginning of this war and for nearly three years of it was a loyal and steadfast ally, and even with all the faults of the Autocratic régime would have continued so had it not been for the Revolution, whose first Government, with all its dislike of autocratic methods, had every intention of continuing the war and remaining faithful to the Allied cause.

On the removal of the Emperor, those Generals who had done such brilliant work during the war accepted the situation and loyally gave their services to the new Government.

The Grand Duke Nicholas too would have done so, with no thought except his country and his duty to his Allies, had it not been for the ousting of all Romanoffs.

The first Government fell - leaving one of its members, Kerensky, to carry on.

The weakening of discipline brought about by a false idea of Democracy, increased under his régime, and a naturally ignorant peasant army was pampered the misled by the Government, not by the Generals.

General Alexeieff, than whom none was more devoted to the cause of the Allies and his own country, had to go. He knew what
an army without discipline meant. Others succeeded him, but as the "rot" increased German intrigue flourished and each General fell in turn, while Kerensky by speeches endeavoured to rally the recalcitrant soldiery, but by weakness of action in regard to discipline failed. Nor did he try to use the Church - a hand which a big man believer or unbeliever, would immediately have grasped.

And so while the Germans continued their intrigues at Brest Litovsk the ruined walls crumbled the fell, and in their ruins flourished the plant of Bolshevism - the illegitimate offspring of German intrigue and anarchy. We know its methods and we know its results.

But the great opportunity given to us by the defeat of Germany of once and for all killing her influence in Russia will pass by unless we realize that we must kill Bolshevism there. Germany brought it about, and her methods will make it worse unless we continue to help our sorely tried Russian friends.

Those who oppose intervention or assistance to them represent the situation as if Admiral Koltchak and General Denikin were fighting for a return of Autocracy and what they are pleased to call the renewal of Rasputin mischief. They are ignorant, apparently, of the fact that Rasputin was probably as much disliked by these two gallant men as by themselves, and they take the line of non-interference, and "Let Russia stew in her own juice", and find her own salvation.

What about the salvation of others?

Either one of two things. Do these gentlemen approve of Bolshevism, or do they not? If they do (and incidentally of the murders of several of our most gallant friends), perhaps they fail
to see that it will not confine the "stewing in its own juice" to Russia, and has not done so. We have a British Empire, and whether they like the institution or not, do they not see that we have interests in India where Bolshevism is rearing its ugly head - that Afghanistan is already poisoned - that the roots of the cancer come from a microbe planted in Russia, and that the right spot for the surgical operation is in Russia.

No one with a grain of sense would attempt to dictate to that country as to the form of Government she should adopt - which is purely her own domestic affair - but can Bolshevism, which she does not want, be a right form of Government for any country?

Many of us think that we should have done wiser if we had dictated our Peace terms at Berlin, and that our interests are for friendly relations with Russia. While we wait and hope for the consummation of splendid ideals like a League of Nations, we run the risk of peaceful penetration by Germany into Russia, and a renewal of many of the causes which brought about the war. Put aside sentiment for those who fought loyally for us in old days, and come to practical politics.

Does it pay us or any one else in the world to allow of a great Bolshevist power on the flanks of Europe and the East? If it does, we should all be for the non-aid, or non-interference, or whatever you like to call it, policy.

Does any sane person think it a desirable form of Government? If so, surely we have fought this war in vain.

I know something of Russia, and a good deal of the British Empire. To those who love the latter I would say - from a point
loyalty to Allies and to your own advantage, stand by and give such reasonable and just support as you can to those who are fighting for a clean, just Government in Russia — but Monarchist or Republican, that is Russia's affair, and Autocracy has little chance. Bolshevism should have none.

J.
Sir,

You may possibly publish the enclosed letter.

My name may be known to you, though I do not wish it published, and have therefore simply signed the letter "J."

I am,

To the Editor of The Times.