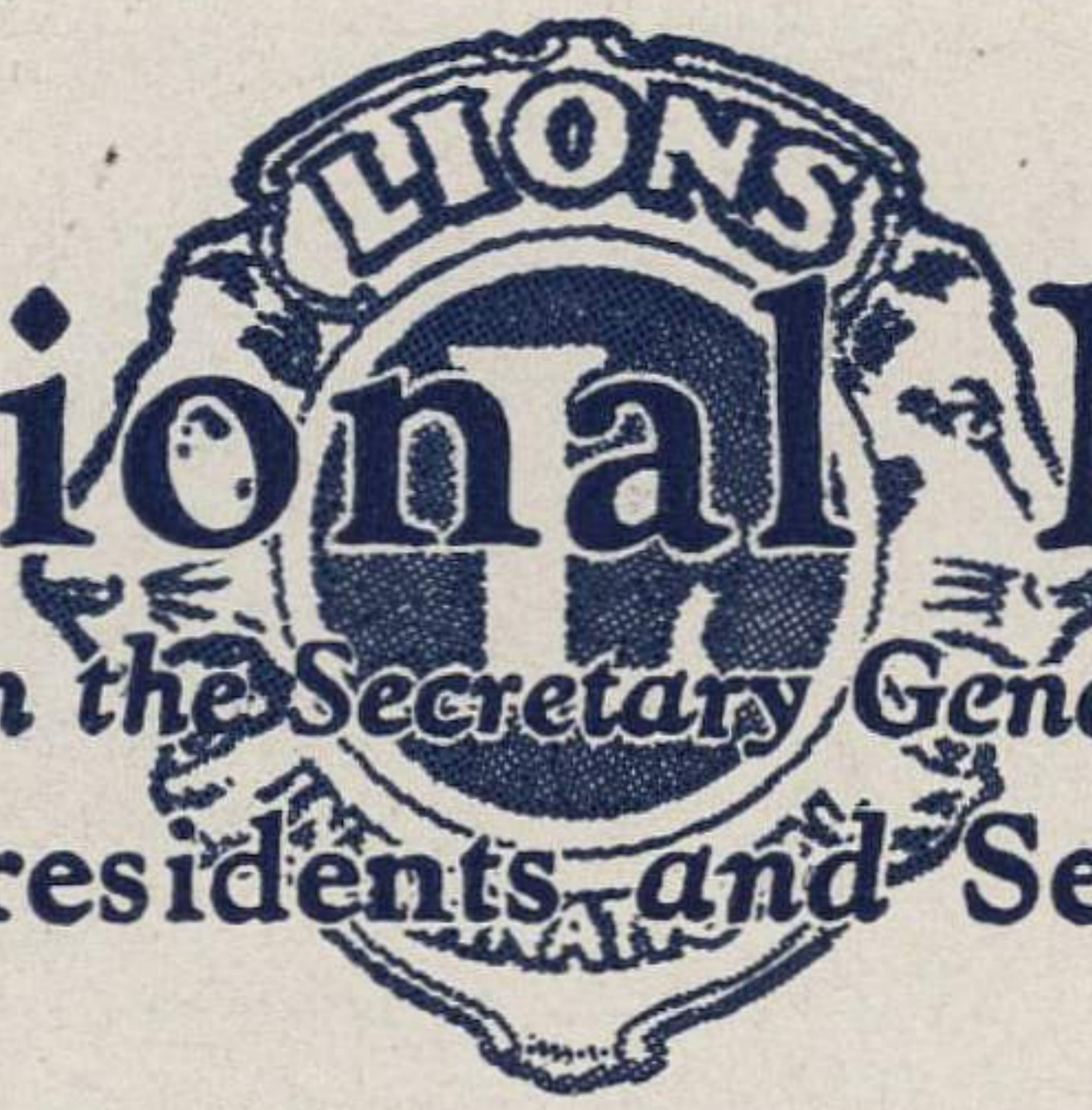


Lions International Monthly Letter

From the Secretary General to
Club Presidents and Secretaries



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STRENGTH AND UNITY NEEDED

Many presidents and secretaries of Lions Clubs are wondering what to do in the present situation, with a war in progress in Europe.

War between one nation and another would be much simpler for everyone; but when two such ideologies as those of Hitler and Stalin join ranks, both having aspirations to world power and domination based on a program of land grabbing, the matter becomes more complicated. No wonder that the rulers of the world, even those in neutral countries are thrown into a quandary, and that they are calling together their ablest advisers for an answer to that question, "What shall we do?"

As a well informed writer recently expressed it, "The world is confronted by the probability of a merger of these two gigantic revolutions against the political constitution, the social order, and the moral, cultural and religious tradition of Europe."

These two forces have repeatedly shown, by declaration and by action, that they will not recognize any individual rights of religion or education, nor will they permit within their boundaries such units as the service club or fraternal organizations.

The board of directors of a Lions Club is faced with much the same problem, in respect to its position that the rulers of the world are. Lions have a slogan. It is Liberty, Intelligence, Our Nation's Safety. Lions believe and practice freedom of speech, freedom of religious views, the rights of the individual in education and government, and his right to organize into groups for civic purposes. Lions further believe in the merits of a system of private ownership.

Lions still stand for such rights as these, summed splendidly in the phrase, "Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

The struggle in Europe has the aspect of a fight to eliminate the rights of the individual, and to eliminate capitalism, or private ownership.

This is the condition whose repercussions in all countries of Lionism have caused club officers to wonder "What to do?" Let us remember that Lions Clubs are formed to unite the members in the bonds of friendship, goodfellowship and mutual understanding, and this aim applies not only to individual Lions, but to the relationships between clubs, communities and nations as well. It is on this basis that Lions Clubs have prospered in the past. It is on this basis that they must prosper in the future.

Considering their prominence, it is understandable that Lions Clubs these days are being pressed, both by outside groups and even sometimes by overzealous members, to endorse an action or to advocate an action in regard to present world conditions.

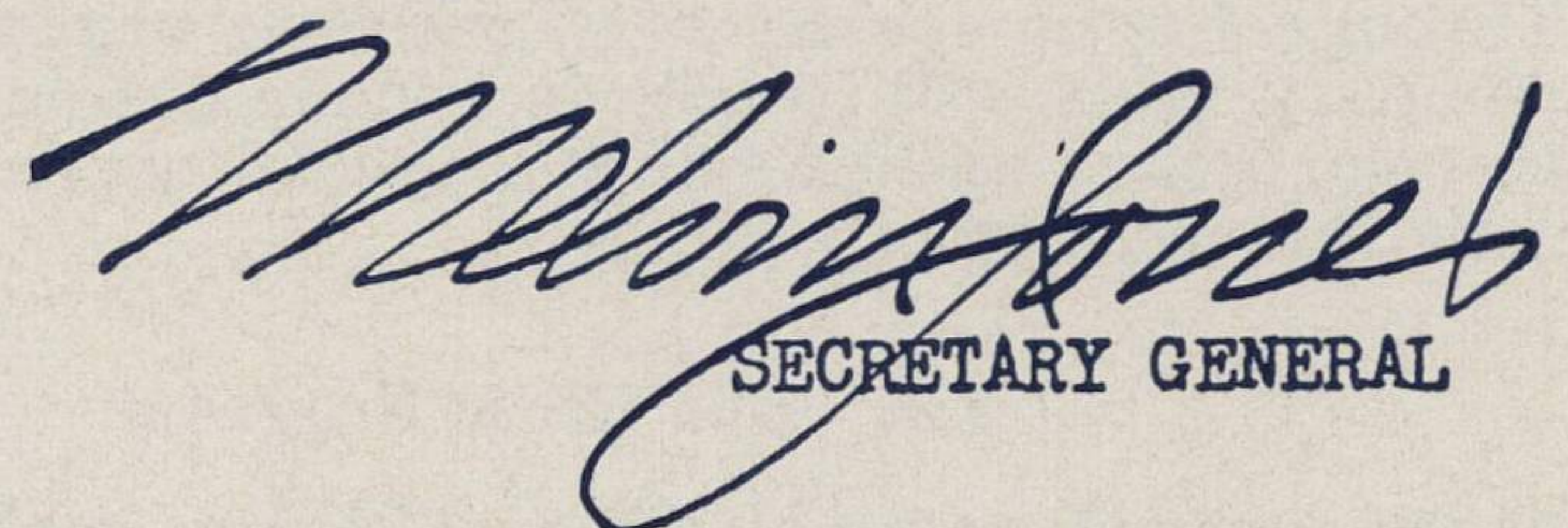
What must be the answer to these groups and these individuals?

In Canada the duly elected representatives of the people have set a definite course. It is the duty of Lions and Lions Clubs in Canada to uphold their government.

In the United States and other countries, where the present situation has caused repercussions, it is similarly the duty of Lions and Lions Clubs to uphold the decisions of their governments.

This is a time of grave national decisions. It is a time for cool thinking by the officers of Lions Clubs. Individual Lions will have varying opinions on the manner in which the affairs of the world should be conducted; but let us preserve the unity of our Lions Club and not expose it, by hasty action, to internal dissension or to a clouded future.

Now, more than ever, does a Lions Club need strength and unity. Let that be our first consideration. Let us strengthen the membership of our Lions Club and its spirit of unity.


SECRETARY GENERAL