

Telegram exchange over the Hughes Apparatus between the Prime Minister of the Russian Provisional Government Alexander Kerensky and Supreme Commander of the Russian Army General Lavr Kornilov, beginning at 20:30 on 8 September [26 August O.S.] 1917 and lasting about twenty-five minutes. The italics are in the original.

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Kerensky: Prime Minister on the line. We are waiting for General Kornilov.

Kornilov: General Kornilov on the line.

Kerensky: How do you do. General. V. N. Lvov and Kerensky are on the line. We ask you to confirm that Kerensky can act in accordance with the information conveyed to him by Vladimir Nikolayevich.

Kornilov: How do you do, Aleksandr Fedorovich. How do you do, Vladimir Nikolayevich. To confirm once again the outline of the situation I believe the country and the army are in, an outline which I sketched out to Vladimir Nikolayevich with the request that he should report it to you, let me declare once more that the events of the last few days and those already in the offing make it imperative to reach a completely definite decision in the shortest possible time.

Kerensky [impersonating Lvov]: I, Vladimir Nikolayevich, am enquiring *about this definite decision which has to be taken, of which you asked me to inform Aleksandr Fedorovich* strictly in private. Without such confirmation from you personally, Aleksandr Fedorovich hesitates to trust me completely.

Kornilov: Yes, I confirm that I asked you to transmit my urgent request to Aleksandr Fedorovich to come to Mogilev.

Kerensky: I, Aleksandr Fedorovich, take your reply to confirm the words reported to me by Vladimir Nikolayevich. It is impossible for me to do that and leave here today, but I hope to leave tomorrow. Will Savinkov be needed?

Kornilov: I urgently request that Boris Viktorovich [Savinkov] come along with you. What I said to Vladimir Nikolayevich applies equally to Boris Viktorovich. I would beg you most sincerely not to postpone your departure beyond tomorrow. Believe me, only my recognition of the responsibility of the moment urges me to persist in my request.

Kerensky: Are we to come only if there are demonstrations, rumours of which are going around, or in any case?

Kornilov: In any case.

Kerensky: Goodbye. We shall meet soon.

Kornilov: Goodbye.