

KERENSKY'S TELEGRAM TO ALL THE COUNTRY

I hereby announce:

On August 26 General Kornilov sent Vladimir Lvov, a member of the State Duma, with a demand for the surrender by the Provisional Government of all civil and military power, so that he may form, according to his wishes, a *new government* to administer the country. Deputy Lvov's authority to make me such a proposal was confirmed subsequently by General Kornilov in his conversation with me by direct wire. Realising that such demands, addressed to the Provisional Government through me, revealed the longing of certain circles in Russian society to take advantage of the serious situation the state finds itself in to set up a regime opposed to the gains of the revolution, the Provisional Government finds it necessary to:

Authorise me, for the salvation of our motherland, of freedom, and of our republican order, to take prompt and decisive action to counter any attempt to limit Supreme Power in the state and the rights which the citizens have gained as a result of the revolution.

I am taking all necessary measures to protect the liberty and order of the country, and the population will be informed in due course of the measures adopted.

At the same time I hereby order:

1. General Kornilov to surrender his post of Supreme Commander to General [Vladislav] Klembovsky, the Commander in Chief of the Northern Front, which guards the way to Petrograd; and General Klembovsky to assume temporarily the post of Supreme Commander while remaining at Pskov.
2. The city and *uezd* of Petrograd to be placed under martial law, extending to it the regulations for regions under martial law.

I call upon all citizens to remain completely calm and to maintain order, which is so indispensable for the salvation of the country. I call upon all ranks of the army and the navy to continue calmly and with self-sacrifice their duty of defending the country against the external enemy.

A. F. Kerensky, Minister-President, Minister of War and the Navy
27 August 1917

Source: 'The Russian Revolution and the Soviet State, 1917-1921: Documents', edited by Martin McCauley, pp. 37-38