

Dear Mr. Jones,

I should certainly be glad of lending you a hand in connexion with your book which I think to be very necessary for the enlightening of the British public opinion about real Russia.

In my study of the Russian conditions I have concentrated most on the economic and social matters, especially agriculture, and have collected enough material for the memoranda on the subjects you marked in your synopsis with asterics.

There is only one question on which I cannot offer you any information, i.e. the question which you propose to deal with in the Chapter XVI of your book. It seems to me that your assumption that the famine has increased the nationalist feelings amongst the Ukrainians and other minor nationalities is entirely wrong and cannot be justified by facts.

Certainly, the Bolshevik policy of collectivisation has aroused bitter anti-Communist feelings amongst the peasant population. But these feelings are equally bitter whether in the Ukraine or in Siberia or in any other province of the Soviet Union. Moscow is blamed not because it is a centre of the State which wants to subjugate the minor nations, but because it is a Communist centre. There is no real separatist movement in the Ukraine or anywhere else. On the contrary, even those minor nations (Georgia, for instance) which formerly were decidedly separatist, have now realised the futility of the separatist idea from the point of view of their vital economic and political interests.

Only three weeks ago I had a talk in Paris with a Georgian who recently came from Russia, secretly to confer with his compatriot exiles. He told me that all separatist feelings in Georgia have disappeared. It must be noted that the man was very prominent in the national Georgian government of 1918-1921.

As to the Ukraine, I have an independent evidence on this subject of an Englishman who lived there for over 30 years and who came back to this country only in 1931. His name is Mr. John Wynne-Hird. He says that all the talk