

SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY

DURING THE PATRIOTIC WAR

DOCUMENTS AND MATERIALS
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HUTCHINSON

This is the second volume of documents illustrating the foreign policy of the Soviet Government during the Great Patriotic War against Hitlerite Germany. This volume consists of the documents from January 1st to December 31st, 1944.

Like the first volume, it contains statements made by Generalissimo Stalin ; various documents and materials ; TASS statements and denials ; also telegrams of greetings and congratulations exchanged between Soviet and foreign statesmen.

SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY DURING THE PATRIOTIC WAR

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VOL. II

JANUARY 1, 1944—DECEMBER 31, 1944

Translated by

ANDREW ROTHSTEIN

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PREFACE

The second volume of *Soviet Foreign Policy During the Patriotic War* comprises documents of the foreign policy of the Soviet State during the period from 1 January, 1944, to 31 December, 1944.

Like the first volume, it consists of three parts. The first contains the statements and Orders of the Day of J. V. Stalin. The second includes other documents and materials reflecting the foreign policy of the Soviet State.

The third part consists of appendices, containing official TASS statements and denials and exchanges of congratulations and greetings between Soviet and foreign statesmen

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**J. V. STALIN ON THE GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR
OF THE SOVIET UNION**

VOL II

B

**ORDER OF THE DAY OF THE SUPREME COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.
MOSCOW, NO. 16, 23 FEBRUARY, 1944**

COMRADES, soldiers of the Red Army and sailors of the Red Navy, sergeants, officers and generals, men and women partisans!

The peoples of our country are celebrating the twenty-sixth anniversary of the Red Army in the midst of historic victories of the Soviet forces over the German-Fascist forces.

For over a year the Red Army has been conducting its victorious offensive, routing the armies of the Hitlerite invaders and wiping them off the Soviet earth. During this period the Red Army has successfully waged the winter campaign of 1942-43, won the summer battles of 1943 and deployed its victorious winter offensive of 1943-44. In these campaigns, unexampled in the history of warfare, the Red Army has advanced to the west in battle, in some places over 1,000 miles, and has cleared nearly three-quarters of the Soviet territory which had been occupied by the enemy.

In the course of the present winter campaign the Red Army has eliminated the powerful German defence line along the whole length of the Dnieper from Zhlobin to Kherson, and has thereby confounded the German plans for a successful and protracted war of defence on the Soviet-German front.

During the three months of the winter campaign, our valiant troops have won very great victories in the Ukraine on the right bank of the Dnieper, completed the liberation of the Kiev, Dnepropetrovsk and Zaporozhye regions, liberated completely the Zhitomir and almost completely the Rovno and Kirovograd regions, and also a number of districts of the Vinnitsa, Nikolaev, Kamenetz-Podolsk and Volhynia regions. By resolute actions of the Red Army the attempts at a German counter-offensive in the districts of Zhitomir, Krivoi Rog and Uman were frustrated. The Soviet forces organized a new Stalingrad for the Germans on the right bank of the Dnieper, by surrounding and destroying ten German divisions and one brigade in the district of Korsun-Shechenkovsky.

A great victory was won by the Soviet forces before Leningrad. Our troops broke up a powerful system of permanent and deeply echeloned defences of the enemy, crushed a strong group of German armies and completely liberated Leningrad from the enemy's blockade and his barbarous artillery bombardment. Our Soviet warriors are completing the cleansing of the Leningrad and Kalinin regions of the Fascist savages, and have entered the territory of Soviet Estonia.

The mass expulsion of the invaders from Soviet Byelorussia is in full progress. The Gomel and Polesie regions have been almost completely liberated, and so have a number of districts of the Mogilev and Vitebsk regions.

In the unfavourable conditions of the present winter our troops, overcoming the powerful defensive areas of the enemy, have during the three months of the winter campaign liberated over 77,000 square miles of Soviet territory from the invaders. The Red Army has won away from the enemy over 13,000 inhabited places, including 82 towns and 320 railway stations. More millions of Soviet citizens have been delivered from Fascist servitude. Important agricultural and industrial districts, with extremely rich reserves of iron ore and manganese, have been returned to our Motherland. The Germans have lost these economically important districts, to which they were clinging so desperately.

It must now be clear, probably, to everyone that Hitlerite Germany is

irresistibly moving to disaster. True, the conditions in which operations are being carried on in this war are more favourable for Germany than in the last World War, when she was carrying on a struggle on two fronts from the very beginning of the war right up to its end. However, it has been a great disadvantage for Germany that the Soviet Union in this war has proved to be much stronger than Tsarist Russia in the last war. In the first World War there were fighting against the German bloc six Great Powers on two fronts—France, Russia, Britain, U.S.A., Japan and Italy. In the present war Italy and Japan have gone over to the side of Germany; Finland has joined the Fascist bloc; Rumania, which fought in the last war against Germany, has deserted to her side; and the main forces of Germany are still engaged on one front against the Soviet Union. History shows that Germany always won her wars if she fought on one front, and, on the contrary, lost the war when she was obliged to fight on two fronts. In the present war Germany is fighting with her main forces concentrated on one front, against the U.S.S.R. Nevertheless, she has not only been unable to gain a victory, but by the mighty blows of the armed forces of the Soviet Union has been driven to the very edge of a catastrophe. If the Soviet Union, fighting singlehanded, has not only sustained the impact of the German war machine but has inflicted decisive defeats on the German-Fascist armies, all the more hopeless will be the position of Hitlerite Germany when the main forces of our Allies come into action, and when there is deployed against Hitlerite Germany the powerful and growing offensive of the armies of all the allied States.

The German-Fascist brigands are now frantically seeking some way of salvation from disaster. Once again they have grasped at a "total" mobilization in their rear, although the man-power resources of Germany are exhausted. The Fascist bosses are making desperate attempts to introduce discord into the camp of the anti-Hitler coalition, and thereby to prolong the war. Hitlerite diplomats career from one neutral country to another, striving to establish contacts with pro-Hitlerite elements and hinting at the possibility of a separate peace, sometimes with our State and sometimes with our Allies. All these subterfuges of the Hitlerites are doomed to failure, because the anti-Hitler coalition is founded upon the vitally important interests of the Allies, who have set themselves the task of crushing Hitlerite Germany and her accomplices in Europe. It is just this community of vital interests that leads to the reinforcement of the fighting alliance between the U.S.S.R., Britain and the U.S.A. in the course of the war.

There approaches the hour of final settlement for all the atrocities committed by the Hitlerites in Soviet territory and in the occupied countries of Europe.

The victorious advance of the Red Army became possible thanks to the new feats of Soviet working people in all branches of our national economy. The working people of the Soviet Union consolidated the summer victories of the Red Army at the front by new production victories in the rear.

The workers of our industries are performing and overfulfilling the plans laid down by the State, ahead of schedule. They are bringing new factories, steel works and power stations into action, and restoring industry in the liberated districts left in ruins by the invaders, with unprecedented speed. The heroic efforts of the working class are still further strengthening the war material supply of the Red Army, thereby bringing nearer the hour of our final victory.

The Soviet peasantry is providing the State with food for the Army and the towns, with raw material for industry and is giving devoted support to the Red Army.

The Soviet intelligentsia is giving direct guidance and assistance to the

workers and peasants in developing production and meeting the needs of the Red Army.

The working people of the liberated districts are daily extending their help to the Red Army, their liberator, and are including the output of their restored factories and agriculture in the general stream of freight moving to the front.

There is no doubt that the Soviet people will continue, by its heroic labour and the straining of every effort, to ensure the unbroken growth of productive forces of the country, for the most speedy and final defeat of the German-Fascist invaders.

The organization of new military formations in the Union Republics, for which the way has been prepared by the fighting brotherhood of the peoples of the U.S.S.R. in the Patriotic War and by the entire history of our State, will still further strengthen the Red Army and infuse new combatant forces into its ranks.

Comrades, Red Army men, Red Navy men, sergeants, officers and generals! Men and women partisans! In the great war of emancipation, the war for the freedom and independence of our Fatherland, you have displayed miracles of heroism. The Red Army has brought about a decisive turning-point in the war in our favour, and is now marching with confidence to final victory over the enemy. The foe is suffering defeat after defeat. But he has not yet been broken. The Hitlerite brigands, seeing the approach of their fate and the inevitability of retribution for all the monstrous crimes committed by them on our soil, are resisting with the ferocity of the damned. They are hurling their last forces and reserves into battle, clutching at every metre of Soviet soil and at every advantageous line of defence.

Just for this reason, however great our successes, we must continue as before soberly to estimate the forces of the enemy, to be vigilant, not to tolerate arrogance, complacency, carelessness in our ranks. There has never yet been a case in the history of warfare when the enemy has himself leapt into the abyss. In order to win a war one must push the enemy to the abyss and thrust him down into it. Only crushing blows, continuously growing in strength, can break the resistance of the enemy and bring us to final victory. For this it is essential to continue to perfect the battle-training of the soldiers of our Army, and the military skill of their commanders. The duty of the Red Army is daily to raise the level of its military art, constantly and painstakingly to study the tactics of the enemy, skilfully and in good time to unravel his perfidious tricks, and to oppose the tactics of the enemy with our more perfect tactics. It is essential that the battle experience and achievements of the advanced units and formations of the Red Army should become the property of *all* our forces, and that the *whole* Red Army, and *all* its soldiers and officers, should learn to beat the enemy according to all the rules of modern military science.

Comrades, soldiers of the Red Army and sailors of the Red Navy, sergeants, officers and generals, men and women partisans, I greet and congratulate you on the twenty-sixth anniversary of the Red Army; and I order:

(1) All privates and sergeants—infantrymen, mortarmen, gunners, airmen, tank-men, sappers, signallers, cavalrymen—to continue the tireless improvement of their fighting skill, to take full advantage of our excellent technical armament, to strike the enemy as he is being struck by our glorious Guardsmen, to fulfil exactly the orders of their commanders, to strengthen discipline and order, to improve their organization;

(2) Officers and generals of all arms—to perfect their skill in the leadership of troops, their tactics in manœuvring, the combined action of all arms in the course of battle; more boldly and extensively to introduce in their battle practice the experience of our advanced Guards units and formations; to raise to

a higher level the work of the staffs and rear formations; and in every possible way to improve and develop our intelligence;

(3) The whole Red Army—by a skilful combination of fire-power and manœuvre to break up the enemy defences throughout their depth, not to give a breathing-space to the enemy, to liquidate in good time enemy attempts by counter-attacks to delay our offensive, skilfully to organize the pursuit of the enemy, to give him no chance of carrying off his equipment, by bold manœuvre to encircle the flanks of the enemy forces, to break through into their rear, to surround the troops of the enemy, to break them up and destroy them if they refuse to lay down their arms;

(4) Men and women partisans—to increase their help to the Red Army, to attack the headquarters and garrisons of the enemy, to break up his rear, destroy his communications, deprive him of the possibility of bringing up reserves.

(5) In celebration of the great victories won by the armed forces of the Soviet State in the course of the past year, on this 23 February, the day of the twenty-sixth anniversary of the Red Army, a salute of twenty salvos of artillery in honour of the valiant troops of the Red Army shall be given at 18 hours at Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev, Dnepropetrovsk, Gomel and Rostov.

Glory to our victorious Red Army!

Glory to Soviet arms!

Glory to our daring men and women partisans!

Long live our great Soviet Motherland!

Long live our Communist Party of the Soviet Union, inspirer and organizer of the great victories of the Red Army!

Death to the German invaders!

J. STALIN,

*Marshal of the Soviet Union, Supreme
Commander-in-Chief.*

ORDER OF THE DAY OF THE SUPREME COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF. MOSCOW, NO. 70, 1 MAY, 1944

Comrades, soldiers of the Red Army and sailors of the Red Navy, sergeants, officers and generals, men and women partisans! Working people of the Soviet Union! Brothers and sisters who have temporarily fallen under the yoke of the German oppressors, and who have been forcibly driven away to Fascist slave labour in Germany!

In the name of the Soviet Government and our Bolshevik Party I greet and congratulate you upon May Day!

The peoples of our country are celebrating May Day amidst outstanding successes of the Red Army. Since the defeat of the German divisions at Stalingrad the Red Army has been conducting an almost continuous offensive. During this time the Red Army has advanced in battles from the Volga to the Sereth, from the foothills of the Caucasus to the Carpathians, exterminating the enemy vermin and sweeping it out of the Soviet land.

In the course of the winter campaign of 1943-44, the Red Army won the historic battle for the Dnieper and for the Ukraine to the west of it, crushed the powerful German fortified defences before Leningrad and in the Crimea, and by skilful and impetuous action overcame the German defences along the water barriers of the Southern Bug, the Dniester, the Pruth, the Sereth. Nearly all Ukraine, Moldavia, Crimea, the Leningrad and Kalinin regions, and a considerable part of Byelorussia have been cleared of the German invaders.

The metallurgy of the south, the ore of Krivoi Rog, Kerch and Nikopol, the fertile lands between the Dnieper and the Pruth, have been returned to the Motherland. Tens of millions of Soviet people have been delivered from Fascist slavery.

Performing its great task of liberating its native land from the Fascist invaders, the Red Army has reached our State frontiers bordering on Rumania and Czechoslovakia, and is now continuing to crush the enemy forces in the territory of Rumania.

The successes of the Red Army became possible thanks to the correct strategy and tactics of the Soviet Command, the high morale and offensive ardour of our soldiers and officers, the good supply of first-class Soviet war equipment to our troops, the improved skill and training of our gunners, mortar men, tank-men, airmen, signallers, sappers, infantrymen, cavalrymen and scouts.

These successes were to a considerable extent assisted by our great Allies, the United States of America and Great Britain, who hold a front in Italy against the Germans and divert a considerable portion of the German forces from us, supply us with most valuable strategic raw materials and armaments, subject military objectives in Germany to systematic bombardment and thus undermine the latter's military strength.

But the successes of the Red Army might have proved fleeting, they might have been brought to nothing after the first serious counterblow from the enemy, if the Red Army had not been backed from the rear by our entire Soviet people, our whole country. The Red Army in its battles for the Motherland has displayed unexampled heroism. But the Soviet people has not remained in debt to the Red Army. In difficult wartime conditions, the Soviet people secured decisive successes in the mass production of armaments, ammunition, clothing, foodstuffs, and in their timely delivery to the Red Army at the fronts. During the past year the might of Soviet industry has increased substantially. Hundreds of new factories and pits, dozens of power stations, railway lines, bridges, have been put into service. New millions of Soviet people have taken their stand at the machine, mastered the most complicated trades and have become experts in their jobs. Our collective and State farms have honourably withstood the trials of war. The Soviet peasantry in the difficult conditions of wartime are working indefatigably in the fields, supplying our Army and people with food, producing raw materials for our industry. Our intelligentsia have enriched Soviet science and technique, culture and art, with new outstanding achievements and discoveries. Invaluable services in the cause of the defence of the country have been rendered by Soviet women, working self-sacrificingly in the interests of the front, courageously bearing all the hardships of wartime, inspiring to great deeds of battle the warriors of the Red Army—the liberators of our Motherland.

The Patriotic War has shown that the Soviet people is capable of performing miracles and of emerging victorious from the most difficult trials. Workers, collective farmers, the Soviet intelligentsia, the entire Soviet people are filled with resolution to hasten the defeat of the enemy, completely to restore the economy ruined by the Fascists, and to make our country yet stronger and more prosperous.

Under the blows of the Red Army, the bloc of Fascist States is cracking and falling asunder. Fear and confusion reign now among the Rumanian, Hungarian, Finnish and Bulgarian "allies" of Hitler. Today these underlings of Hitler, whose countries have been occupied or are being occupied by the Germans, cannot but see that Germany has lost the war. Rumania, Hungary, Finland and Bulgaria have only one means of avoiding disaster—

to break with the Germans and to withdraw from the war. However, it is hardly to be expected that the present Governments of these countries are capable of breaking with the Germans. One must suppose that the peoples of these countries will themselves have to take into their hands the cause of their emancipation from the German yoke. And the sooner the peoples of these countries realize into what a blind alley the Hitlerites have led them, the more speedily they cease helping their German enslavers and their Quisling lackeys in their own country in any way, the smaller will be the sacrifices and destruction which these countries suffer from the war, and the greater the understanding on the part of the democratic countries they will be able to count upon.

As a result of its successful offensive, the Red Army has reached our State frontiers over a stretch of more than 250 miles, liberating from the German-Fascist yoke more than three-quarters of occupied Soviet territory. The objective now is to liberate all our territory from the Fascist invaders and to restore the State frontiers of the Soviet Union in their entirety, from the Black Sea to the Barents Sea.

But our objectives cannot be limited to the expulsion of the enemy troops from our Motherland. The German armies now resemble a wounded beast which is compelled to crawl back to the borders of its lair—Germany—in order to heal its wounds. But a wounded beast which has retired to its lair does not cease to be a dangerous beast. In order to rid our country, and the countries allied with us, from the peril of enslavement, the wounded German beast must be pursued close upon its tracks and finished off in its own lair. And while pursuing the enemy we have to deliver from German bondage our brothers the Poles and Czechoslovaks, and the other peoples allied to us in western Europe, who are under the heel of Hitlerite Germany.

Obviously this task presents greater difficulties than the expulsion of the German forces from the Soviet Union. It can be accomplished only by the joint efforts of the Soviet Union, Great Britain and the United States of America, by combined blows from the east, dealt by our troops, and the west, dealt by the troops of our Allies. There can be no doubt that only such a combined blow can completely crush Hitlerite Germany.

Comrades, soldiers of the Red Army and sailors of the Red Navy, sergeants, officers and generals, men and women partisans! Working people of the Soviet Union! Brothers and sisters who have temporarily fallen under the yoke of the German oppressors and have been forcibly driven away to Fascist slavery in Germany! I greet and congratulate you upon the festival of May Day.

In order: in honour of the historic victories of the Red Army at the front and in celebration of the great successes of the workers, collective farmers and intelligentsia of the Soviet Union in the rear, today, the world-wide festival of the working people, a salute of twenty artillery salvos shall be fired at 20 hours at Moscow, Leningrad, Gomel, Kiev, Kharkov, Rostov, Tbilisi, Simferopol, Odessa.

Long live our Soviet Fatherland!

Long live our Red Army and Navy!

Long live the great Soviet people!

Long live the friendship of the peoples of the Soviet Union!

Long live the Soviet men and women partisans!

Eternal glory to the heroes fallen in battle for the freedom and independence of our Motherland!

Death to the German invaders!

J. STALIN,
*Marshal of the Soviet Union, Supreme
Commander-in-Chief.*

REPLY BY J. V. STALIN TO A QUESTION PUT BY A PRAVDA CORRESPONDENT

Replying to a question by a *Pravda* correspondent as to his views on the Allied landing in Northern France, J. V. Stalin stated:

Summing up the results of seven days of battle by the liberating forces of the Allies for the invasion of Northern France, it can unhesitatingly be said that the forcing of the Channel on a large scale and the mass disembarkation of the forces of the Allies in the north of France have completely succeeded. This undoubtedly is a brilliant success for our Allies.

One cannot but recognize that the history of warfare knows no other similar undertaking in the breadth of its conception, in its giant dimensions, and in the mastery of its performance.

As is well known, the "invincible" Napoleon in his day had a complete fiasco with his plan to force the Channel and seize the British Isles. The hysterical Hitler, who boasted for two years that he was going to achieve the forcing of the Channel, did not venture even to attempt to put his threat into execution. Only the British and American forces have succeeded in realizing with distinction their gigantic plan of forcing the Channel and landing their expeditionary forces en masse.

History will record this event as an achievement of the highest order.

13 June, 1944.

TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREAT OCTOBER SOCIALIST REVOLUTION

Report by J. V. Stalin, Chairman of the State Committee of Defence, at the ceremonial session of the Moscow Soviet of Working People's Deputies, jointly with Party and public organizations of Moscow City, 6 November, 1944.

Comrades, today the Soviet people are celebrating the twenty-seventh anniversary of the triumph of the Soviet revolution in our country.

For the fourth time our country is meeting this anniversary of the Soviet revolution in the conditions of the Patriotic War against the German-Fascist invaders.

That does not mean, of course, that the fourth year of war does not differ in its results from the preceding three years of war. On the contrary, there is a radical difference between them. Whereas the two first years of the war were years of the offensive of the German armies and their advance deep into our country, while the Red Army was obliged to wage defensive battles; while the third year of the war was one of a radical change on our front, when the Red Army developed powerful offensive battles, broke the Germans in a series of decisive engagements, liberated two-thirds of the Soviet land from the German forces and obliged them to go over to the defensive, with the Red Army still continuing to wage the war against the German armies single-handed, without serious support on the part of the Allies; the fourth year of the war has proved to be a year of decisive victories of the Soviet armies and the armies of our Allies over the German forces, and the Germans, compelled this time to wage war on two fronts, have found themselves flung back to the frontiers of Germany.

In the upshot, the year just over has ended in the expulsion of the German forces from the Soviet Union, France, Belgium and Central Italy, and the transfer of hostilities to the territory of Germany.

I. GERMANY IN A VICE BETWEEN TWO FRONTS

The decisive successes of the Red Army this year and the expulsion of the Germans from Soviet territory were predetermined by a succession of shattering blows which our forces dealt the German armies from January of this year onwards, and developed subsequently throughout the whole year under review.

The first blow was struck by our troops in January of this year at Leningrad and Novgorod, when the Red Army broke up the long-standing German defence lines and hurled the enemy back to the Baltic regions. The result of this blow was the liberation of the Leningrad region.

The second blow was struck in February and March of this year, on the River Bug, when the Red Army routed the German forces and threw them back beyond the Dniester. As a result of this blow the Ukraine west of the Dnieper was liberated from the German-Fascist invaders.

The third blow was struck in April and May of this year in the Crimean area, when the German forces were hurled into the Black Sea. As a result of this blow Crimea and Odessa were liberated from German oppression.

The fourth blow was struck in June of this year in the district of Karelia, when the Red Army routed the Finnish troops, liberated Vyborg and Petrozavodsk and drove the Finns back into the interior of Finland. The result of this blow was the liberation of the greater part of the Karelo-Finnish Soviet Republic.

The fifth blow was inflicted on the Germans in June and July of this year when the Red Army utterly routed the German troops at Vitebsk, Bobruisk and Mogilev, completing its blow by the encirclement of thirty German divisions at Minsk. As a result of this blow our forces (a) completely liberated the Byelorussian Soviet Republic, (b) reached the Vistula and liberated a considerable area of our ally Poland, (c) reached the Niemen and liberated a great part of the Lithuanian Soviet Republic, (d) forced the Niemen and reached the frontiers of Germany.

The sixth blow was inflicted in July and August of this year, in the area of Western Ukraine, when the Red Army routed the German troops at Lvov and threw them back beyond the San and the Vistula. As a result of this blow (a) Western Ukraine was liberated, (b) our troops forced the Vistula and set up a strong bridgehead beyond it, to the west of Sandomierz.

The seventh blow was struck in August of this year, in the area of Kishinev and Jassy, when our troops utterly crushed the German and Rumanian forces and completed their blow by the encirclement of 22 German divisions at Kishinev, not counting the Rumanian divisions. As a result of this blow (a) the Moldavian Soviet Republic was liberated; (b) Rumania, Germany's ally, was put out of action and declared war on Germany and Hungary; (c) Bulgaria, Germany's ally, was put out of action and also declared war on Germany; (d) the way was open for our forces into Hungary, Germany's last ally in Europe; (e) the possibility was created for us to stretch out a helping hand to our ally Yugoslavia, in her struggle against the German invaders.

The eighth blow was struck in September and October of this year in the Baltic regions, when the Red Army routed the German troops at Tallin and Riga, and expelled them from the Baltic regions. As a result of this blow (a) the Estonian Soviet Republic was liberated; (b) the greater part of the Latvian Soviet Republic was liberated; (c) Germany's ally, Finland, was put out of action and declared war on Germany; (d) more than 30 German divisions proved to be cut off from Prussia and gripped in pincers in the area between

Tukums and Libava, where they are now being finished off by our troops (*prolonged applause*).

In October of this year began the ninth blow of our forces between the Tisza and the Danube in the area of Hungary, the object being to put Hungary out of the war and to turn her against Germany. As a result of this blow, which has not yet been completed, (a) our troops have given direct aid to our ally Yugoslavia, in the expulsion of the Germans and the liberation of Belgrade; (b) our troops obtained the possibility of crossing the Carpathians and stretching out a helping hand to our ally the Czechoslovak Republic, part of whose territory has already been liberated from the German invaders.

Lastly, at the end of October of this year a blow was delivered at the German troops in Northern Finland, and the German troops were expelled from the Pechenga area. Our troops, pursuing the Germans, entered the territory of our ally Norway (*applause*).

I do not give figures of the losses of the enemy in killed and prisoners as a result of these operations, nor of the quantities of guns, tanks, planes, shells, machine-guns, etc., captured by our forces. You are probably acquainted with these figures from the communiqués of the Soviet Information Bureau.

Such were the principal operations of the Red Army during the past year, operations which have led to the expulsion of the German forces from our country.

As a result of these operations, about 120 Germans and satellite divisions were smashed and put out of action. Instead of the 257 divisions which were facing us at the front last year, 207 of them being German divisions, we now have against our front—after all the “total” and “super-total” mobilizations—only 204 German and Hungarian divisions, among them not more than 180 German divisions.

It must be recognized that in the present war, Hitlerite Germany, with her Fascist army, turned out to be a more powerful, perfidious and experienced enemy than Germany and her army in all wars of the past. To this should be added that the Germans succeeded in making use in this war of the productive forces of nearly all Europe and of the fairly considerable armies of their vassal States. And if, in spite of these favourable conditions of warfare for Germany, she nevertheless finds herself on the brink of inevitable destruction, the explanation is that Germany's principal adversary—the Soviet Union—has surpassed Hitlerite Germany in strength (*loud applause*).

It must be reckoned a new factor in the war against Hitlerite Germany, during the year just over, that the Red Army was operating this year against the German forces not singlehanded, as was the case in previous years, but jointly with the forces of our Allies. The Teheran conference was not held in vain. The decisions of the Teheran conference for a joint blow at Germany from the west, east and south began to be carried out with astonishing precision. Simultaneously with the summer operations of the Red Army on the Soviet-German front, the Allied armies began their invasion of France and organized powerful offensive operations, which forced Hitlerite Germany to wage war on two fronts. The armies and fleet of our Allies carried out a massive landing operation on the shores of France, unprecedented in history in its scope and organization, and overcame the German fortifications in masterly fashion.

In this way Germany found herself squeezed in a vice between two fronts.

As was to be expected, the enemy could not withstand the combined blows of the Red Army and the Allied forces. The enemy's resistance was broken, and his troops in a short time were thrown out of central Italy, France, Belgium and the Soviet Union. The enemy was driven back to the frontiers of Germany.

There can be no doubt that without the organization of the Second Front in Europe, which tied down as many as 75 German divisions, our forces could not in such a short space of time have broken the resistance of the German armies and have driven them out of the territory of the Soviet Union. But it is just as certain that, without the powerful offensive operations of the Red Army in the summer of this year, which tied down as many as 200 German divisions, the forces of our Allies could not so quickly have dealt with the German forces, and have driven them out of central Italy, France and Belgium.

The problem is to continue to keep Germany gripped in a vice between the two fronts.

This is the key to victory.

II. THE GREAT FEAT OF THE SOVIET PEOPLE IN THE PATRIOTIC WAR

If the Red Army was able successfully to do its duty to the country, and to drive the Germans from Soviet soil, it did so thanks to the fact that it enjoyed the unflagging support in the rear of all our country, of all the peoples of our country.

The selfless work of all Soviet people—workers, peasants, intellectuals, as well as the work of guidance carried on by our State and Party organizations—proceeded during the past year under the watchword of “everything for the front”.

The year just over has been marked by new successes in industry, agriculture and transport, and by a further advance of our war economy.

In the fourth year of the war our factories are producing several times more tanks, planes, guns, mortars and munitions than they did at the outbreak of war. Behind us lies the most difficult period in the restoration of agriculture. Now that the fertile lands of the Don and the Kuban have been restored to the country, now that Ukraine has been liberated, our agriculture is rapidly recovering from its severe losses. Soviet railway transport has stood up to a burden which any other country could hardly have coped with. All this speaks for the fact that the economic foundations of the Soviet State have proved incomparably more durable than the economy of the enemy States.

The Socialist system born in the October Revolution has endowed our people and our Army with a great and unconquerable strength. In spite of the heavy burden of the war, in spite of the temporary occupation by the Germans of very great and economically important areas of the country, the Soviet State in the course of the war did not reduce, but, year by year, increased its supplies of armaments and munitions to the front. Today the Red Army has not fewer, but more, tanks, guns and planes than the German army. As for the quality of our war material, in this respect the Red Army is far superior to the enemy. Just as the Red Army, in protracted and arduous struggle single-handed, won a military victory over the Fascist forces, so those who toiled in the Soviet rear in their single combat with Hitlerite Germany and her accomplices have won an economic victory over the enemy (*loud applause*). Soviet people denied themselves many necessities, consciously accepted serious material privations, in order to give more to the front. The unexampled difficulties of the present war have not broken—on the contrary, they have still further hardened—the iron will and courageous spirit of the Soviet people. Our people has with full justice won for itself the fame of a hero-people.

Our working class is devoting all its strength to the cause of victory, ceaselessly perfecting the technique of production, increasing the output capacity

of industrial undertakings, erecting new factories and works. The working class of the Soviet Union has performed a great feat of labour in the present war.

Our intelligentsia marches boldly along the road of innovations in the sphere of technique and culture, successfully developing modern science still further, creatively applying its achievements in the production of armaments for the Red Army. The Soviet intelligentsia by its creative effort has made an invaluable contribution to the defeat of the enemy.

The Army cannot fight and conquer without modern arms. But it likewise cannot fight and conquer without bread, without food. In the fourth year of the war, thanks to the care displayed by the collective farming peasantry, the Red Army is experiencing no shortage of food. Men and women collective farmers are supplying food for the workers and the intelligentsia, and raw materials for industry, ensuring the normal operation of our factories and works which manufacture armaments and equipment for the front. Our collective farming peasantry, actively and with a full consciousness of its duty to its Motherland, is assisting the Red Army to achieve victory over the enemy.

Forever in history there will be recorded the unexampled labour feats of Soviet women and our splendid youth, who bore on their shoulders the main burden of work in the factories, the collective farms and the State farms. For the honour and independence of their Motherland, Soviet women, youths and girls are displaying valour and heroism on the front of labour. They have proved worthy of their fathers and sons, husbands and brothers, who are defending the Motherland from the German-Fascist monsters.

The labour exploits of Soviet people in the rear, like the untarnishing deeds of battle of our fighters at the front, spring from the same source—an ardent and life-giving Soviet patriotism.

The strength of Soviet patriotism lies in this, that it is founded not upon racial or nationalist prejudices, but on profound loyalty and devotion of the people to its Soviet Motherland, the brotherly partnership of the working people of all the nations of our country. In Soviet patriotism are harmoniously combined the national traditions of the peoples and the common vital interests of all the toilers of the Soviet Union. Soviet patriotism does not divide; on the contrary, it welds into a single fraternal family all the nations and nationalities of our country. In this must be sought the foundations of the inviolable and ever-growing friendship of the peoples of the Soviet Union. At the same time the peoples of the U.S.S.R. respect the rights and independence of the peoples of foreign countries, and have always shown their readiness to live in peace and friendship with neighbouring States. In this must be seen the foundation for the extending and growing ties between our State and the freedom-loving peoples.

Soviet people hate the German invaders not because they are people of a foreign nation, but because they have brought immeasurable miseries and sufferings to our people and to all the freedom-loving peoples. There is an old saying of our folk: "It is not because he is grey that they hunt the wolf, but because he ate the sheep" (*laughter and prolonged applause*).

The German Fascists selected as their ideological weapon the misanthropical racial theory, in the belief that the preaching of bestial nationalism would create moral and political premises for the domination of the German invaders over the peoples they have enslaved. However, the policy of race hatred pursued by the Hitlerites became in practice a source of internal weakness and external political isolation of the German-Fascist State. The ideology and policy of race hatred constitute one of the factors in the collapse of the Hitlerite bandit bloc. It cannot be considered an accident that against the German imperialists there have risen not only the enslaved peoples of France, Yugoslavia, Poland,

Czechoslovakia, Greece, Belgium, Denmark, Norway, Holland, but also the former vassals of Hitler—the Italians, Rumanians, Finns and Bulgarians. The Hitlerite clique by its man-eating policy has roused against Germany all the peoples of the world, while the so-called “chosen German race” has become the object of universal hatred.

In the course of the war the Hitlerites have suffered not only a military but also a moral and political defeat. The ideology of the equality of all races and nations which has taken firm root in our country, the ideology of the friendship of peoples, has won a complete victory over the Hitlerite ideology of bestial nationalism and race hatred.

Today, when the Patriotic War is drawing to its victorious conclusion, the historic role of the Soviet people stands forth in all its majesty. Today all recognize that the Soviet people by its self-sacrificing struggle has saved the civilization of Europe from the Fascist savages. In this lies the great service of the Soviet people to the history of mankind.

III. THE STRENGTHENING AND EXTENSION OF THE FRONT OF THE ANTI-GERMAN COALITION. THE QUESTION OF PEACE AND SECURITY

The year just over was a year of triumph of the common cause of the anti-German coalition, for the sake of which the peoples of the Soviet Union, Great Britain and the United States of America joined in fighting alliance. It was a year of consolidation of the unity and co-ordinated operations of the three main Powers against Hitlerite Germany.

The decision of the Teheran conference on joint action against Germany, and the brilliant realization of that decision, represent one of the vivid indications that the front of the anti-Hitler coalition is consolidated. There are few instances in history of plans of great military operations for combined action against a common enemy put into effect with such completeness and precision as was realized in the plan for the combined blow against Germany drawn up at the Teheran conference. There can be no doubt that unless unity of views and co-ordination of action had existed between the three Great Powers, the Teheran decision could not have been put into effect with such completeness and precision. It is likewise indubitable, on the other hand, that the successful fulfilment of the Teheran decision was bound to serve the cause of consolidating the front of the United Nations.

Just as vivid an indication of the stability of the front of the United Nations is to be seen in the decisions of the conference at Dumbarton Oaks on the question of organizing security after the war. There is talk of differences between the three Powers on some questions of security. There are differences, of course, and they will still arise on a number of other questions. There are even differences which occur among people in one and the same party. All the more must they occur among representatives of different States and different parties. The surprising thing is not that differences exist but that they are so few, and that as a rule they are settled almost always in a spirit of unity and co-ordination of action by the three Great Powers. What matters is not that there are differences, but that the differences do not go beyond the bounds of what is tolerable in the interests of the unity of the three Great Powers, and that in the long run they are settled as the interests of that unity require. It is known that we had more serious differences amongst us on the question of opening the Second Front. But it is also known that these differences were resolved ultimately in a spirit of complete agreement. The same can be said of the differences at the Dumbarton Oaks conference. What was characteristic at that confer-

ence was not that some differences were revealed there, but that nine-tenths of the questions of security were settled at that conference in a spirit of complete unanimity. That is why I think that the decisions of the Dumbarton Oaks conference should be regarded as one of the vivid indications of the stability of the front of the anti-German coalition. An even more vivid indication that the front of the United Nations is growing firmer should be seen in the recent negotiations in Moscow with Mr. Churchill, the head of the British Government, and Mr. Eden, the British Foreign Secretary—negotiations which took place in a friendly atmosphere and in a spirit of complete unanimity.

Throughout the war the Hitlerites have been making desperate attempts to arouse disunity and mutual antagonism among the United Nations, to awaken suspicion and unfriendliness among them, to weaken their war effort by mutual distrust, and, if possible, by conflict between them as well. It is quite understandable that the Hitlerite politicians should try to bring about this sort of thing. There is no greater danger for them than the unity of the United Nations in their struggle against Hitlerite imperialism, and they could have no greater military and political success than to divide the Allied Powers in their struggle against the common enemy. But it is well known how vain proved all the efforts of the Fascist politicians to disturb the alliance of the Great Powers. That means that the foundation for the alliance of the U.S.S.R., Great Britain and the U.S.A. lies not in chance and passing considerations, but in vitally important and long-term interests.

It cannot be doubted that if the fighting alliance of the democratic Powers has stood the test of more than three years of war, and if it has been sealed with the blood of peoples who have risen to defend their liberty and honour, all the more will that alliance withstand the trials of the final stage of the war (*prolonged applause*).

The past year, however, was a year not only of consolidation of the anti-German front of the Allied Powers, but also of the extension of that front. It cannot be regarded as an accident that the withdrawal of Italy from the war was followed by that of the other allies of Germany—Finland, Rumania and Bulgaria. It should be noted that these States have not only withdrawn from the war, but have broken with Germany and declared war on her, thus joining the front of the United Nations. This undoubtedly means an extension of the front of the United Nations against Hitlerite Germany. It cannot be doubted that Germany's last ally in Europe—Hungary—will also be put out of action in the immediate future. This will mean the complete isolation of Hitlerite Germany in Europe and her inevitable collapse.

The United Nations are on the eve of the victorious termination of the war against Hitlerite Germany.

The war with Germany will be won by the United Nations; of this there can no longer be any doubt.

To win the war with Germany means to achieve a great and historic deed. But to win the war does not as yet signify the ensuring of a stable peace to the peoples and reliable security for the future. The problem is not only to win the war, but to make impossible the outbreak of new aggression and a new war—if not for ever, then at all events for a very long period.

After Germany has been defeated she will, of course, be disarmed both economically and in the military and political sense. But it would be simple-minded to think that she will not attempt to restore her power and develop some new aggression. Everyone knows that the rulers of Germany are already preparing for a new war. History shows that a short period of twenty or thirty years is enough for Germany to recover from defeat and revive her power. What means are there to avert a new aggression on the part of Germany and,

if war nevertheless breaks out, to stifle it at the very outset, and prevent it developing into a great war?

This question is all the more appropriate because, as history shows, aggressive nations, being the attackers, are usually more prepared for a new war than the peace-loving nations, who, not being interested in a new war, are usually late in preparing for it. It is a fact that the aggressive nations in the present war had in readiness even before the outbreak of war their *army of invasion*, while the peace-loving nations did not possess even a completely satisfactory *army of cover* for their mobilization. One cannot treat as an accident such unpleasant facts as the "incident" at Pearl Harbour, the loss of the Philippines, and the other islands in the Pacific, the loss of Hong Kong and Singapore, when Japan, as an aggressor nation, proved to be better prepared for war than Great Britain and the United States of America, who had maintained a peaceable policy. Likewise one cannot treat as an accident such an unpleasant fact as the loss of Ukraine, Byelorussia, the Baltic regions in the very first year of the war, when Germany as an aggressor nation proved to be better prepared for war than the peaceable Soviet Union. It would be simple-minded to explain these facts by the personal qualities of the Japanese and the Germans, their superiority over the British, the Americans, the Russians, their foresight, etc. It is not a matter of personal qualities but of the fact that aggressor nations interested in a new war, being nations who prepare for war over a long period and gather their forces for that purpose, are usually—and of necessity must be—better prepared for war than peaceable nations who are not interested in a new war. It is natural and comprehensible. If you like, it is a law of history, which it would be dangerous to ignore.

Consequently it cannot be denied that in the future the peaceable nations may again find themselves taken unawares by aggression—if, of course, they do not even now work out the special measures capable of averting it.

And so, what means are there to avert a new aggression on the part of Germany and, if war nevertheless arises, to stifle it at the very beginning and prevent it from developing into a great war?

For this purpose, apart from the complete disarmament of the aggressor nations, only one means exists—to set up a special organization for the defence of peace and the safeguarding of security, composed of representatives of the peaceable nations: to place at the disposal of the controlling body of that organization the minimum quantity of armed forces essential and requisite for averting aggression: and to oblige that organization in case of necessity to make use of those armed forces without delay, to avert or to liquidate aggression and to punish those guilty of aggression.

This must not be a repetition of the League of Nations of melancholy memory, which had neither the rights nor the means for averting aggression. It will be a new, special international organization with full powers, having at its disposal all that is necessary to defend peace and avert a new aggression.

Can one reckon upon the actions of such an international organization proving sufficiently effective? They will be effective if the Great Powers, who have borne on their shoulders the main burden of the war against Hitlerite Germany, will continue to act in the future in a spirit of unanimity and agreement. They will not be effective if this essential condition is infringed.

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Comrades, the Soviet people and the Red Army are successfully performing the tasks which have arisen before them in the course of the Patriotic War. The Red Army has worthily carried out its patriotic duty and liberated our

homeland from the enemy. Henceforth and forever our land has been freed from the Hitlerite filth. Now the Red Army has remaining its last concluding mission—to complete, together with the armies of our Allies, the work of defeating the German-Fascist army, to finish off the Fascist beast in its own lair, and to hoist the banner of victory over Berlin (*loud and prolonged applause*). There are grounds for expecting that this task will be fulfilled by the Red Army in the near future (*loud and prolonged applause*).

Long live our victorious Red Army! (*applause*).

Long live our glorious Navy! (*applause*).

Long live the mighty Soviet people! (*applause*).

Long live our great Motherland! (*loud applause; all rise*).

Death to the German-Fascist invaders! (*loud applause, becoming a prolonged ovation. Shouts: "Long live Comrade Stalin!"*)

ORDER OF THE DAY OF THE SUPREME COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF. MOSCOW, NO. 220, 7 NOVEMBER, 1944

Comrades, Red Army soldiers and sailors of the Red Navy, sergeants, officers and generals! Working people of the Soviet Union! Brothers and sisters forcibly driven away to Fascist slave labour in Germany!

On behalf of the Soviet Government and our Bolshevik Party I greet and congratulate you on the twenty-seventh anniversary of the great October Socialist Revolution.

We celebrate the twenty-seventh anniversary of the October Revolution in the midst of decisive victories of the Red Army over the foes of our homeland. By the heroic efforts of the Red Army and the Soviet people our land has been cleared of the German-Fascist invaders. During the current year the Soviet forces have rained uninterrupted blows on the enemy, each more powerful than the one that went before. In the winter of 1944 the Red Army won outstanding victories in Ukraine, west of the Dnieper, and defeated the Germans before Leningrad. In the spring of this year, the Red Army cleared the Germans from the Crimea. In the summer of 1944 our troops inflicted the greatest defeats upon the Hitlerite army, leading to a radical change in the situation at the front of battle against the German-Fascist invaders. The Red Army broke through the massive defences of the enemy on the Karelian isthmus, and also between Lake Ladoga and Lake Onega, and knocked Finland out of the bandit Hitlerite bloc. In the historic battle on the Byelorussian plains the forces of the Red Army utterly routed the central group of the German forces, composed of three armies, killing and taking prisoner 540,000 German soldiers and officers. In the battle in the south the Red Army surrounded and completely destroyed a group of German forces composed of two armies. In doing so the Soviet forces exterminated and took prisoner over 250,000 German soldiers and officers. The Red Army has routed the Germans in Rumania, flung them out of Bulgaria, and is beating them on the territory of Hungary. Our forces have crushed the Baltic group of the Hitlerite armies. During the summer campaign of 1944 the Red Army has advanced in battle over 550 miles from Kishinev to Belgrade, over 375 miles from Zhlobin to Warsaw, nearly 350 miles from Vitebsk to Tilsit. The war has been carried now on to the territory of Fascist Germany.

In the course of its battles the Red Army has driven the German-Fascist invaders from the whole territory of Soviet Ukraine and Byelorussia, from the Karelo-Finnish, Moldavian, Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian Soviet Republics. The Fascist yoke over the lands of our brother Soviet Republics,

temporarily seized by the Germans, has been overthrown after three years. The Red Army has restored their liberty to tens of millions of Soviet people. The Soviet State frontier, treacherously violated by the Hitlerite hordes on 22 June, 1941, has been restored in its entirety, from the Black Sea to the Barents Sea.

Thus the year just concluded was a year of the complete liberation of Soviet territory from the German-Fascist invaders.

Having completed the liberation of its native soil from the Hitlerite filth, the Red Army is now helping the peoples of Poland, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia to burst asunder the chains of Fascist slavery and to restore their liberty and independence.

In the winter and summer engagements of the year just over the Red Army has displayed its increased mastery of the art of war. The warriors of the Red Army skilfully broke up the fortified areas of the enemy, impetuously pursued, encircled and annihilated him. In its offensive battles there were displayed the exact combined action of all arms and a high degree of skill in manoeuvre of the Soviet forces. The Soviet warriors were tempered in battle and learned to rout and conquer the enemy. The Red Army has grown into a dread power, surpassing the enemy in its military skill and war material.

The strength of the Red Army is multiplied manifold by the smooth working of the Soviet rear. Workers, collective farmers, intelligentsia are honourably doing their duty to the Motherland, heroically overcoming wartime difficulties and supplying the Red Army uninterruptedly with weapons, munitions and food. Soviet economy is ceaselessly augmenting its forces and providing constantly increasing help for the front.

The Red Army and the Soviet people are ready to deal new annihilating blows at the enemy. The days of the bloody Hitlerite regime are numbered. Under the blows of the Red Army the Fascist bloc has finally fallen asunder, and Hitlerite Germany has lost the majority of its allies. The large-scale operations in western Europe, skilfully performed by the armies of our Allies, have led to the defeat of the German troops in France and Belgium and the liberation of those countries from Fascist occupation. The Allied armies have crossed the western frontier of Germany. The combined blows of the Red Army and the Anglo-American forces at Hitlerite Germany have brought closer the hour of the victorious termination of the war. The encirclement of Hitlerite Germany is being completed. The lair of the Fascist beast is beset from all sides, and no tricks of the enemy will save him from inevitable and complete defeat.

The Red Army and the armies of our Allies have taken up their positions of departure for the decisive offensive against the vital centres of Germany. The task now is by an impetuous onslaught of the armies of the United Nations to crush Hitlerite Germany in the shortest possible time.

Comrades, soldiers of the Red Army and sailors of the Red Navy, sergeants, officers and generals! Working people of the Soviet Union!

In the great Patriotic War we have successfully defended our Motherland from the invaders, have finally liquidated the threat of enslavement of the peoples of the U.S.S.R. by the Fascist miscreants, and now stand on the eve of complete victory.

In celebration of the historic victories of the Red Army at the front and the great successes of the workers, peasants and intellectuals in the rear, and in honour of the liberation of Soviet soil from the German-Fascist invaders,

I order,

that today, on the twenty-seventh anniversary of the great October Socialist Revolution, a salute of 24 artillery salvos shall be given at 20 hours at Moscow,

Leningrad, Kiev, Minsk, Petrozavodsk, Tallin, Riga, Vilnius, Kishinev, Tbilisi, Sevastopol, Lvov.

Hail to the twenty-seventh anniversary of the great October Socialist Revolution!

Long live our free Soviet Fatherland!

Long live our Red Army and Navy!

Long live the great Soviet people!

Eternal glory to the heroes who fell in struggle for the freedom and independence of our country!

Death to the German invaders!

J. STALIN,
*Marshal of the Soviet Union, Supreme
Commander-in-Chief.*

DOCUMENTS AND MATERIALS
1 JANUARY—31 DECEMBER, 1944

STATEMENT BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT ON SOVIET-POLISH RELATIONS: TASS COMMUNIQUÉ

TASS has been authorized by the Soviet Government to make the following statement:

On January 5, 1944, there was published in London a declaration of the émigré Polish government on the question of Soviet-Polish relations, in which there are a number of incorrect assertions, including an incorrect assertion about the Soviet-Polish frontier. As is known, the Soviet Constitution has defined the Soviet-Polish frontier in accordance with the will of the population of Western Ukraine and Western Byelorussia, expressed in a plebiscite which was carried out on a broad democratic basis in 1939. On that occasion the territories of Western Ukraine, inhabited in their overwhelming majority by Ukrainians, entered the Soviet Ukraine, while the territories of Western Byelorussia, inhabited in their overwhelming majority by Byelorussians, entered Soviet Byelorussia. The injustice permitted by the Riga Treaty of 1921, which was imposed upon the Soviet Union, in regard to the Ukrainians inhabiting Western Ukraine and the Byelorussians inhabiting Western Byelorussia, was in this way rectified. The entry of Western Ukraine and Western Byelorussia into the Soviet Union not only did not infringe the interests of Poland, but, on the contrary, created a reliable basis for solid and permanent friendship between the Polish people and its neighbours, the Ukrainian, Byelorussian and Russian peoples.

The Soviet Government has repeatedly declared that it stands for the re-establishment of a strong and independent Poland and for friendship between the Soviet Union and Poland. The Soviet Government once again declares that it is seeking to establish friendship between the U.S.S.R. and Poland on the basis of durable good-neighbourly relations and mutual respect and, if the Polish people shall so desire, on the basis of an alliance for mutual aid against the Germans, as the main enemies of the Soviet Union and Poland. The realization of this task might be served by the adherence of Poland to the Soviet-Czechoslovak Treaty of Friendship, Mutual Assistance and Post-War Collaboration.

The successes of the Soviet forces on the Soviet-German front daily hasten the liberation of the occupied territories of the Soviet Union from the German invaders. The self-sacrificing struggle of the Red Army and the developing military operations of our Allies bring nearer the defeat of the Hitlerite war machine and the liberation of Poland and other peoples from the yoke of the German invaders. In this struggle for liberation, the Union of Polish Patriots in the U.S.S.R. and the Polish Army Corps, formed by it and operating at the front against the Germans hand in hand with the Red Army, are already playing their glorious part.

There now opens the possibility of the regeneration of Poland as a strong and independent State. But Poland must be reborn, not by the seizure of Ukrainian and Byelorussian lands, but by the restoration to Poland of lands belonging to her from time immemorial and wrested from Poland by the Germans. Only in this way would it be possible to establish confidence and friendship between the Polish, Ukrainian, Byelorussian and Russian peoples. The eastern frontiers of Poland can be established by agreement with the Soviet Union. The Soviet Government does not regard the frontiers of 1939 as immutable. Modifications in favour of Poland may be introduced in these frontiers, in the sense that districts in which the Polish population forms a

majority can be transferred to Poland. In this event the Soviet-Polish frontier could pass approximately along the so-called Curzon line, which was adopted in 1919 by the Supreme Council of the Allied Powers and which provides for the entry of Western Ukraine and Western Byelorussia into the Soviet Union. The western frontiers of Poland must be extended through the incorporation in Poland of immemorial Polish lands previously annexed by Germany, without which it is impossible to unite the whole Polish people in its own State: while the latter will thereby acquire its necessary outlet into the Baltic. The just aspiration of the Polish people for complete unification in a strong and independent State must receive recognition and support.

The émigré Polish government, isolated from its people, has proved incapable of establishing friendly relations with the Soviet Union. It has also proved incapable of organizing an active struggle against the German invaders in Poland itself. Moreover, by its incorrect policy it not infrequently plays into the hands of the German invaders. Yet the interests of Poland and the Soviet Union lie in the establishment of stable and friendly relations between our countries, and in the peoples of Poland and the Soviet Union uniting in struggle against the common external enemy, as is required by the common cause of all the Allies.

11 January, 1944.

NOTE ON THE CURZON LINE

In the "Statement by the Soviet Government on Soviet-Polish relations", published on 11 January of this year, reference is made to the eastern frontiers of Poland, and it is pointed out that those frontiers may be determined by agreement with the Soviet Union, and, moreover, that the Soviet Government does not consider the frontiers of 1939 to be immutable. "Modifications in favour of Poland may be introduced in these frontiers, in the sense that districts in which the Polish population forms a majority can be transferred to Poland. In this event the Soviet-Polish frontier could pass approximately along the so-called Curzon Line, which was adopted in 1919 by the Supreme Council of the Allied Powers and which provides for the entry of Western Ukraine and Western Byelorussia into the Soviet Union."

What is the "Curzon Line"?

The question of the eastern frontiers of Poland was discussed at the Peace Conference in Paris which opened on 18 January, 1919, and ended, as is known, with the conclusion of the Versailles Peace Treaty. At this conference a special Commission for Polish affairs was set up under the presidency of Jules Cambon, the French Ambassador at Berlin. During the preparatory work for the settlement of the question of the Polish-Russian frontier this Commission based itself on the decisions of the delegations of the principal Allied Powers—Great Britain, France, the United States of America, Italy and Japan—who considered that it was essential to include only ethnographically Polish regions in the territory of Poland.

On the basis of this decision of the principal Allied Powers the Territorial Commission of the Paris Peace Conference laid down the line to be followed by the eastern frontier of Poland, which was adopted by the Allied Powers after the Versailles Peace Treaty had already been concluded, and was published in the "Declaration of the Supreme Council of the Allied and Associated Powers on the subject of the provisional Eastern Frontier of Poland", of 8 December, 1919, over the signature of G. Clemenceau, chairman of the Supreme Council. Later, in July 1920, the same line for Poland's eastern

frontier was confirmed at the conference of Allied Powers at Spa, and formed the basis for the Note on the Soviet-Polish frontier sent by Lord Curzon, British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to the Soviet Government on 12 July, 1920.

The decisions of the Allied Supreme Council and the conference at Spa, in determining the line of the Soviet-Polish frontier, were based upon the ethnographical principle, in accordance with which to the west of the line indicated there were to be only regions mainly inhabited by Poles, while to the east were to be regions inhabited in their overwhelming majority by Ukrainians and Byelorussians.

But Polish ruling circles had also pretensions to the seizure of the territory of Western Ukraine and Western Byelorussia. Taking advantage of the difficult economic and military situation of the young Soviet Republic in 1920, Poland attacked Soviet Russia. Meeting, however, with the powerful resistance of the entire Soviet people, and realizing that there were no prospects in the war it had launched, Poland appealed to the Allied Governments for mediation in its negotiations with the Soviet Government. Lord Curzon, British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, thereupon despatched the Note mentioned above to the Soviet Government, in which he likewise indicated the approximate line of the Soviet-Polish frontier which became known as the Curzon Line. Curzon's Note stated: "This line runs approximately as follows: Grodno, Yalovka, Nemirov, Brest-Litovsk, Dorogusk, Ustilug, east of Grubeshov, Krylov, and thence west of Rawa-Ruska, east of Przemysl and to the Carpathians." North of the town of Grodno was indicated the frontier between Poland and Lithuania.

The Polish Government, however, did not agree to the frontier along the Curzon Line, and continued its war against Soviet Russia. Taking advantage of the difficult situation of the Soviet country, Poland forced a different frontier upon us during the peace negotiations at Riga in March, 1921, seizing the western regions of Soviet Ukraine and Soviet Byelorussia. This injustice, permitted by the Riga Treaty of 1921 in respect of the Ukrainians inhabiting Western Ukraine and the Byelorussians inhabiting Western Byelorussia, was rectified only in 1939, when, in accordance with the will of the population of these regions, expressed by plebiscite effected on a broad democratic basis, the new Soviet-Polish frontier was established.

13 January, 1944.

WORK OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON MATTERS RELATING TO ITALY

In connection with the fifth session of the Advisory Council on matters relating to Italy which has lately been held, the following communiqué is published:

"Members of the Advisory Council on matters relating to Italy during the last few days have visited various places in liberated Italy, including Sardinia and Sicily. They have had the opportunity of establishing contact with various Italian official and unofficial persons, and likewise with various Allied organizations.

On 10 January the fifth session of the Council was held at Naples. There were present: M. Massigli (in the chair), from the French Committee of National Liberation; Mr. Macmillan, from the United Kingdom; Mr. Vyshinsky, from the U.S.S.R.; and Mr. Reinhardt, replacing Mr. R. D. Murphy, from the U.S.A.

The Council heard a report on the present political and economic situation in Italy, and had the opportunity to hear the views of Marshal Badoglio and members of the Italian Government."

13 January, 1944.

ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW OF MARSHAL CHOIBALSAN, PRIME MINISTER OF THE MONGOLIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC

On 14 January, 1944, Marshal Choibalsan, Prime Minister of the Mongolian People's Republic, arrived in Moscow.

At the station Marshal Choibalsan was met by V. G. Dekanozov (Deputy People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs), Colonel-General A. N. Apollonov (Deputy People's Commissar for the Interior), V. S. Kemenov, Chairman of the Board of the Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries (VOKS), and also by Mr. Sambu, Minister of the M.P.R. in the U.S.S.R., and others.

VISIT TO J. V. STALIN OF MARSHAL CHOIBALSAN

On 22 January, 1944, J. V. Stalin, chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the U.S.S.R., received Marshal Choibalsan, Prime Minister of the Mongolian People's Republic.

There were present at the conversation V. M. Molotov, People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs, and I. A. Ivanov, Minister of the U.S.S.R. in the M.P.R.

DEPARTURE FROM MOSCOW OF MARSHAL CHOIBALSAN, PRIME MINISTER OF THE MONGOLIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC

On 29 January, 1944, Marshal Choibalsan, Prime Minister of the Mongolian People's Republic, left Moscow for Ulan-Bator. Marshal Choibalsan was seen off at the station by V. G. Dekanozov (Deputy People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs), V. S. Kemenov (Chairman of the Board of VOKS), and also by Mr. Sambu, Minister Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the M.P.R. in the U.S.S.R., and others.

TENTH SESSION OF THE FIRST* SUPREME SOVIET OF THE U.S.S.R.

ON THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE PEOPLE'S COMMISSARIAT FOR DEFENCE AND THE PEOPLE'S COMMISSARIAT FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS FROM UNION INTO UNION-REPUBLICAN COMMISSARIATS

Report by V. M. Molotov at the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. on 1 February, 1944.

Comrades, the Supreme Soviet has before it the question of transforming two People's Commissariats, those for defence and foreign affairs, from Union to Union-Republican Commissariats. The Council of People's Commissars considers this question to be quite timely.

* In this context, "First" signifies its numerical order since the adoption of the Constitution; like "Seventy-Ninth" Congress of the United States, or the "Thirty-Eighth" Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.—TRANS.

It is not a matter of some ordinary transformation of two People's Commissariats. It is a matter primarily of facing the Union Republics with new and most responsible tasks. The question is being raised of new tasks and rights of the Union Republics, in the first instance, in the sphere of the defence of our country and, secondly, in the sphere of our external relations with foreign States; and, consequent upon this, of important transformations in our Union State.

Up to now the Union Republics participated in the common work of creating, organizing and arming the Red Army. Our Army was built up as a common Union army, and separate military formations of the various Republics did not exist. It is now proposed to introduce military formations of the various Republics which at the same time are to be integral parts of the Red Army. In this connection there arises the need for setting up People's Commissariats for Defence in the Union Republics, and also the necessity for transforming the Union People's Commissariat for Defence into a Union-Republican People's Commissariat.

After the setting up of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, in 1922, external political relations were concentrated entirely in the Union People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs, and the individual Republics transferred their powers in respect of foreign relations to that People's Commissariat. Now the Government of the Union proposes that the Union Republics should be granted the authority to enter into direct relations with foreign States and to conclude agreements with them. Naturally, the granting to the Republics of full powers in the sphere of external relations gives rise to the necessity of setting up People's Commissariats for Foreign Affairs in the Union Republics and of transforming the Union People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs into a Union-Republican People's Commissariat.

The meaning of the transformation proposed is quite clear. That transformation signifies a great extension of the activity of the Union Republics, made possible as a result of their political, economic and cultural growth, or, in other words, of their national development. We are bound to see in this a new and important step, in the practical solution of the national question in the multi-national Soviet state; we cannot but see in it a new victory of our Lenin-Stalin national policy (*applause*). However, this transformation has become possible not simply as a result of the strengthening of our Republics: it is also the result of the strengthening of our Union State as a whole.

The strengthening of the Soviet Union which has taken place is demonstrated most convincingly of all by the way in which our Red Army, bearing the whole brunt of the struggle with the main forces of our most dangerous enemy, is beating the German-Fascist army and successfully bringing closer the moment when the enemy will be driven completely from Soviet territory and when he will be finally defeated (*applause*). It is now more than obvious what an abject fiasco has overtaken the enemy's calculations on a defeat of the Red Army, and how shortsighted were Hitler's reckonings on disunity between the peoples of the Soviet Union. Our Army, into which have poured millions of men from all the peoples of the Soviet Union, and which is receiving such invaluable help from our partisans in the rear of the enemy, is daily proving more and more successfully how strong our country has grown, how powerful the Soviet system is, how great is the friendship of the Soviet peoples (*applause*).

The present proposal for transformations in the sphere of the organization of defence and external relations, involving a considerable extension of the functions of the Union Republics, must serve as a new affirmation of our confidence in the strength and the growth of the forces of the Soviet Union.

This confidence is demonstrated all the more emphatically that we are proposing to make these transformations at the height of the Patriotic War, when the strain upon the efforts of our peoples is so great, and when not every State would make up its mind on such far-reaching changes.

I. TRANSFORMATION OF THE PEOPLE'S COMMISSARIAT FOR DEFENCE

I come to the question of transforming the People's Commissariat for Defence.

The draft law proposes that the Union Republics should organize their own military formations, and that the People's Commissariat for Defence should be transformed from a Union to a Union-Republican People's Commissariat.* In accordance with this it is proposed that the necessary addenda be made to the Union Constitution.

Even at present we have some national military formations in the Red Army. We have the following military formations in our Army: Lithuanian, Lettish, Estonian, Georgian, Azerbaidjanian, Armenian, Kazakh and some others. Some of these military units were formed during the Patriotic War itself. Today, when all the peoples of the Soviet Union seek to take their place in the ranks of the Red Army, it is important for us to create military formations in the individual Republics.

As you know, some nationalities and peoples were not called up for military service in Tsarist Russia. There were not called up, for example, the Uzbeks, the Kazakhs, the Tadjiks, the Turkmens, the Kirgiz, the majority of the peoples of the North Caucasus and likewise the peoples of the North. Tsardom naturally did not trust the peoples which it kept in a colonial or semi-colonial position. The Tsarist government likewise did nothing to prepare these peoples for gradual recruitment into the army.

In the Soviet period the situation has radically altered.

Our legislation, of course, contains no legal restrictions on the calling up of this or that nationality for the Army. But a certain time had to elapse to make possible the effective call-up into the Red Army of people from all parts of the Soviet Union. Partial call-ups to the Red Army were effected in recent years, even in those districts of the U.S.S.R. where in former times military call-ups did not take place. National military units were also formed in the Red Army, but these formations up to the present could not develop as they should.

Today the situation has changed for the better. Adequate possibilities have come into existence for the setting up of military formations in the Union Republics. All the Republics now have not only numbers of rank-and-file soldiers, but also certain cadres of command personnel, capable of taking charge of the appropriate military units. In this way the creation of military formations in the Union Republics can now be put on a firm footing. But to fulfil this task we must have Republican People's Commissariats for Defence, and consequently there arises the necessity of transforming our Union People's Commissariat for Defence into a Union-Republican People's Commissariat. We must anticipate that this will increase the attention paid by the Republics also to the organization of military training in the schools and places of higher education, which we need. In such a situation the creation of military formations in the Republics, as integral parts of the Red Army, will play its positive and far from unimportant role.

* Under the Soviet Constitution, the Union Government was at that time composed of two groups of departments—one that of Union People's Commissariats (now Ministries), represented by delegates in the Governments of the constituent or Union Republics, the other that of Union-Republican People's Commissariats (now Ministries), working through and with similarly named departments in the Governments of the Union Republics.—TRANS.

What will be the effect of this on our Red Army? Will it promote its reinforcement, the growth of its power? Indeed, we cannot doubt it. Our Army has always been near and dear to the peoples of the Soviet Union. In the course of the Patriotic War the love of the peoples of the U.S.S.R. for their Army has grown still stronger, and the pride of Soviet people in the successes and heroism of the Red Army has grown still greater and more universal (*applause*). Who does not see what a glorious fight our Army is carrying on for the liberation of Ukraine, the liberation of Byelorussia? Who does not feel with all his heart what the Red Army is doing to prepare the speedy liberation of Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Moldavia, the Karelo-Finnish Republic? (*prolonged applause*). Who does not remember that the Soviet troops saved Azerbaidjan, Georgia and Armenia from the invasion of German Fascism? (*applause*). Who, among the Soviet people, does not give glory to our Army for defending our capital Moscow, carrying out the defeat of the Germans before Stalingrad, taking the offensive along the whole front, defending Leningrad, completely raising the blockade of Leningrad and now chasing the enemy hordes from our native land, without giving them a moment's breathing-space? (*loud and prolonged applause*). Who, but those besotted with Fascism, has not understood now that the Red Army is fulfilling its mission of liberation, not only in respect of its own Motherland, but also in respect of all democratic countries who are fighting for their honour, freedom and independence against the deadly peril of Fascism? (*applause*). Who, furthermore, does not know that the working men and women of our works and factories, the peasant men and women in our collective farms, our intellectuals and all Soviet people, are ready to give all their strength in order to make greater the power of the Red Army, and that by their devoted labour they are in fact doing their duty to the country and to the heroic Red Army? (*prolonged applause*).

The formation of military units in the Republics must serve the cause of the further reinforcement of our Army as the defender of our country, as the reliable bulwark of the Soviet Union. The enemies of the Soviet Union may be sure that, as a result of these new military formations, the strength of our State will become still greater. This will oblige them to be more careful for the future. This new embodiment of the growing friendship between the peoples of the Soviet Union will promote the further growth of the authority of our country in the eyes of the peoples of East and West (*applause*).

II. TRANSFORMATION OF THE PEOPLE'S COMMISSARIAT FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Of no less importance is the transformation of the Union People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs into a Union-Republican People's Commissariat.

Before the formation of the Soviet Union, there existed, in addition to the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs of the R.S.F.S.R., also People's Commissariats for Foreign Affairs in Ukraine, Byelorussia, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaidjan, which in definite cases maintained their own external relations with other States. In the first period, when our State had not yet been gathered together into a single Union State, and consisted of separate parts, a number of treaties and agreements were concluded between the individual Soviet Republics and foreign States. In some cases representatives of the R.S.F.S.R. received special full powers from the other Soviet Republics to take part in international conferences, and to conclude treaties with other States on behalf of all or some of the Soviet Republics. Comrade Stalin said at the first Union Congress of Soviets that at that time "the Soviet Republics, although they acted together, marched separately, preoccupied above all else with the question of their very existence". In the first stage this was inevitable.

When the U.S.S.R. was being formed, in accordance with the general will of the Union Republics, it was decided to unify the control of external relations with foreign States in one centre. It was then that the Union People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs was set up which took over the rights of the People's Commissariats for Foreign Affairs of the individual Soviet Republics. Since that time, and up to the present day, the Soviet State has been represented abroad by diplomatic representatives of the whole Union. Treaties and agreements with foreign States were also concluded only on behalf of the Union. This was essential for a definite stage of development of our State and had its positive results, strengthening the State and greatly raising its prestige in international affairs (*applause*).

But even then, even at the Party Congress in 1923, comrade Stalin said:

"We shall be discussing the national question more than once yet, because national and international conditions are changing, and may yet still change. I do not exclude the possibility that we may have to disunite later some of the Commissariats which we are now combining as the prerogative of the Union of Republics."

As the best expert on the national question, not only in our Party and not only in our country, comrade Stalin—who together with the great Lenin laid the foundations of the Soviet Union—was already then pointing out that changes in the international situation, and national development itself, would more than once produce changes of organization in the machinery of the Soviet State. One cannot imagine the situation otherwise, particularly in such a young organism, rapidly growing in strength, as the Soviet Union.

Today the question of the external relations of the Union Republics bears a different aspect from what it did two decades ago, when the Soviet Union was being set up. It has arisen from the vital requirements of the Republics, and its solution is dictated by the interests of the Union as a whole.

The time is long past when some foreign States tried not to notice the existence of the Soviet Republic to which the October Revolution gave birth. Today, on the contrary, the tendency among foreign States to establish and develop diplomatic relations with our State is growing. Of course, in the conditions created by the World War there are particular and not insignificant difficulties in the way of this; but nevertheless, even during the war years, the international connections of the U.S.S.R. have been constantly growing wider. It may even be said that it is just in the war years that the international connections of the Soviet Union have been raised to a new and higher stage. The facts are generally known. For the first time during the period of existence of the Soviet Government we have established not only friendly but allied relations with Great Britain (*prolonged applause*). Just as good relations have been established between ourselves and the United States of America (*prolonged applause*). A mighty anti-Hitler coalition has come into existence, headed by the Soviet Union, Great Britain and the United States of America, and its military and political significance for the whole circle of democratic States is hard to overestimate (*applause*). The recently concluded Soviet-Czechoslovak Treaty may serve as an example of the increasingly friendly relations between the Soviet Union and the European States. The foundations have been laid for the collaboration of the democratic countries, great and small, not only during the period of the war against a common enemy, but also for the post-war period, in order to protect peace against new onslaughts by the aggressive Powers. As you know, the Moscow and Teheran conferences have played a most prominent part in the development and strengthening of the anti-Hitler coalition. And the confidence of the peoples of the anti-Hitler coalition has never been greater in an early and complete victory, in combined crushing

blows by the Allies at the common enemy in the now not-distant future, and likewise that in this joint struggle will be tempered the alliance and the friendship of the anti-Fascist countries (*applause*).

And still it cannot be said that this general and positive course of development of the international connections of the Soviet Union can completely cover not only the common needs of the Union, but also the multiform and growing requirements of the Union Republics in external affairs. There are, for example, a number of specific economic and cultural needs of the Union Republic which cannot be fully answered by the common representation of the Union abroad, and by the treaties and agreements concluded with other States by the Union. These national requirements of the Republics can be better satisfied by means of direct relations between the Republics and the appropriate States. Naturally, questions of this kind require to be concretely worked out in each case in Union and Republican bodies. Also one cannot deny that some time will be needed to organize this external activity of the Republics. Such questions are not decided according to some preconceived pattern. It is nevertheless beyond doubt that the question of coming out into the external arena has already become of vital importance for a number of Republics. We have, finally, to recognize that this is not only in the interests of one or other of the individual Union Republics, but also in the interests of the whole cause of the extension of the international connections, and reinforcement of the collaboration, between the U.S.S.R. and other States—so important in wartime and so certainly to be fruitful in the post-war period.

These are the grounds on which it should be recognized as necessary to transform the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs from a Union into a Union-Republican People's Commissariat. Whereas in the first period there existed only Republican People's Commissariats for Foreign Affairs, and in the second only a Union People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs, today it must become a more complex and ramified organization—a Union-Republican People's Commissariat.

I have a little more to add on our diplomatic practice. One has to put it on record that the absence of definite indications in the Soviet Constitution in respect of the right of Union Republics to exchange missions with other States, and to maintain external relations, is sometimes interpreted directly to the disadvantage of the interests of the Soviet Republics and of the Soviet Union as a whole. The addendum to the Constitution now being proposed will serve to eliminate occurrences of this kind.

III. A NEW STEP FORWARD IN THE SOLUTION OF THE NATIONAL QUESTION

The proposed transformation of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs and the People's Commissariat for Defence is a new step forward in the solution of the national question in the Soviet Union. This transformation corresponds directly to the principles of our Lenin-Stalin national policy. The taking of such measures at the present time means that the Soviet State has reached a new stage of its development, becoming a more complex and more fullblooded organism. In this one cannot but see new evidence of the great significance of the Socialist principles on which the Soviet Union is organized.

In his report at the Congress of Soviets which adopted the Constitution of the U.S.S.R. in 1936, comrade Stalin gave this characterization of the victory of the national policy of the Soviet Government which ensured the success of the formation of a multinational State on the basis of Socialism:

“The absence of exploiter classes, which are the main organizers of strife between nations; the absence of exploitation, which cultivates mutual

distrust and inflames nationalist passions; the presence in power of the working class, which is the enemy of all enslavement and the true bearer of the ideas of internationalism; the effective realization of the mutual aid of the peoples, in all spheres of economic and social life; lastly, the flowering of the national culture of the peoples of the U.S.S.R., national in form and Socialist in content—all these and factors like them have led to the result that the physiognomy of the peoples of the U.S.S.R. has changed radically, the feeling of mutual distrust has disappeared among them, the feeling of mutual friendship has developed between them, and there has thus been established the real fraternal collaboration of peoples in the system of a single Union State.

As a result we now have a fully formed multinational Socialist State, which has withstood all trials, and the durability of which might be envied by any national State in any part of the world” (*prolonged applause*).

Seven years have passed since then—and what years! It will soon be three years since we began waging the great Patriotic War with German Fascism and its allies, who make use in their struggle with the Soviet Union of the material and man-power resources of nearly the whole of Europe. This was a new, and moreover the most serious, test for our multinational State. But the Soviet Union has passed this test, too, with honour.

On the twenty-sixth anniversary of the October Revolution, comrade Stalin summed up the recent period in the following words:

“All the peoples of the Soviet Union have unanimously risen in defence of their Motherland, rightly considering the present Patriotic War to be the common cause of all working people, without distinction of nationality and creed. Now the Hitlerite politicians themselves see how hopelessly stupid were their anticipations of a split and a conflict between the peoples of the Soviet Union. The friendship of the peoples of our country has withstood all the difficulties and trials of war, and has grown still more tempered in the common struggle of all Soviet people against the Fascist invaders” (*applause*).

In this, in comrade Stalin’s words, lies one of the decisive sources of strength of the Soviet Union.

Let us sum up,

When in present conditions we carry out far-reaching changes in our State, we must, of course, consider the question of what will be the effect on the Red Army and on its rear, deep in the country. In other words, are we taking a step to strengthen or to weaken the U.S.S.R.?

All that I have said gives us the right to make a definite reply to this question.

The transformation of the People’s Commissariat for Foreign Affairs and the People’s Commissariat for Defence, arising as it does from the extension of the tasks and functions of the Union-Republics within the country and beyond its borders, not only does not run counter to the interests of the strengthening of our Union, but, on the contrary, is being effected on the grounds and for the purpose of the further strengthening of our great State (*prolonged applause*). From the time of the formation of the Soviet Union the Constitution has ensured to the Union-Republics such a supreme expression of their sovereign rights as the right of free secession from the U.S.S.R. But as time goes on the peoples of the Soviet Union become ever more filled with a desire to live in close friendship among themselves, to help one another and to march

together through all trials under the guidance of the Soviet Government (*applause*). The recognition by the Union of the increased requirements of the Republics in their constructive work as States, including their external activities, and the legislative safeguarding of these requirements of the Republics, only strengthens the brotherly relations of the peoples of our country and still further reveals the historic significance of the existence of the Soviet Union in the eyes of the peoples of East and West.

It should further be recognized that this new step forward in the solution of the national question in the U.S.S.R. has great importance from the point of view of all progressive humanity. At the time when German Fascism—that worst offspring of imperialism—has raised its head and launched a World War in order to throttle its neighbours, destroy free States and impose its brigand imperialist policy on the peoples of Europe, and after them upon the peoples of the whole world, a new success in the application of the Lenin-Stalin national policy in the Soviet State will have particularly great international significance. This measure taken by the Soviet Power will be a new moral and political blow at Fascism and its misanthropic policy, hostile through and through to the interests of the free national development of the peoples. The Soviet Union and its Allies are already successfully breaking Fascism, which forced this war upon us, and are bringing closer the date of its complete military defeat. But we know that we cannot stop at the military defeat of the Fascist forces. The moral and political defeat of Fascism must also be carried to its logical end (*prolonged applause*). Those amendments to the machinery of State in the Soviet Union which are now being submitted for your approval will, we are certain, be a successful contribution to that end.

I express my confidence that the Supreme Soviet will demonstrate the unanimity of Soviet people in deciding the question of the amendments to the machinery of State now laid before you (*loud and prolonged applause. All rise*).

LAW

FOR THE GRANTING TO THE UNION REPUBLICS OF AUTHORITY IN THE SPHERE OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS, AND FOR THE TRANSFORMATION IN THIS CONNECTION OF THE PEOPLE'S COMMISSARIAT FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS FROM A UNION INTO A UNION-REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S COMMISSARIAT

With the object of extending the international connections of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the reinforcement of its collaboration with other States, and taking into account the increased need of the Union Republics to establish direct relations with foreign States, the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics enacts:

1. That Union Republics may enter into direct relations with foreign States, and conclude agreements with them.
2. That the following addenda be made to the Constitution of the U.S.S.R. :
 - (a) Article 14, clause (a) of the Constitution of the U.S.S.R., after the words "the representation of the Union in international relations, conclusion and ratification of treaties" shall be supplemented by the words "the establishment of the general procedure in the mutual relations between the Union Republics and foreign States", the clause to read as follows:

- “(a) the representation of the Union in international relations, conclusion and ratification of treaties with other States, the establishment of the general procedure in the mutual relations between the Union Republics and foreign States.”
- (b) The Constitution of the U.S.S.R. shall be supplemented by an article 18a as follows:
 “Article 18a. Each Union Republic has the right to enter into direct relations with foreign States, to conclude agreements with them and to exchange diplomatic and consular representatives with them.”
- (c) Article 60 of the Constitution of the U.S.S.R. shall be supplemented by a clause (e) as follows:
 “(e) establishes the representation of the Union Republic in international relations.”

3. that the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs be transformed from a Union into a Union-Republican People's Commissariat.

M. KALININ,
*President of the Presidium of the
 Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.*

A. GORKIN,
*Secretary of the Presidium of the
 Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.*

Kremlin, Moscow.

1 February, 1944.

SIGNATURE OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE U.S.S.R. AND CANADA FOR DELIVERIES OF WAR MATERIAL TO THE SOVIET UNION BY CANADA, IN CONFORMITY WITH THE CANADIAN MUTUAL AID ACT OF 1943

On 11 February, 1944, an agreement was signed at Ottawa, Canada, between the Government of the U.S.S.R. and the Government of Canada on the principles relating to war deliveries by Canada to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, in accordance with the Canadian War Appropriations (United Nations Mutual Aid) Act of 1943.

On behalf of the Government of the U.S.S.R. the agreement was signed by V. A. Sergeyev, Deputy People's Commissar for Foreign Trade of the U.S.S.R., and by G. I. Tunkin, Chargé d'Affaires of the U.S.S.R. in Canada; and on behalf of the Government of Canada by Mr. Mackenzie King, Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, and by Mr. C. D. Howe, Minister of Munitions and Supply.

The agreement is based on the principle of the mutual advantage of the assistance which the two countries render each other.

The agreement lays down certain provisions and principles, in virtue of which the contracting parties have undertaken to render mutual assistance in the struggle against the common enemy.

The agreement has entered into force from the day of its publication, and has retrospective force in respect of deliveries effected by Canada to the Soviet Union before the conclusion of the present agreement, on the basis of the Canadian United Nations Mutual Aid Act of 1943.

Following is the text of the agreement.

Agreement between the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Government of Canada concerning Principles relating to the delivery by Canada of Canadian war supplies to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in conformity with the Act of Canada on War Appropriations (United Nations Mutual Aid) of 1943.

Whereas the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Canada are associated in the present war, and

Whereas it is desirable that war supplies should be distributed among the United Nations in accordance with strategic needs of the war, and in such a manner as to contribute most effectively to the winning of the war and the establishment of peace, and

Whereas it is expedient that the conditions upon which such war supplies are made available by one United Nation to another should not be such as to burden post-war commerce, or lead to the imposition of trade restrictions, or otherwise prejudice a just and enduring peace, and

Whereas the Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Canada are mutually desirous of concluding an agreement in regard to the conditions upon which Canadian war supplies will be made available to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics,

The undersigned, being duly authorized by their respective Governments for the purpose, have agreed as follows :

Article One

The Government of Canada will make available under the War Appropriations (United Nations Mutual Aid) Act of Canada, 1943, to the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics such war supplies as the Government of Canada shall authorize from time to time to be provided.

Article Two

The Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics will continue to contribute to the defence of Canada and the strengthening thereof and will provide such articles, services, facilities or information as it may be in a position to supply and as may from time to time be determined by common agreement in the light of the development of the war.

Article Three

The nature, quantities and dates of delivery of the war supplies made available by the Government of Canada to the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics under Article One shall be determined by negotiation between the two Governments and set forth in protocols or other agreements.

Article Four

The Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics agrees to use any war supplies delivered to it under this agreement in the joint and effective prosecution of the war.

Article Five

The Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics shall not, without the consent of the Government of Canada, sell to any other government or to persons in other countries war supplies delivered to it under this agreement.

Article Six

The Government of Canada shall not require the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to redeliver to the Government of Canada any war supplies delivered under this agreement, except as specifically provided in Article Seven, and subject to any special agreement which may be concluded in the circumstances contemplated in Article Eight.

Article Seven

Upon the cessation of hostilities in any major theatre of war, any war supplies which have been transferred to the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics under this agreement and are still in Canada shall revert to Canadian ownership, except those supplies destined to a theatre of war in which hostilities have not ceased, or supplies made available for relief purposes, or such other supplies as the Government of Canada may specify.

Article Eight

The Government of Canada reserves the right to request:

(a) the delivery after the cessation of hostilities in any theatre of war, for relief and rehabilitation purposes, to another United Nation or to any international organization, of automotive equipment supplied under this agreement;

(b) the transfer to Canadian forces serving outside Canada, after the cessation of hostilities, of vehicles, aircraft, ordnance or military equipment supplied under this Agreement to the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, if such war supplies are required for the use of such Canadian forces and are not required by the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for military operations; and

(c) the return to Canada after the war, if required in Canada for Canadian purposes, of aircraft and automotive equipment supplied under this Agreement which may still be serviceable, due regard being had to the degree of wastage likely to have been suffered by these articles: provided that when the identity of such Canadian equipment has been lost as the result of pooling arrangements or for other reasons, the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics may substitute equipment of a similar type.

The Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics agrees to use its best endeavours to meet any such request on such reasonable terms and conditions as shall be settled in consultation with the Government of Canada.

Article Nine

The Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Canada reaffirm their desire to promote mutually advantageous economic relations

between their countries and throughout the world. They declare that their guiding purposes include the adoption of measures designed to promote employment, the extension of the production and consumption of goods and the expansion of commerce through appropriate international agreements on commercial policy, with the object of contributing to the attainment of all the economic objectives set forth in the Declaration of 14 August, 1941, known as the Atlantic Charter.

Article Ten

This Agreement will take effect as from this day's date. It shall apply to war supplies furnished to the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics by the Government of Canada under the authority of the War Appropriations (United Nations Mutual Aid) Act of Canada, 1943, or substituted Act, including supplies furnished under the said Act before the conclusion of this Agreement. It shall continue in force until a date to be agreed upon by the two Governments.

Dated at Ottawa, this eleventh day of February, nineteen hundred and forty-four.

Signed for and on behalf of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics :
V. A. SERGEYEV,
G. I. TUNKIN.

Signed for and on behalf of the Government of Canada :
W. L. MACKENZIE KING,
C. D. HOWE.

NOTE.—The War Appropriations Act of Canada, mentioned in the Agreement, was adopted by the Parliament of Canada on 14 May, 1943.

This Act provides that Canadian war supplies may be granted to the United Nations. As a body for the purpose of giving effect to this Act, a Canadian Committee for Mutual Aid has been set up, composed of five ministers under the chairmanship of the Minister of Munitions and Supply.

The main task of the Committee is, according to the strategic requirements of the war, to contribute, exchange, supply, transfer right of ownership to and make available existing war equipment to any of the United Nations, so that such supplies may be used for joint and effective prosecution of the war.

By war supplies mentioned in the text of the Agreement are understood, according to this Act, arms of every kind, munitions, planes, ships, machine tools, equipment, materials, any agricultural produce, and any other commodities, articles or forms of service, etc.

GREETINGS OF MARSHAL J. TITO, SUPREME COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY OF YUGOSLAVIA, AND OF I. RIBAR, PRESIDENT OF THE ANTI-FASCIST VECHÉ (ASSEMBLY) OF NATIONAL LIBERATION OF YUGOSLAVIA, TO THE SOLDIERS AND OFFICERS OF THE YUGOSLAV MILITARY UNIT IN THE U.S.S.R.

To soldiers and officers of the Yugoslav Military Unit in the U.S.S.R.

The Yugoslav People's Liberation Army and partisan detachments send you their greetings and express their firm confidence that you will worthily

represent our People's Liberation Army of Yugoslavia on the field of battle, fighting directly shoulder to shoulder with the glorious Red Army against our common enemy.

Comrades, soldiers and officers of the Yugoslav Military Unit in the U.S.S.R. ! You are the first armed detachment of our peoples fighting for the freedom of your motherland on Soviet soil by the side of the Red Army. Tell the Soviet peoples and their heroic army how great is our love for them, how grateful we are to the Red Army for the vanguard part which it is playing in the liberation of the enslaved countries. Our heroic People's Liberation Army is awaiting you, crowned in glory.

Death to Fascism ! Freedom to the people !

With fighting greetings,

TITO,

*Marshal, Supreme Commander-in-Chief
of the People's Liberation Army of
Yugoslavia.*

To soldiers and officers of the Yugoslav Military Unit in the U.S.S.R.

The Anti-Fascist Veche (Assembly) of National Liberation of Yugoslavia greets you in the name of the new, democratic, federative, free Yugoslavia, which is being born in ceaseless struggle of the Yugoslav peoples against the Fascist invaders and their servants, the Ustashi and Chetniks, and in the name of the peoples of Yugoslavia to whom you have remained true.

Sons and warriors of new, free, federative Yugoslavia !

Be worthy of the country in which you are fighting, and of your own country for which you are fighting. Be worthy of the Red Army by the side of which you have taken your stand for battle. Make glorious the arms with which you are being provided by the Soviet people and its great leader and commander, Marshal Stalin. Keep high the banner of our People's Liberation Army. The liberated Motherland will meet you as its faithful and glorious sons.

IVAN RIBAR,

*President of the Anti-Fascist Veche
of National Liberation of Yugoslavia.*

The names of the two leaders of the liberation struggle of the Yugoslav people against the German invaders who have signed the addresses to the soldiers and officers of the Yugoslav military unit in the U.S.S.R. are well known throughout the world.

Marshal Joseph Broz-Tito, Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the People's Liberation Army of Yugoslavia, is the brilliant general and most outstanding organizer of that army, which has been formed in the course of the offensive battles carried on by the heroic partisan units of Yugoslavia against the Hitlerite invaders. Marshal Tito is also Chairman of the National Liberation Committee of Yugoslavia. This Committee was formed as the Provisional Government of Yugoslavia, at the second session of the Anti-Fascist Veche of National Liberation of Yugoslavia, held on 28 November, 1943, at the town of Jajce, on territory liberated from the German invaders. At the same session it was decided to transform the Anti-Fascist Veche into the supreme legislative and executive body of Yugoslavia.

On that occasion *Ivan Ribar* was for the second time elected President of the Anti-Fascist Veche. Dr. Ivan Ribar, a most prominent political personality of Yugoslavia, was an advocate at Belgrade, one of the leaders of the Demo-

cratic Party and President of the Constituent Assembly of Yugoslavia. In the struggle for liberation against the Fascist invaders he has lost two sons. The struggle of the peoples of Yugoslavia for emancipation is indissolubly bound up with the name of Ribar.

The Yugoslav Military Unit in the U.S.S.R. to which the greetings of the leaders of the Yugoslav peoples have been addressed was formed on the territory of the U.S.S.R. recently. A large group of soldiers and officers of the Yugoslav army, forcibly mobilized by the Germans for service at the Soviet-German front, who went over to the side of the Red Army or were taken prisoner, approached the Soviet Government with a request to permit them to form a volunteer unit for armed struggle against Hitlerite Germany. This request was granted. At the head of the Yugoslav Military Unit in the U.S.S.R. stands an experienced and veteran officer of the Yugoslav army, Lieutenant-Colonel Marko Mesic.

16 February, 1944.

ON THE PURCHASE OF GOLD FROM COUNTRIES NOT CONSTITUTING PART OF THE UNITED NATIONS

From the People's Commissariat for Finance of the U.S.S.R.

On 5 January, 1943, the Government of the U.S.S.R. and the Governments of some other countries, members of the United Nations, simultaneously published a declaration in which they advised all interested parties, and in particular citizens of neutral countries, that they intended to do all in their power to put an end to the methods of expropriation practised by the Governments with which they were in a state of war, in respect of countries and people who have been subjected to attack and plunder without any justification.

Accordingly the Governments above-mentioned reserved the right to declare invalid any transfer or any transaction in respect of the property, rights and interests of any kind whatsoever, existing or which existed previously in the territories occupied or subjected to the control, direct or indirect, of the Governments with which they are in a state of war: and the property, present or past, of persons, including corporate persons, in such territories.

Taking into consideration that the policy of systematic robbery of every kind of property is also applied by the countries which are in a state of war with the U.S.S.R. in respect of gold which belonged to the Governments of the occupied countries, to their citizens and corporate persons; and that the declaration of the Government of the U.S.S.R. referred to above extends, as a consequence, also to every kind of transaction affecting gold; the People's Commissariat for Finance of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics declares that it will not permit the purchase of gold, at present situated outside the boundaries of the U.S.S.R., from any country not constituting part of the United Nations so long as the People's Commissariat for Finance of the U.S.S.R. is not convinced that this gold was not received, directly or indirectly, from countries in a state of war with the U.S.S.R., or that it is not gold which any country, not numbered among those in the United Nations, might market or may be marketing as a result of its acquisition by some means or other from countries in a state of war with the U.S.S.R.: and likewise that it is not gold procured directly or indirectly as a result of military operations.

Declarations on this question are also being published by the Governments of the United States of America and Great Britain.

23 February, 1944.

ON THE QUESTION OF SOVIET-FINNISH RELATIONS

Recently various rumours and fabrications have been spread in the foreign press about negotiations alleged to be in progress between the Soviet Union and Finland, concerning the cessation of hostilities against the U.S.S.R. by Finland, and Finland's withdrawal from the war. In reality, however, official negotiations between the Soviet Union and Finland have not yet begun, and it is only a question of preparations for such negotiations.

In the middle of February of this year a prominent Swedish industrialist approached the Soviet Minister in Stockholm, A. M. Kollontai, stating that Mr. Paasikivi, a representative of the Finnish Government, had arrived in Stockholm with instructions to ascertain conditions for Finland's withdrawal from the war. A. M. Kollontai was asked, moreover, whether the Soviet Government would agree to deal with the present Finnish Government, and whether she would agree to meet the representative of that Government, Mr. Paasikivi.

On the instructions of the Soviet Government, A. M. Kollontai stated that the Soviet Government had no grounds for feeling particular confidence in the present Finnish Government, but that if the Finns had no other possibilities, the Soviet Government in the interests of peace was agreeable to negotiate with the present Finnish Government concerning the cessation of hostilities.

During an unofficial meeting which took place at Mr. Paasikivi's request on 16 February, Mr. Paasikivi informed A. M. Kollontai that he was authorized by the Finnish Government to ascertain the Soviet Government's conditions for the cessation of hostilities by Finland and for Finland's withdrawal from the war.

At the next meeting A. M. Kollontai handed Mr. Paasikivi the reply of the Soviet Government, containing the following conditions for an armistice:

1. Rupture of relations with Germany and internment of German troops and ships in Finland: and should Finland consider this latter task beyond its strength, the Soviet Union is prepared to render her the necessary assistance with its own troops and air force.
2. Restoration of the Soviet-Finnish treaty of 1940 and withdrawal of the Finnish troops to the frontiers of 1940.
3. Immediate repatriation of Soviet and Allied war prisoners and also of Soviet and Allied civilians kept in concentration camps or employed by the Finns for various works.
4. The question of a partial or complete demobilization of the Finnish Army to be referred to subsequent negotiations in Moscow.
5. The question of compensation for the losses caused to the Soviet Union by military operations and by the occupation of Soviet territories to be referred to subsequent negotiations in Moscow.
6. The question of the Petsamo area to be referred to subsequent negotiations in Moscow.

Mr. Paasikivi was informed that if the Finnish Government agreed immediately to accept these conditions, the Soviet Government was ready to receive in Moscow representatives of Finland for negotiations as to the conclusion of a definite agreement.

Rumours which have been circulated in some organs of the foreign press to the effect that the Soviet Government had presented Finland with a demand

for unconditional surrender, and also that the Soviet Union had demanded that Finland should consent to the occupation by Soviet troops of the city of Helsinki and other large Finnish towns, are unfounded.

*Information Bureau of the People's
Commissariat for Foreign Affairs of
the U.S.S.R.*

1 March, 1944.

ARRIVAL OF A SOVIET MILITARY MISSION IN YUGOSLAVIA

A Soviet Military Mission, headed by Lieutenant-General Korneyev, arrived some days ago in Yugoslavia, and established contact with Marshal Tito, Commander-in-Chief of the People's Liberation Army of Yugoslavia. (TASS.)

6 March, 1944.

PRESENTATION BY M. L. TAEZAS, MINISTER OF ETHIOPIA, TO D. M. PIGALEV, CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE STALINGRAD CITY SOVIET OF WORKING PEOPLE'S DEPUTIES, OF A SHIELD OF HONOUR, THE GIFT OF THE EMPEROR OF ETHIOPIA, HAILE SELASSIE, TO THE CITY OF STALINGRAD

On 7 March, 1944, in Moscow, Monsieur L. Taezas, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Ethiopia, presented to D. M. Pigalev, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Stalingrad City Soviet of Working People's Deputies, a shield, the gift of the Emperor of Ethiopia, Haile Selassie, to the City of Stalingrad, in commemoration of the heroic struggle of the Red Army for Stalingrad.

Monsieur L. Taezas and D. M. Pigalev made speeches on this occasion.

There were present at the presentation: A. I. Lavrentiev, director of the Near Eastern Department of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., G. I. Fomin, acting director of the Protocol Department of the P.C.F.A. of the U.S.S.R., Major-General V. N. Yevstigneyev, chief of the Department of External Relations of the People's Commissariat for Defence of the U.S.S.R.; and likewise Monsieur T. Roro, First Secretary of the Ethiopian Mission, and Monsieur B. Tessema, Second Secretary.

7 March, 1944.

EXCHANGE OF REPRESENTATIVES BY THE U.S.S.R. AND ITALY

On 7 March, 1944, the Italian Government, through Marshal Badoglio, Chairman of the Council of Ministers, addressed a request to the Soviet Government for the establishment of direct relations between the Soviet and Italian Governments, and for an exchange of representatives by the two Governments.

On 11 March the Soviet Government informed Marshal Badoglio of its agreement to establish direct relations between the two Governments and to an exchange of representatives. (TASS.)

11 March, 1944.

DINNER GIVEN BY MARSHAL J. V. STALIN, CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE COMMITTEE OF DEFENCE, IN HONOUR OF THE COMMAND OF THE POLISH ARMY

In connection with the transformation of the Polish Army Corps into a Polish Army, Marshal J. V. Stalin, Chairman of the State Committee of Defence, gave a dinner in the Kremlin on 16 March in honour of the Command of the Polish Army on the territory of the U.S.S.R.

There were present at the dinner: Lieutenant-General Z. M. Berling, Commander-in-Chief of the Polish Army, Major-General K. K. Swierczewski, Major-General B. I. Poltorzycki, Major-General B. A. Keniewicz, Major-General V. M. Bewziuk, Major-General A. F. Siwicki, Colonel S. S. Galicki, Colonel L. A. Bukojemski, Colonel I. I. Mezican, Colonel A. S. Modzolewski, Colonel K. A. Babjan, Lieutenant-Colonel A. L. Zawadski, Lieutenant-Colonel I. G. Gawronski, Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Prawin, Major M. Z. Metkowski, Captain E. I. Ochab.

There were present at the dinner from the Union of Polish Patriots: A. V. Witos, B. R. Drobner, Academician J. O. Parnas, Professor L. B. Chwistek, S. K. Jedrychowski, J. Y. Sztachelski, S. O. Skrzyszewski, S. F. Radkiewicz, J. I. Berman, E. L. Sommerstein. W. L. Wassilewska, President of the Union of Polish Patriots, was unable to attend through ill health.

There were present on the Soviet side: V. M. Molotov, Marshal K. E. Voroshilov, A. I. Mikoyan, L. M. Kaganovitch, G. M. Malenkov, L. P. Beria, A. S. Shcherbakov, N. A. Voznesensky, Marshal of the Air Force A. E. Golovanov, Marshal of Tank Troops Y. N. Fedorenko, Army General A. V. Khrulev, Army General A. I. Antonov, Colonel-General F. I. Golikov, Colonel-General of the Air Force A. V. Nikitin, Commissar of State Security G. S. Zhukov.

The dinner was held in an atmosphere of Soviet-Polish friendship and comradeship.

16 March, 1944.

STATEMENT ON SOVIET-FINNISH RELATIONS

On 1 March, 1944, the Information Bureau of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs published the Soviet terms for an armistice presented by the Soviet Government to Finland. On 8 March the Soviet Mission in Stockholm received the reply of the Finnish Government. It followed from this reply that the Finnish Government found it difficult to accept the Soviet terms for an armistice without a preliminary discussion.

On 10 March the Soviet Government informed the Finnish Government that it considered the Finnish reply unsatisfactory. Moreover, the Soviet Government drew the attention of the Finnish Government to the fact that the Soviet armistice terms, comprising the six points handed to Mr. Paasikivi, were the minimum and elementary terms, and that only on condition of acceptance of these terms by the Finnish Government were Soviet-Finnish negotiations for the cessation of hostilities possible. The Soviet Government also stated that it would await a reply from the Finnish Government until 18 March.

On 17 March the Finnish Government gave a negative reply to the Soviet statement, thereby assuming full responsibility for the consequences.

*Information Bureau of the People's
Commissariat for Foreign Affairs of
the U.S.S.R.*

22 March, 1944.

**SOVIET-JAPANESE AGREEMENTS FOR THE LIQUIDATION OF
THE JAPANESE CONCESSIONS IN NORTHERN SAKHALIN, AND
FOR THE PROLONGATION OF THE FISHERIES CONVENTION
BETWEEN THE U.S.S.R. AND JAPAN, WITH AMENDMENTS MADE
IN THE CONVENTION**

As a result of negotiations which have proceeded in recent months between S. A. Lozovsky, Deputy People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R. on the one hand, and Mr. N. Sato, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan in the U.S.S.R. on the other hand, a "Protocol on the Transfer to the Soviet Union of Japanese Oil and Coal Concessions in Northern Sakhalin" was signed in Moscow on 30 March, 1944, and is published today. Below is also published an agreement "On the Procedure for the Transfer to the Soviet Government of the Property of the Japanese Oil and Coal Concessions in Northern Sakhalin", signed by the representatives of both sides on 10 March. In addition to the above-mentioned Protocol, there were signed on 30 March "Conditions for the Application of the Protocol". This document lays down the details of the fulfilment of the terms of the Protocol regarding the transfer to the Government of the U.S.S.R. of the rights and property of the Japanese concessions in Northern Sakhalin, fixes the dates for the evacuation to Japan of the workers and employees who are Japanese subjects and employed in the oil and coal concessions, etc.

In 1925 the Soviet Government granted to Japan oil and coal concessions in Northern Sakhalin. The Soviet-Japanese agreements on these concessions were concluded for a term of 45 years, and the period of their validity was to expire in 1970.

In the spring of 1941, during negotiations for the conclusion of the Soviet-Japanese Neutrality Pact, the Soviet Government raised with the Japanese Government the question of liquidating the above-mentioned Japanese concessions. At the time of the signature of the Neutrality Pact on 13 April, 1941, Mr. Matsuoka, at that time Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs, gave the Soviet Government a written undertaking to settle the question of liquidating the concessions in Northern Sakhalin within a few months. This undertaking was confirmed by Mr. Matsuoka on 31 May, 1941, in a new statement presented to the Soviet Government through Mr. Tatekawa, Japanese Ambassador at Moscow. In this the Japanese side undertook to settle the question of liquidating the concessions not later than six months after the day of the signature of the Neutrality Pact, on the conditions indicated in the Agreement. This undertaking was not fulfilled by the Japanese side. And it was only as a result of the negotiations which terminated on 30 March, 1944, that a Soviet-Japanese Agreement was signed for the liquidation of the Japanese concession in Northern Sakhalin, and for the transfer to the Soviet Union of all the property of these concessions on the conditions laid down in the Agreement. Thus as a result of the present Agreement, the Japanese concessions in Northern Sakhalin are being liquidated twenty-six years before the expiry of the validity of the concession agreements.

* * * * *

Simultaneously is published a Soviet-Japanese Protocol, signed on 30 March, for the prolongation for five years of the Fisheries Convention of 1928: together with Notes relating to the Protocol and introducing amendments in the conditions for Japanese fishing in the Far Eastern waters of the U.S.S.R.

The new Soviet-Japanese Agreement on the Fisheries Convention includes the following provisions:

(a) The withdrawal of 24 fishing areas which had been leased to Japanese fisheries, and had not been exploited by them during two consecutive years.

(b) The right of Soviet organizations to buy out annually the leases of 10 per cent. of the Japanese fishing areas coming up for auction.

(c) The raising by 6 per cent., as compared with 1943, of the rent and other payments in gold made by the Japanese fishery concessionaires.

In modification of the Fisheries Convention of 1928, under which the activity of Soviet fishery organizations and Soviet citizens was subjected to a number of substantial restrictions, the Soviet-Japanese Agreement of 30 March provides for the abolition of all these restrictions. By this Agreement all matters concerning the activity of Soviet fishery organizations and Soviet citizens are excluded from the Fisheries Convention, as falling exclusively within the competence of the Soviet State.

The present Soviet-Japanese Agreement likewise provides that, until the end of the present war, Japanese subjects and other foreigners are prohibited from fishing in certain maritime areas in the Far East, as laid down by the Soviet Government in July, 1941.

Furthermore, in keeping with the desires of the Government of the U.S.S.R., the Japanese Government has undertaken to guarantee that all fishing areas leased by Japanese subjects which are situated on the eastern coast of Kamchatka and in the Olyutorsk district shall not be exploited by their Japanese lease-holders until the end of the war in the Pacific.

* * * * *

On 30 March the Japanese Government informed the Government of the U.S.S.R. of its decision to close the Japanese Consulate-General in the town of Alexandrovsk, and the Japanese Vice-Consulate in the town of Okha in Northern Sakhalin.

On the same day the Soviet Government informed the Japanese Government of its decision to close the Soviet Consulates in the town of Hakodate and the town of Tsuruga in Japan.

30 March, 1944.

* * * * *

Protocol on the Transfer of Japanese Oil and Coal Concessions in Northern Sakhalin.

The Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Imperial Government of Japan, as a result of negotiations which have been conducted with a view to implementing the understanding reached between them in connection with the Neutrality Pact of 13 April, 1941, concerning the liquidation of Japanese oil and coal concessions in Northern Sakhalin, have agreed on the following:

Article One

The Government of Japan transfers to the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics all rights to Japanese oil and coal concessions in Northern Sakhalin, in accordance with the provisions of the present Protocol, and of the Conditions for the application of the Protocol, appended thereto.

Concession contracts between the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the one hand, and Japanese concessionaires on the other, concluded on 14 December, 1925, and likewise supplementary contracts and agreements concluded subsequently, are annulled by the present Protocol.

Article Two

Property of every kind (structures, equipment, materials, spare parts, provisions, etc.) in the possession of Japanese concessionaires in Northern Sakhalin is to be transferred in the condition in which it is at present to the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, in so far as not provided otherwise by the present Protocol and the conditions for the Application of the Protocol appended hereto.

Article Three

In connection with the provisions of the two preceding Articles, the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics agrees to pay to the Government of Japan the sum of five million (5,000,000) roubles in accordance with the provisions of the Conditions for the Application of the Protocol, appended to the present Protocol.

The Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics also agrees to supply annually to the Government of Japan fifty thousand (50,000) metric tons of oil extracted from the Okha oilfields, on the usual commercial conditions, in the course of five consecutive years, reckoning from the time of the termination of the present war.

Article Four

The Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics guarantees to the Government of Japan the unobstructed and duty-free removal from the concession territories of coal and oil in stores and belonging to Japanese concessionaires, in conformity with the provisions of the Conditions for the Application of the Protocol, appended to the present Protocol.

Article Five

The present Protocol comes into force on the day of its signature.

The present Protocol has been drawn up in the Russian and Japanese languages, both texts being equally authentic.

In witness whereof the undersigned, duly authorized by their respective Governments, have signed the present Protocol and affixed to it their seals.

Done in two copies in the City of Moscow on the 30th day of March, 1944, which corresponds to the 30th day of the third month of the 19th year of Showa.

S. A. LOZOVSKY,
*Plenipotentiary of the Union of Soviet
Socialist Republics, Deputy People's
Commissar for Foreign Affairs.*

NAOTAKE SATO,
*Plenipotentiary of Japan, Ambassador
Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of
Japan in the Union of Soviet Socialist
Republics.*

Procedure for the Transfer to the Soviet Government of the Property of the Japanese Oil and Coal Concessions in Northern Sakhalin.

In connection with the initialling on this date of the Protocol for the transfer of the Japanese oil and coal concessions in Northern Sakhalin, the Soviet and Japanese sides have agreed on the following:

The Government of Japan will take all necessary measures for Japanese oil and coal concessionaires to begin the transfer of all the property in their possession in Northern Sakhalin to the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics five days after the initialling of the Protocol on the transfer of the concessions, so as to complete this transfer before the signature of the Protocol referred to.

The act of Transfer to the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics of all the property of the Japanese oil and coal concessions in Northern Sakhalin will be signed by the representatives of both parties in Northern Sakhalin, upon information that the Protocol on the transfer of the concessions, and the Protocol on the prolongation for five years of the Fisheries Convention, have been signed in Moscow.

Moscow, 10 March, 1944.

S. A. LOZOVSKY,
*Deputy People's Commissar for Foreign
Affairs of the U.S.S.R.*

N. SATO,
Japanese Ambassador at Moscow.

Protocol for the Continued Validity, for a Period of Five Years, of the Fisheries Convention between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Japan

The Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Imperial Government of Japan, as a result of negotiations which have recently taken place between them on the subject of fisheries, have agreed on the following:

Article One

The Fisheries Convention between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Japan, and likewise all documents appended thereto, which were signed on 23 January, 1928, and the validity of which, after annual prolongation commencing in 1936, expired on 31 December, 1943, remain in force for five years as from 1 January, 1944, on terms laid down in the present Protocol.

Article Two

All matters relating to the fishing activities of fishery organizations and citizens of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics are excluded from regulation by provisions of the Fisheries Convention and the documents appended thereto, as being exclusively within the competence of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

In conformity with the preceding paragraph, all such provisions, contained in the Fisheries Convention and the documents appended thereto, as relate to the fishing activities of fishery organizations and citizens of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, are null and void and henceforth shall not be applied.

Article Three

The following amendments and additions are made to Article One of the Protocol (A) appended to the Fisheries Convention:

(a) The provisions of the last paragraph of Article One of the Protocol (A) are amended and replaced by the following provisions:

“In addition, fishing is to be forbidden to Japanese citizens, as well as to other foreigners, in the following bays:

1. Avachinsky Gulf—the area within the boundary formed by a line drawn from Cape Krutoi to Bechevinskaya Bay (inclusive).

2. De Castri Bay—the area within the boundary formed by a line drawn from Cape Yuzhny to Krestovaya Bay (inclusive).

3. Sovietskaya Gavan—the area within the boundary formed by a line drawn from a point at latitude $49^{\circ} 26'$ north, longitude $140^{\circ} 27'$ east, to the point at latitude $48^{\circ} 40'$ north, longitude $140^{\circ} 11'$ east.

4. St. Olga Bay and St. Vladimir Bay—the area within the boundary formed by a line from the mouth of the river Lafule to Cape Nakhvalny.

5. Peter the Great Bay (including Possiet Bay)—the area within the boundary formed by a line drawn from Opasny Island to the mouth of the river Tyumen—Ula.”

The bays figuring in Article One of Protocol (A) under the numbers 16, 27, 30 and 32 shall not be mentioned under these numbers henceforth, being included respectively in the above-mentioned five areas.

The exact boundaries of the above-mentioned five areas where fishing is prohibited are determined in Notes No. 2 attached to the present Protocol, which the plenipotentiaries of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Japan have exchanged simultaneously with the signature of the present Protocol:

(b) The list of bays enumerated in Article One of Protocol (A), which constitute the exception mentioned in Article One of the Fisheries Convention, is supplemented by the following two titles:

1. Ossor Bay.
2. The north-western part of Taii Bay.

Article Four

The lump sum of taxes and dues, provided for in Notes No. 1 exchanged on 23 January, 1928, and appended to the Fisheries Convention, is increased and established at thirty per cent. (30%) of the payment for the rent of the respective fishery areas.

Article Five

The rates of special payments (share payments) for the work of the canneries, provided under Section 6 of paragraph (B) of Protocol (C) appended to the Fisheries Convention, are increased and fixed as follows:

1. For cartilaginous fish—25 kopeks per case.
2. For Siberian salmon, kizhuch and chavycha—20 kopeks per case.
3. For humpback salmon—12 kopeks per case.
4. For crabs—50 kopeks per case.

Article Six

The present Protocol enters into force on the day of its signature.

The present Protocol has been drawn up in the Russian and Japanese languages, both texts being equally authentic.

In witness whereof the undersigned, duly authorized by their respective Governments, have signed the present Protocol and affixed to it their seals.

Done in two copies in the City of Moscow on the 30th day of March, 1944, which corresponds to the 30th day of the 3rd month of the 19th year of Showa.

S. A. LOZOVSKY,
*Plenipotentiary of the Union of Soviet
Socialist Republics, Deputy People's
Commissar for Foreign Affairs.*

NAOTAKE SATO,
*Plenipotentiary of Japan, Ambassador
Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of
Japan in the Union of Soviet Socialist
Republics.*

Note of the Plenipotentiary of the U.S.S.R. to the Plenipotentiary of Japan.

Moscow, 30 March, 1944.

MR. PLENIPOTENTIARY,

In connection with the signature on this date of the Protocol continuing the validity for a period of five years of the Fisheries Convention between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Japan, and of the documents appended thereto, signed on 23 January, 1928, I have the honour to inform you of the following.

1. The Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics agrees to renew on the former terms, unless otherwise provided in the Protocol and in the documents attached thereto, for a period of five years as from 1 January, 1944, the validity of the special contracts concluded on 3 November, 1928, for the exploitation by Japanese subjects of canneries and fishery areas attached to them, together with the documents and subsequent supplementary agreements relating to those contracts.

2. Twenty-four fishery areas listed below which were leased to Japanese subjects but were not exploited by them for two consecutive years, 1939 and 1940, irrespective of the date of expiry of their lease, are to be closed and will not be put on auction in future. The numbers of these fishery areas are:

41, 42, 269, 271, 273, 367, 497, 498, 543, 555, 556, 561, 638, 641, 1002, 1003, 1004, 1082, 1104, 1190, 1265, 1266, 1267, and 95 (crab fishing).

The contracts for the lease of those of the areas listed above the validity of which has not yet expired are to be considered null and void.

Fishery areas which at the end of 1943 were leased to Japanese subjects, with the exception of those areas listed in the preceding articles (1) and (2), will upon expiry of the period of their lease be put up for lease by auction for appropriate periods, as provided in the first section of Article Six of the Protocol (A), appended to the Fisheries Convention.

It is specified in this connection that the number of fishery areas which may be leased by fishery organizations and citizens of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, at the auctions referred to in the preceding paragraph and due to be held annually for five years beginning with 1944, will not exceed ten

per cent. (10%) of the total number of areas put up for auction in the respective year, and that the fishery organizations and citizens of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics have no intention of leasing by auction those fishery areas in which canneries exist.

I take this opportunity to renew, Mr. Plenipotentiary, my assurances of my highest esteem.

S. A. LOZOVSKY,
*Plenipotentiary of the Union of Soviet
Socialist Republics, Deputy People's
Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the
U.S.S.R.*

In a Note of reply the Plenipotentiary of Japan confirmed receipt of the Note of the Plenipotentiary of the U.S.S.R. and stated that he took note of the above communication.

Note of the Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Plenipotentiary of the U.S.S.R.

Moscow, 30 March, 1944.

MR. PLENIPOTENTIARY,

On behalf of my Government I have the honour to inform you of the following:

1. Complying with the wish of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Government of Japan agrees to guarantee that all fishery areas leased by Japanese subjects and situated on the eastern coast of Kamchatka and in the Olyutorsk district shall not be exploited by the leaseholders before the termination of the war in the Pacific.

2. It is understood in this connection that the fact that Japanese subjects refrain from exploiting the above-mentioned fishery areas will not serve as grounds for breaking the contracts for the exploitation of any fishery areas and canneries situated in the said districts.

I take this opportunity of renewing, Mr. Plenipotentiary, the assurances of my highest esteem.

NAOTAKE SATO,
*Plenipotentiary of Japan, Ambassador
Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of
Japan in the U.S.S.R.*

In his Note of reply the Plenipotentiary of the U.S.S.R. confirmed receipt of the Note of the Plenipotentiary of Japan, and stated that he was taking note of the above communication.

STATEMENT BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE ENTRY OF RED ARMY UNITS INTO RUMANIAN TERRITORY

On the evening of 2 April, 1944, V. M. Molotov, People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., received representatives of the Soviet and foreign press and made the following statement on behalf of the Soviet Government:

"As the result of its successful advance, the Red Army has reached the River Pruth, which is the State frontier between the U.S.S.R. and Rumania.

This begins the complete restoration of the Soviet State frontier established by treaty between the Soviet Union and Rumania in 1940, and treacherously violated in 1941 by the Rumanian Government in alliance with Hitlerite Germany. At the present time the Red Army is carrying out the clearing of Soviet territory of all enemy troops, and the time is not far distant when the entire Soviet frontier with Rumania will be completely restored.

The Soviet Government gives notice that the advancing units of the Red Army, pursuing the German armies and the Rumanian forces allied with them, have crossed the River Pruth in several sectors and have entered Rumanian territory. The Supreme Command of the Red Army has given the order to the advancing Soviet troops to pursue the enemy until he is routed and has capitulated.

At the same time, the Soviet Government states that it is not pursuing the aim of acquiring any part of Rumanian territory, or of changing the existing social order of Rumania, and that the entry of Soviet troops into Rumania is dictated exclusively by military necessity and by the continuing resistance of the enemy troops."

2 April, 1944.

ARRIVAL OF A MILITARY MISSION OF THE NATIONAL LIBERATION COMMITTEE OF YUGOSLAVIA

On 12 April, 1944, there arrived in Moscow a Military Mission of the National Liberation Committee of Yugoslavia headed by Lieutenant-General Velemir Terzic. The Mission was met at the aerodrome by Major-General N. V. Slavin, representing the General Staff of the Red Army, Major-General V. N. Yevstigneyev, chief of the Department of External Relations of the People's Commissariat for Defence, M. A. Yasnov, Deputy Chairman of the Moscow Soviet, Colonel N. V. Grebenshikov, deputy commandant of the City of Moscow, Lieutenant-General A. S. Gundorov, chairman of the All-Slav Committee, B. Maslaric, V. Vlahovic (Yugoslav public men), Mr. S. Simic, Colonel M. Lozic, Lieutenant-Colonel M. Mesic, Commander of the Yugoslav Military Unit in the U.S.S.R., and others.

12 April, 1944.

EXCHANGE OF REPRESENTATIVES BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE U.S.S.R. AND THE GOVERNMENT OF ITALY

The Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics has appointed, as its representative to the Government of Italy, M. A. Kostylev, who up to this appointment has served as expert attached to the Soviet representative in the Advisory Council on Italy. M. A. Kostylev has already taken up his new appointment.

On its side the Government of Italy has appointed M. Pietro Quaroni (who has previously served as Minister at Kabul) as its representative to the Government of the U.S.S.R. He will leave for Moscow in the immediate future.

12 April, 1944.

ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND NEW ZEALAND

As a result of negotiations between Mr. W. J. Jordan, High Commissioner for New Zealand in Great Britain, and F. T. Gusev, Ambassador of the U.S.S.R. in Great Britain, yesterday, 13 April, 1944, there took place an exchange of Notes concerning the establishment of diplomatic relations and an exchange of Ministers between the Governments of the U.S.S.R. and New Zealand.

14 April, 1944.

THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN ITALY

On 16 April, 1944, at a press conference with Soviet and foreign journalists held at the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., A. Y. Vyshinsky, Deputy People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., made the following statement in connection with enquiries received regarding the political situation in Italy:

At the present time Italy, where the Allies have a large bridgehead for the struggle against Hitlerite Germany, is of great importance in hastening the defeat of Germany. Seven months have already passed since the armistice was concluded with the Badoglio Government. This is a sufficiently long time for the unification of the democratic and anti-Fascist forces of liberated Italy to have taken place, for the purpose of their active participation in the war efforts of the Allies against the armed forces of Hitler and the Fascist gang of Mussolini. However, instead of such unification of the democratic and anti-Fascist forces, an internal struggle still continues in Italy, between the Government of Badoglio, which is supported by certain groups of the population who express their readiness to take part in the common struggle of the democratic countries against the German-Fascist oppressors, and the Permanent Executive Giunta, which has on its side a fairly broad association of democratic elements who express their eagerness for active operations jointly with the Allies against Hitlerite Germany.

Such a state of affairs benefits only the enemies of the Allies. The elimination of this state of affairs, the promoting of the unity of the democratic and anti-Fascist forces and the formation in Italy, without further delay, of a Government capable of uniting these forces in the interests of the common struggle of the Allies against Germany and in order to hasten the defeat of the latter, are urgently necessary.

Arising out of the foregoing, the Soviet Government, supporting the efforts for the most speedy elimination of dissensions in the camp of the political groups prepared to take part in the struggle of the Allies to hasten the defeat of Germany, has addressed a proposal to the Governments of the U.S.A. and Great Britain jointly to examine the question of measures for unifying all the democratic and anti-Fascist forces of liberated Italy, on the basis of a corresponding improvement in the composition of the Badoglio Government by introducing into it representatives of the anti-Fascist parties. As is known, the Moscow Conference, which laid a firm basis for joint action of the Allies in respect of Italy as well, plainly pointed out that "it is essential that the Italian Government should be made more democratic, by the introduction of representatives of those sections of the Italian people who have always opposed Fascism".

An exchange of opinions between the U.S.S.R., the U.S.A. and Great

Britain, which has taken place recently, has led to the question being raised for consideration at the Advisory Council on Italy. The Advisory Council in a resolution adopted some days ago stated that it would welcome a satisfactory settlement of the problem of the Government and the immediate formation by Marshal Badoglio of a Government on a broad basis, representing all parties. The Advisory Council also recognized that it was necessary for the new Government formally to declare its desire to assume all the obligations in respect of the Allies subscribed to by the Badoglio Government, and that any solution of the constitutional question which might now be adopted should be considered as stable until the Italian people can freely express its opinion.

This decision of the Advisory Council, now expressing the common viewpoint of the Allies, is a response to the above-mentioned proposal made by the Soviet Government, and undoubtedly represents a step forward in the solution of the question of the political situation in Italy.

AUCTION OF LEASES OF FISHERY AREAS AT VLADIVOSTOK

On 20 April, 1944, there took place at Vladivostok an auction for the fishery areas for which the leases expired on 31 December, 1943. In accordance with the Soviet-Japanese Agreement of 30 March, 1944, the Soviet "Far Eastern Fisheries" Organization and the "All Union Co-operative Fishermen's Association" took up 10 % of the areas put up for auction. All the other areas were leased by the Japanese firm of Nichiro and the Japanese fishery concessionaires, Sano Sokedzi and Oginuno Sootaro. (TASS.)

SOVIET-FINNISH RELATIONS

On 22 April, 1944, at a press conference held at the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R. for representatives of the Soviet and foreign press, A. Y. Vyshinsky, Deputy People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs, made the following statement:

As is already known from previously published reports of the Information Bureau of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., in mid-February this year the Finnish Government approached the Soviet Government with a proposal to begin negotiations for the termination of hostilities by Finland and for Finland's withdrawal from the war. To this proposal the Soviet Government replied that it had no grounds for feeling particular confidence in the present Finnish Government, but if the Finns had no other possibilities, the Soviet Government in the interests of peace agreed to negotiate with the present Finnish Government for the cessation of hostilities.

The Soviet armistice terms, set out in the well-known six points, were published on 1 March. When the Soviet terms were being transmitted to the Finnish Government, the latter was informed that, if the Finnish Government agreed to accept these terms, the Soviet Government was prepared to receive representatives of Finland in Moscow to negotiate the conclusion of a definite agreement.

In its reply on the subject of the Soviet terms for an armistice, which was handed to the Soviet Mission at Stockholm on 8 March, the Finnish Government stated:

"The Finnish Government, which seriously strives to re-establish peaceful relations between Finland and the U.S.S.R. in the shortest possible time, has closely studied the armistice terms presented by the Soviet Union to Finland.

The Finnish Government realizes that for Finland to be able to remain neutral after the conclusion of an armistice it is necessary that there should be no foreign troops belonging to a belligerent on its territory. However, this problem is so complex that it requires more detailed discussion. The Finnish Government, therefore, wishes to propose the commencement of negotiations, so that the Finns may have an opportunity of explaining their viewpoint on this question and on other questions, arising out of the armistice terms proposed by the Soviet Government."

The Soviet Government found this reply unsatisfactory. This was communicated to the Finnish Government, and the attention of the latter was drawn to the fact that the Soviet armistice terms, in the shape of the six points presented by Mr. Paasikivi, were the minimum and elementary terms, and that only if they were accepted by the Finnish Government were Soviet-Finnish negotiations for the cessation of hostilities possible. Informing the Finnish Government of this, the Soviet Government stated that it would await a positive reply for one week, after which the Soviet Government would consider that the Finns were deliberately protracting the negotiations for some incomprehensible purpose, and were rejecting the Soviet terms.

On 17 March the Finnish Government presented its reply to the Soviet Government, stating:

"The Government of Finland, which as before seriously strives for the restoration of peaceful relations and wishes to begin negotiations, cannot however declare beforehand its acceptance of the terms referred to, which affect the existence of the entire nation, without even being absolutely certain of the interpretation of these terms and of their significance."

In spite of the fact that in substance this Finnish reply was negative, the Soviet Government deemed it possible to communicate the following to the Finnish Government:

(1) The Soviet Government does not object to the Finnish Government sending one or several of its representatives to receive from the Soviet Government the interpretation of the Soviet armistice terms.

(2) The Soviet Government considers that Moscow would be the most appropriate place for the representatives of the Finnish Government to receive the fullest interpretation.

On 26 March there arrived in Moscow a delegation of the Finnish Government consisting of Messrs. Paasikivi and C. Enckell. On 27 and 29 March meetings took place between the Finnish delegation and the representatives of the Soviet Government, V. M. Molotov and V. G. Dekanozov.

As a result of an exchange of opinion between the Soviet and Finnish representatives, the Finnish delegation had presented to it the following Soviet proposals for peace with Finland:

(1) Severance of relations with Germany and internment of German troops and ships in Finland; or alternatively the severance of relations with Germany and the expulsion of German troops and ships from Finland not later than the end of April.

In both cases the Soviet Government can render assistance to Finland with its armed forces.

(2) The restoration of the Soviet-Finnish Treaty of 1940, and the withdrawal of the Finnish forces to the 1940 frontier, to be effected in stages in the course of April.

(3) Immediate repatriation of Soviet and Allied war prisoners, and likewise Soviet and Allied civilians kept in concentration camps or used by the Finns for works; while if the U.S.S.R. and Finland sign a Peace Treaty instead of an armistice agreement, the repatriation of war prisoners is to be reciprocal.

(4) Demobilization of fifty per cent of the Finnish Army, to be effected during the month of May, and the reduction of the entire Finnish Army to a peace footing during June and July. (This clause to form part of the Treaty, or alternatively to be embodied in a separate Soviet-Finnish Agreement, for signature simultaneously with the Peace or Armistice Treaty.)

(5) Compensation for the losses caused by Finland to the Soviet Union by military operations and by the occupation of Soviet territory, to the value of six hundred million American dollars, payable in goods over five years (paper, cellulose, maritime and river vessels and machinery of various kinds).

(6) Restoration to the Soviet Union of Petsamo and the Petsamo region, voluntarily ceded by the Soviet Union to Finland under the peace treaties of 1920 and 1940.

(7) On condition of the acceptance by the Finnish side of the six conditions set forth above, the Soviet Government deems it possible to renounce its rights to the lease of Hangö and the Hangö district in favour of Finland, without any compensation.

As can be seen from the above text, these proposals gave concrete shape to the points in the Soviet terms concerning demobilization of the Finnish Army, compensation for the damage caused by Finland to the Soviet Union by military operations and by the occupation of Soviet territory, and Petsamo. In addition a new point was introduced on the abandonment of Hangö and the Hangö district in favour of Finland.

As regards the Finnish delegation, it did not propose any amendments to the Soviet armistice terms, and did not make any proposals of its own for armistice terms.

On 19 April, i.e. three weeks after the above Soviet armistice terms had been presented to the Finns, the Finnish Government communicated its reply to these terms through the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This reply ran as follows:

“The Finnish Government has received the proposals of the Government of the U.S.S.R. concerning peace with Finland, which were presented on 29 March in a more precise form to Messrs. Paasikivi and Enckell, representatives of the Finnish Government. These proposals were the subject of examination and study by the Finnish Government, and were submitted to the Diet for discussion.

In the course of this discussion it was considered that the acceptance of these proposals, which are partly incapable of realization even for technical reasons, would to a considerable extent weaken and infringe conditions in which Finland could continue to exist as an independent State, and would impose on the Finnish people burdens which, according to unanimous and competent testimony, considerably exceed its strength.

In consequence of this, the Finnish Government, which seriously strives for the re-establishment of good and stable peaceful relations with its great

neighbour in the East, regrets that the proposals which it recently received, and which have been carefully studied, offer no possibility for realizing this desire."

To this statement of the Finnish Government, the Soviet Government sent the following reply on 22 April:

"The Soviet Government received on 19 April the reply of the Government of Finland to the Soviet armistice terms presented in Moscow to the Finnish delegation consisting of Messrs. Paasikivi and Enkel.

The Soviet Government takes note that the Government of Finland in its reply has rejected the Soviet armistice terms as a basis for negotiations, and has discontinued negotiations for an armistice."

The statement of the Finnish Government that the Soviet proposals are allegedly incapable in part of realization for technical reasons is entirely unfounded. The Finnish delegation in Moscow did not even raise any such question.

The attempt of the Finnish Government to evade responsibility for compensating the damage caused by Finland to the Soviet Union by military operations and by the occupation of Soviet territory can in no way be justified.

As a result of its attack on the Soviet Union and the occupation of the latter's territory, Finland has caused immense losses and damage to our country, which it is bound by all the principles of justice to make good.

To write off this debt in Finland's favour would mean paying a premium to an aggressor for acts of aggression, plunder and destruction.

The Finnish Government's assertion that the Soviet proposals would impose burdens on the Finnish people exceeding its strength has no foundation, since this question has not yet come under discussion, and the Finnish delegation in Moscow did not assert that it considered the question of compensation for damage as a principal problem in the re-establishment of peace.

In the course of negotiations with the Finnish delegation in Moscow it transpired that the principal question for the Finnish Government is the demand of the Soviet Government that the German troops in Finland should be interned or expelled.

The Finnish Government asserts that the acceptance of the Soviet proposals allegedly endangers the continued existence of Finland as an independent State. This, of course, is untrue. Finland today has no State independence. She lost it from the moment when she admitted German troops to her territory. What is at stake at present is the restoration of Finland's lost independence, by means of the expulsion of the German forces from Finland and the cessation of hostilities. It is known that as a result of the Finnish Government's admission of German troops into its territory for a combined attack on the Soviet Union, the entire northern half of Finland fell into the hands of the Germans, who are the true masters there and have transformed Finland into a semi-occupied country. But in the southern part of Finland also the Finnish Government is not in possession of authority in full measure. In substance the Finnish Government, having voluntarily yielded power to the Germans in Northern Finland, has ceased to be master in its own house.

The Finnish Government has gone to such lengths in its relations with the German Fascists that it no longer can, and moreover does not wish, to break with them. It has placed its country at the service of the interests of Hitlerite Germany. Precisely for this reason the most difficult question for the Finnish Government has proved to be the demand for the internment or expulsion of

the German forces from Finland and for the severance of relations with Germany.

The present Finnish Government does not wish to expel the German troops from Finland. It does not desire the re-establishment of peaceful relations. It prefers to leave its country in vassal subjection to Hitlerite Germany.

After this statement A. Y. Vyshinsky answered numerous questions put by representatives of the Soviet and foreign press.

VISIT TO J. V. STALIN OF THE REV. STANISLAW ORLEMANSKI

Yesterday, 28 April, 1944, J. V. Stalin, Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the U.S.S.R., received the Rev. Stanislaw Orlemanski, who has arrived from Springfield, Mass., to study the situation of the Poles and the Polish Army in the U.S.S.R.

V. M. Molotov was present at the conversation.

SOVIET-CZECHOSLOVAK AGREEMENT REGARDING THE POSSIBLE ENTRY OF SOVIET TROOPS INTO CZECHOSLOVAK TERRITORY

Yesterday, 30 April, 1944, at a press conference for representatives of the Soviet and foreign press held at the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., A. Y. Vyshinsky, Deputy People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs, made the following statement:

Recently, on the initiative of the Czechoslovak Government, negotiations have taken place between the Soviet Government and the Czechoslovak Government for the conclusion of an Agreement between the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia regarding the possible entry of Allied troops into the territory of Czechoslovakia.

As a result of these negotiations the two Governments have come to an understanding as to the conclusion of the Agreement above-mentioned, the draft of which was proposed by the Czechoslovak Government and was fully approved by the Soviet Government.

The text of this Agreement is as follows:

Agreement concerning Relations between the Soviet Commander-in-Chief and the Czechoslovak Administration after the entry of Soviet troops into Czechoslovak Territory.

The Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Government of the Czechoslovak Republic, desiring that relations between the Soviet Commander-in-Chief and the Czechoslovak Administration in the territory of the Czechoslovak Republic after entry of Soviet troops into the territory of Czechoslovakia should be settled in the spirit of friendship and alliance existing between the two countries, have agreed on the following:

1. After entry as a result of military operations of Soviet (Allied) troops into the territory of Czechoslovakia, the supreme authority and responsibility in all matters relating to the conduct of the war shall in the zone of military

operations be in the hands of the Commander-in-Chief of the Soviet (Allied) troops for the period necessary to carry out these operations.

2. A delegate of the Czechoslovak Government shall be appointed for the liberated territory, whose duty shall be:

(a) to set up and direct, in accordance with Czechoslovak law, the administration in territory cleared of the enemy;

(b) to re-establish Czechoslovak military forces;

(c) to ensure the active assistance of the Czechoslovak Administration to the Soviet (Allied) Commander-in-Chief, i.e. to give the local authorities appropriate instructions, arising out of the requirements and wishes of the Soviet (Allied) Commander-in-Chief.

3. Czechoslovak military units forming part of the Soviet (Allied) Armies at the moment of their entry into Czechoslovak territory shall be immediately used in Czechoslovak territory.

4. To ensure contact between the Soviet (Allied) Commander-in-Chief and the Czechoslovak Government Delegate, a Czechoslovak Military Mission shall be appointed to the Soviet (Allied) Commander-in-Chief.

5. In zones under the supreme authority of the Soviet (Allied) Commander-in-Chief, the Czechoslovak Government bodies in liberated territory shall maintain contact with the Soviet (Allied) Commander-in-Chief through the Czechoslovak Government Delegate.

6. As soon as any part of liberated territory ceases to be a zone of direct military operations, the Czechoslovak Government shall take over complete authority in the management of public affairs, and shall render to the Soviet (Allied) Commander-in-Chief every assistance and aid through its civil and military institutions.

7. All personnel of the Soviet (Allied) forces in the territory of Czechoslovakia shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the Soviet (Allied) Commander-in-Chief. All personnel of the Czechoslovak armed forces shall be subject to Czechoslovak jurisdiction. The civil population in Czechoslovak territory shall likewise be subject to the latter jurisdiction, even in cases concerning crimes committed against the Soviet (Allied) troops; except for crimes committed in the zone of military operations, which shall be under the jurisdiction of the Soviet (Allied) Commander-in-Chief. In disputed cases the question shall be settled by mutual agreement between the Soviet (Allied) Commander-in-Chief and the Czechoslovak Government Delegate.

8. As regards financial questions pertaining to the entry of Soviet (Allied) troops into Czechoslovak territory, a special agreement shall be concluded.

9. The present agreement becomes effective immediately upon its signature. The agreement has been drawn up in two copies, each in the Russian and the Czechoslovak languages. Both texts are equally authentic.

* * * * *

As is evident from the text, this new Agreement between the U.S.S.R. and Czechoslovakia is in full conformity with the Treaty of Friendship, Mutual Assistance and Post-War Collaboration concluded by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Czechoslovak Republic on 12 December, 1943. The Agreement is based on strict observance of the principles proclaimed in the above Treaty, clause 4 of which, as is known, states that "the High Contracting Parties, taking into account the interests of the security of each of them, agree to close and friendly collaboration in the period after the re-establishment of peace, and to act in conformity with the principles of mutual respect for their independence and sovereignty as well as of non-intervention in the internal affairs of the other State".

The Soviet Union never recognized the decisions adopted at Munich in 1938, which struck a blow at the sovereign rights of Czechoslovakia and violated her State independence. As is known, the Soviet Government on 2 and 4 October, 1938, declared that it had nothing whatever in common with the conference at Munich and its decisions. When in March, 1939, Hitler and his underlings proclaimed Czechoslovakia to be their "living space", "the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia", transforming the Czechoslovak Republic into the Czech Region, and flooding it with German-Fascist soldiery, the Soviet Government refused to recognize this bandit-act. In its Note of 18 March, 1939, the Soviet Government declared that the incorporation of "Czechia" and Slovakia in the German Empire was in contradiction to universally recognized standards of international law and justice and to the principle of the self-determination of peoples. The Soviet Government exposed the bandit acts of the Hitlerite gang of robbers and its accomplices Hacha and Chvalkovski, who signed the Berlin agreement with Hitler on 15 March, 1939, and delivered Czechoslovakia into the hands of her executioners.

The new Soviet-Czechoslovak Agreement, based on the principle of respect for the independence and sovereignty of the Czechoslovak Republic, in its first clause grants to the Commander-in-Chief of the Soviet (Allied) troops authority and responsibility in Czechoslovak territory only within the limits of the zone of military operations, and only in affairs relating to the conduct of the war.

In accordance with this, Article Six of the Agreement stipulates expressly that the Czechoslovak Government shall fully exercise its supreme authority—or, as the text of the Agreement states, "shall take over complete authority in the management of public affairs", rendering the Commander-in-Chief every assistance through its civil and military institutions.

Article Two of the Agreement provides for the appointment of a Czechoslovak Government delegate for the liberated territory of Czechoslovakia, with powers specified in this article, who shall act in conformity with Czechoslovak laws.

Under the Fourth and Fifth Articles of the Agreement a Czechoslovak military mission will be appointed to the Soviet (Allied) Commander-in-Chief, to ensure the contact of the Commander-in-Chief both with the Czechoslovak Government delegate and with all Czechoslovak Government bodies in liberated territory.

Article Seven of the Agreement deals with the question of the jurisdiction of the Soviet Commander-in-Chief and the Czechoslovak Government during the presence of Soviet troops in Czechoslovak territory. The jurisdiction of the Soviet Commander-in-Chief does not extend to persons belonging to the Czechoslovak armed forces, who will be under the jurisdiction of the Czechoslovak Government. Under the same jurisdiction of the Czechoslovak Government will also be members of the civil population, even in cases when they have committed crimes against the Soviet (Allied) troops. The only exception is for crimes committed within the zone of military operations, which are subject to the jurisdiction of the Soviet Commander-in-Chief.

The Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia are linked by a traditional friendship which brought about the Mutual Assistance Treaty of 16 May, 1935, the Treaty for Joint Struggle against Germany of 18 July, 1941, and the Treaty of Friendship of 12 December, 1943, which laid a firm foundation for the post-war collaboration of the Soviet and Czechoslovak peoples. These Treaties are landmarks on the great highway of development and flowering of friendly relations between the U.S.S.R. and Czechoslovakia. Such a landmark also is the new Agreement between the U.S.S.R. and Czechoslovakia, with the draft of which you were able to acquaint yourselves at today's press conference.

After making this statement, A. Y. Vyshinsky replied to numerous questions put by representatives of the Soviet and foreign press.

To the question whether the American and British Governments were informed of these negotiations, A. Y. Vyshinsky replied that the Soviet Government had, by way of consultation, conveyed the draft Soviet-Czechoslovak Agreement to the British and American Governments. The American Government had stated that it had no objection to the proposed draft. As for the British Government, no official reply had yet been received from it.

To a question of the correspondent of the London *Times*, whether it was known that the Czechoslovak delegation which was to leave London for the U.S.S.R. had been held up by the new British regulations prohibiting departures from Great Britain, Vyshinsky replied that the arrival of the Czechoslovak delegation in the U.S.S.R. was not connected with the negotiations for the conclusion of the present Soviet-Czechoslovak Agreement.

A question was then put, whether the conclusion could be drawn from the fact that the Czechoslovak draft made mention of "the Allied Commander-in-Chief" and "Allied troops", that a similar draft was presented to other Allied Powers, as a scheme for regulating relations with them as well.

Vyshinsky replied: "Quite possible."

A representative of *Red Star* asked what were the objects for which a Military Mission of the People's Liberation Army of Yugoslavia had arrived in Moscow.

Vyshinsky replied that the objects of this Mission were similar to the objects of the Soviet Military Mission which was at the present time accredited to Marshal Tito.

At the conclusion of the press conference the correspondent of *Life* and *Time*, referring to the statement by Vyshinsky at a press conference on Soviet-Finnish relations, asked whether the fact that the sum of 600 million American dollars claimed by the Soviet Government from the Finns, amounting approximately to one-half of the damage caused by Finland to the Soviet Union, might be regarded as a certain principle and precedent for other enemy countries. Vyshinsky replied that this question was of an abstract nature, and that in replying to questions of this kind one must proceed from particular and concrete circumstances. In view of this there could not be any question of a precedent. The question of the degree of compensation for the material damage caused to the Soviet Union by this or that enemy country must be determined in keeping with the concrete circumstances in relation to each individual country.

SIGNATURE OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC ON RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SOVIET COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF AND THE CZECHOSLOVAK ADMINISTRATION AFTER THE ENTRY OF SOVIET TROOPS INTO CZECHOSLOVAK TERRITORY

On 8 May, 1944, there was signed in London an Agreement on relations between the Soviet Commander-in-Chief and the Czechoslovak Administration after the entry of Soviet troops into the territory of Czechoslovakia.

The Agreement was signed, upon the authorization of the Government of the U.S.S.R., by V. Z. Lebedev, Ambassador of the U.S.S.R. to the Government of the Czechoslovak Republic, and upon the authorization of the Government of the Czechoslovak Republic, by Mr. H. Ripka, Minister of State and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Czechoslovak Republic.

The text of the Agreement follows:

Agreement on Relations between the Soviet Commander-in-Chief and the Czechoslovak Administration after the entry of Soviet Troops into the territory of Czechoslovakia.

The Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Government of the Czechoslovak Republic, desiring that relations between the Soviet Commander-in-Chief and the Czechoslovak Administration in the territory of the Czechoslovak Republic after the entry of Soviet troops into the territory of Czechoslovakia should be settled in the spirit of friendship and alliance existing between the two countries, have agreed on the following:

1. After entry as a result of military operations of Soviet (Allied) troops into the territory of Czechoslovakia, the supreme authority and responsibility in all matters relating to the conduct of the war shall in the zone of military operations be in the hands of the Commander-in-Chief of the Soviet (Allied) troops for the period necessary to carry out these operations.
2. A Delegate of the Czechoslovak Government shall be appointed for the liberated territory, whose duty shall be:
 - (a) to set up and direct, in accordance with Czechoslovak law, the administration in territory cleared of the enemy.
 - (b) to re-establish Czechoslovak military forces.
 - (c) to ensure the active assistance of the Czechoslovak administration to the Soviet (Allied) Commander-in-Chief, i.e. to give the local authorities appropriate instructions, arising out of the requirements and wishes of the Soviet (Allied) Commander-in-Chief.
3. Czechoslovak military units forming part of the Soviet (Allied) armies at the moment of their entry into Czechoslovak territory shall be immediately used in Czechoslovak territory.
4. To ensure contact between the Soviet (Allied) Commander-in-Chief and the Czechoslovak Government Delegate, a Czechoslovak Military Mission shall be appointed to the Soviet (Allied) Commander-in-Chief.
5. In zones under the supreme authority of the Soviet (Allied) Commander-in-Chief, the Czechoslovak Government bodies in liberated territory shall maintain contact with the Soviet (Allied) Commander-in-Chief through the Czechoslovak Government Delegate.
6. As soon as any part of liberated territory ceases to be a zone of direct military operations, the Czechoslovak Government shall take over complete authority in the management of public affairs, and shall render to the Soviet (Allied) Commander-in-Chief every assistance and aid through its civil and military institutions.
7. All personnel of the Soviet (Allied) forces in the territory of Czechoslovakia shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the Soviet (Allied) Commander-in-Chief. All personnel of the Czechoslovak armed forces shall be subject to Czechoslovak jurisdiction. The civil population in Czechoslovak territory shall likewise be subject to the latter jurisdiction, even in cases concerning crimes committed against the Soviet (Allied) troops, except for crimes committed in the zone of military operations, which shall be under the jurisdiction of the Soviet (Allied) Commander-in-Chief. In disputed cases the question shall be settled by mutual agreement between the Soviet (Allied) Commander-in-Chief and the Czechoslovak Government Delegate.
8. As regards financial questions pertaining to the entry of Soviet (Allied) troops into Czechoslovak territory a special agreement shall be reached.
9. The present Agreement becomes effective immediately upon its sig-

nature. The Agreement has been drawn up in two copies, each in the Russian and the Czechoslovak languages. Both texts are equally authentic.

By authorization of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics,

V. LEBEDEV,
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the Government of the Czechoslovak Republic.

London. 8 May, 1944.

By authorization of the Government of the Czechoslovak Republic,
H. RIPKA,

Minister of State, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Czechoslovak Republic.

VISIT TO V. M. MOLOTOV OF SR. E. FRUGONI, URUGUAYAN MINISTER

On 9 May, 1944, V. M. Molotov, People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., received Sr. E. Frugoni, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Uruguay in the U.S.S.R., in connection with the latter's forthcoming presentation of his credentials to the President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.

PRESENTATION OF BRITISH ORDERS AND MEDALS TO SOLDIERS, SERGEANTS, OFFICERS AND GENERALS OF THE RED ARMY AND TO SEAMEN OF THE SOVIET MERCANTILE MARINE

On 10 May, 1944, an investiture ceremony was held at the British Embassy in Moscow, at which Orders and Medals conferred in 1943 by King George VI upon Red Army soldiers, sergeants, officers and generals, and likewise seamen of the Soviet Mercantile Marine, were presented to the recipients. The Soviet generals, officers, soldiers and likewise seamen have been decorated with British Orders and Medals for gallantry and courage displayed in the execution of assignments at the Soviet-German front of the struggle against Hitlerite Germany, the common enemy of the Soviet Union and Great Britain. In view of the fact that those decorated, being engaged in discharging their military obligations, could not attend personally to receive the awards, Sir Archibald Clark Kerr, British Ambassador in the U.S.S.R., handed over the Orders and Medals to V. M. Molotov, People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs, for subsequent presentation to the recipients.

Sir Archibald Clark Kerr and V. M. Molotov made the following speeches on the occasion of the presentation of the Orders and Medals.

Speech of Sir Archibald Clark Kerr

"Mr. Molotov, you have done me an honour by coming here today and by bringing with you so distinguished a group of representatives of the Soviet Government and of the Red Army and Red Fleet. For that I should like to thank you.

A year or so ago you allowed a similar ceremony to take place in your room at the Kremlin. That day it was high summer, and the sun was streaming in at your windows. Today the sun has hidden itself, but we need not let its caprices dispirit us.

Today it is to be my pleasant duty to deliver to you, by command of the King, my august Sovereign, a number of decorations which His Majesty has conferred upon officers and men of the Red fighting forces. A glance at the names shows that they range from a marshal, the Chief of the Soviet General Staff, to a simple soldier, from admirals to a gallant Russian woman who upheld the best traditions of her race in particularly harsh circumstances. A wide and comprehensive list, and to me a very pleasing one.

In themselves these decorations are but small things when measured against the services rendered by their recipients, but it is not as such that you in this country and we in mine should judge them, for we all know what they stand for, and that their value, which is high, lies in what they symbolize. They are, indeed, symbols of the recognition of outstanding services, of acts of uncommon gallantry performed on this front on land and sea, which have won your admiration and ours alike. In the present case they are, too, a mark of the military solidarity over three long years of two great peoples: of a close brotherhood in arms soon, as we all know, to become closer still, in a common cause against a tenacious and wicked enemy whom we are equally determined to destroy: a brotherhood which will lead us to a sure victory.

I beg you, Mr. Molotov, when these decorations are passed on to their destination, to be so good as to offer each one of the recipients my warm congratulations."

Speech of V. M. Molotov, People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R.

"Mr. Ambassador, it is with great satisfaction that I accept the Orders and Medals with which the King of Great Britain has decorated generals, officers and men of the Red Army and Navy. On behalf of the Soviet Government I beg you, Mr. Ambassador, to convey our gratitude to His Majesty the King and to the British Government for the high honour which they have bestowed on the recipients.

These decorations are an expression of the fighting comradeship of our peoples, which has grown stronger during these years. The time has now come when the armed forces of the Allies are preparing for decisive combined action against our common enemy, Hitlerite Germany, and the enemy will soon feel the power of our joint blows.

I have no doubt that the Soviet generals, officers and soldiers decorated with British Orders and Medals will not only wear with pride these marks of high distinction, but also will multiply with new exploits their services in the struggle for the complete expulsion of the Hitlerite invaders from our country, in the struggle to deliver our country and Allied countries from the menace of slavery, and to complete the defeat of our common enemy.

I will certainly see to it that, when the Orders and Medals are presented to the recipients, your friendly congratulation shall be conveyed to them."

STATEMENT BY REV. STANISLAW ORLEMANSKI AT A PRESS CONFERENCE

According to the Chicago correspondent of the Associated Press, the Rev. Stanislaw Orlemanski on his return from the U.S.S.R. has stated at a press conference that Marshal Stalin told him in the course of conversation that he is a supporter of freedom of conscience and of worship, and thinks co-operation

with the Pope possible against the coercion and persecution of the Catholic Church.

The correspondent reports the most important remarks made by Orlemanski at the press conference:

"Some time in January I wrote a letter to Mr. Hull asking for a passport to visit the Soviet Union. I received no reply to this letter and wrote again, asking for permission to investigate myself and to study the Polish question. The reply was that the American Government had no objection, but did not know what the attitude of the Soviet Government would be. I wrote to the Russian Consulate in New York, and they replied that permission from Marshal Stalin was necessary. Finally, a reply came personally from Marshal Stalin, inviting me to Russia."

After describing the route followed and the circumstances of his journey from the United States to the Soviet Union and back, Orlemanski referred as follows to his stay in the U.S.S.R.:

"I shall not make any statement about Russia. It would be futile for me to speak about religion. I spent two days in visiting the Army, two days on my way back, and one day I spent in visiting Polish children at Zagorsk.

Now about Stalin. For one hour I had a conference with Molotov. I was at the theatre, and they rang me up to go to the Kremlin, and I went there. Molotov and Stalin were together. I don't speak Russian, and therefore we had an English interpreter. I talked with Stalin for two hours fifteen minutes. My second talk lasted about as long. I found Stalin very democratic and very open. I spoke to Stalin as an American citizen, as an equal to an equal. I said to Stalin that the most important problem to solve was the religious problem. He asked: 'How do you conceive it? What would you do?' I said to him that I would like to put two or three questions to him. I put down a list of questions. At first sight it may seem to you that they are very insignificant. Study them from all points of view, and you will see that they are important. Being an American, I didn't sell America, and I wasn't authorized to sell Poland to anyone. As regards religion, I am proud of my Church, and I shall do all in my power to help my Church. I hope that this little document" (the record of Orlemanski's talk signed by J. V. Stalin) "will mark the beginning of better mutual arrangements and mutual understanding. I shall not make any statement on the Polish question."

Orlemanski handed representatives of the press the following text of an official statement: "I went to Moscow not as a representative of the Roman Catholic Church nor as an ambassador of the United States Department, but as a private citizen to study the Polish question. I am not a Communist, and I plainly said so in Moscow in my public address to the Polish Army. I am an American. And I emphasize that I travelled to Moscow alone and returned alone. I belong to no clique, faction, or party. In my thirty years of priesthood this was my first vocation, a mission to Moscow to help my Church and Poland.

"Let us look at some of the statements made by my fellow-clergy. Here is the first. The Rev. James Lawler, assistant General Secretary of the National Conference of Catholic Charitable Societies, has stated: 'The world, which has been a witness of the militant atheism of the Soviet Government for many years, must be careful in its attitude to such statements as the statement of Father Orlemanski.' This was in the *News Week* magazine. Father Lawler,

you are only talking, but I take my stand on an official historic document. I must reply to you as follows. The first job in my programme was to bring you an official statement on this question. Talk and criticism will lead us nowhere if we don't act. I acted. Could you or any other Catholic demand or expect more of me? Are you now convinced that my mission to Moscow was successful?"

With reference to a statement by Michael Ready, Secretary of the National Conference of Catholic Charitable Societies, who described Orlemanski's journey as a "political burlesque", Orlemanski stated: "I must say that it is not decent of him to use such vulgar words. By such insinuations you will not undermine and infringe my life in holy orders and in Christ. Nevertheless, Monsignor, I assure you that it was not a burlesque but a high-class opera. I am sure that the American public will understand my position and judge it. I have remarkable news about Poland, but this will become known later."

The statement was accompanied by the following questions which, in Orlemanski's words, he put to J. V. Stalin, and the latter's replies. The following is the text of these questions and answers:

"1. Do you think it admissible for the Soviet Government to pursue a policy of persecution and coercion with regard to the Roman Catholic Church?"

Reply by Marshal Stalin: "As an advocate of freedom of conscience and freedom of worship, I consider such a policy to be inadmissible and precluded."

"2. Do you think that co-operation with the Holy Father, Pope Pius XII, in the struggle against the coercion and persecution of the Catholic Church is possible?"

Reply by Marshal Stalin: "I think it is possible."

"The Rev. Stanislaw Orlemanski wished that the above questions and answers should not be published at present, but handed to him personally. Marshal Stalin did not object to this suggestion, but at the same time he said that he also had no objection to these questions and answers being made public, should the Rev. Stanislaw Orlemanski consider it necessary.

(Signed) MARSHAL STALIN." (TASS.)

12 May, 1944.

STATEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE SOVIET UNION, GREAT BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES, ADDRESSED TO THE SATELLITES OF HITLERITE GERMANY—HUNGARY, RUMANIA, BULGARIA AND FINLAND

Through the fatal policy of their leaders, the people of Hungary are suffering the humiliation of German occupation. Rumania is still bound to the Nazis in a war now bringing devastation to its own people. The Governments of Bulgaria and Finland have placed their countries in the service of Germany and remain in the war at Germany's side.

The Governments of the Soviet Union, Great Britain and the United States think it right that these peoples should realize the following facts:

1. The Axis satellites, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria and Finland, despite their realization of the inevitability of a crushing Nazi defeat and their desire to get out of the war, are by their present policies and attitudes contributing materially to the strength of the German war machine.
2. These nations still have it within their power, by withdrawing from the

war and ceasing their collaboration with Germany and by resisting the forces of Nazism by every possible means, to shorten the European struggle, diminish their own ultimate sacrifices, and contribute to the Allied victory.

3. While these nations cannot escape their responsibility for having participated in the war at the side of Nazi Germany, the longer they continue at war in collaboration with Germany, the more disastrous will be the consequences to them, and the more rigorous will be the terms which will be imposed upon them.

4. These nations must therefore decide now, while yet there is time for them to contribute to the inevitable Allied victory, whether they intend to persist in their present hopeless and calamitous policy of opposing that victory.

13 May, 1944.

SPEECH OF F. T. GUSEV, SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN GREAT BRITAIN, AT AN INVESTITURE OF BRITISH SENIOR OFFICERS WITH SOVIET ORDERS

F. T. Gusev, Soviet Ambassador in Great Britain, on 16 May, 1944, presented the highest military decoration of the Soviet Union—the Order of Suvorov, First Class—to the British officers upon whom it had been conferred by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.: Field-Marshal Sir Alan Brooke, Chief of the Imperial General Staff; Admiral of the Fleet Sir John Tovey; Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur Harris; and handed the Orders also to Sir Alexander Cadogan to be conveyed to Admiral Sir Bruce Fraser and to General Sir Harold Alexander, Allied Commander-in-Chief in Italy. In the course of his speech at the ceremony, the Ambassador said:

“The Soviet Government highly esteems your outstanding military activity in carrying out the direction of military operations against the common enemy of the Soviet Union and Great Britain, Hitlerite Germany, and also in directing military operations to ensure the successful delivery of armaments and other supplies to the ports of the Soviet Union.

These awards are a high recognition of your personal military merits and, at the same time, a testimony of the fighting co-operation between the armed forces of Great Britain and the Soviet Union.

Under the conditions of this grim war the comradeship-in-arms between the peoples of Great Britain and the Soviet Union has come into being, grown and been strengthened in the joint struggle against the common treacherous foe, Hitlerite Germany, the enemy of all freedom-loving peoples. In this struggle the mighty alliance of the Great Powers of the world—the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Great Britain and the United States of America—has emerged and grown, inspired by the aspiration and determination to destroy the Hitlerite military machine and to wage the war until final victory.

On many fronts serious wounds have been inflicted on the enemy, but he is attempting to gather strength, gain time and heal his wounds. Heavy fighting is ahead of us; but the peoples of our countries, more than ever before, are confident in their increased power, in their military leaders, and are filled with unshakeable determination to fight on against our common enemy until victory is achieved.

The time of decisive battles is approaching. It is for the Armed Forces of the Soviet Union, Great Britain and the United States of America to fulfil the historic task of crushing the enemy by joint blows from the east, the west and the south, and to carry on the fight until the complete destruction of

Hitlerite Germany, to free the enslaved peoples of western Europe and to banish for ever the Fascist menace of enslavement of the freedom-loving peoples of the world.

In handing the Orders of the Soviet Union to you and congratulating you once more on your military successes, I wish you and the officers and personnel under your command complete success in the forthcoming decisive battles against our common enemy." (TASS.)

CONCLUSION OF AGREEMENTS BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE U.S.S.R., UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND GREAT BRITAIN WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF NORWAY FOR CIVIL ADMINISTRATION IN NORWEGIAN TERRITORY

The Governments of the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics have concluded Agreements in identical terms with the Government of Norway regarding the measures which should be taken in respect of civil administration and jurisdiction in Norwegian territory when it is liberated by Allied expeditionary forces.

It is anticipated that these Agreements will be essentially of a temporary and practical character. They are calculated to facilitate as far as possible the tasks of the Allied Commanders and to promote the common aims of the interested Governments, namely the most rapid expulsion of the Germans from Norwegian territory and the final victory of the Allies over Germany.

The Agreements recognize that the Allied Commanders must *de facto* enjoy supreme authority during the first or military phase of the liberation of Norway, and must bear responsibility in respect of the civil administration in the fullest measure required by the necessity of the military situation. It is laid down that, as soon as the military situation permits, the Norwegian Government must once again assume its full constitutional responsibility for the civil administration, and it is provided that the Allied troops will have placed at their disposal in Norwegian territory those resources of which they may stand in need in order to carry the war to its final conclusion.

17 May, 1944.

VISIT TO J. V. STALIN OF THE YUGOSLAV GENERALS TERZIC AND DJILAS

On 19 May, 1944, Marshal of the Soviet Union J. V. Stalin, received the representatives of the People's Liberation Army of Yugoslavia—General Terzic, Head of the Military Mission, and General Djilas, member of the Military Mission.

STATEMENT BY PROFESSOR OSCAR LANGE

The following statement, by the American professor Oscar Lange, at present in Moscow, was made to a TASS representative on 21 May, 1944:

"I have arrived on the invitation of the Union of Polish Patriots to visit the Polish Army in the U.S.S.R. and to study the situation of Poles in this country. I am acting as a private American citizen and represent nobody but myself. My study consisted of personal interviews with Polish leaders in

the U.S.S.R., visits to the Army, to Polish schools and children's homes. I also called on Marshal Stalin and Mr. Molotov.

During my visit to the Army I had more than 15 unofficial meetings with soldiers. I discussed with the soldiers their ideas concerning the future of Poland. These talks gave me material which I will use on my return to the United States.

During my visit to Marshal Stalin I spoke about my impressions of the Polish Army and about the situation of Poles in the U.S.S.R. Marshal Stalin said that Poland would play a very important part in Europe. He stated that it was in the interests of the Soviet Union that Poland should be strong.

I wish to express my thanks to Mr. Molotov for his hospitality during my stay in the U.S.S.R., to my old friend Wanda Wassilewska for the cordial reception accorded to me by her and by the Union of Polish Patriots, and also to General Berling for his hospitality during my visit to the Polish Army in the U.S.S.R. I thank the officers, soldiers and women auxiliaries of the Polish Army for their cordial reception. I wish them success in battle and speedy victory over the common enemy of the United States, the Soviet Union and Poland." (TASS.)

VISIT TO J. V. STALIN OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF POLAND

On 22 May, 1944, J. V. Stalin, Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the U.S.S.R., received representatives of the National Council of Poland headed by M. Morawski. The representatives acquainted J. V. Stalin in detail with the situation in Poland and with the activity of the National Council of Poland and the Polish People's Army. The conversation lasted for over two hours, in an atmosphere of friendship.

V. M. Molotov, People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., and W. Wassilewska, chairman of the Union of Polish Patriots, were present at the conversation.

ARRIVAL IN THE U.S.S.R. OF M. PIETRO QUARONI, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ITALY

M. Pietro Quaroni, Representative of the Government of Italy to the Government of the U.S.S.R., arrived in Moscow on 24 May, 1944.

He was met at the Kazan Station by G. I. Fomin, Deputy Director of the Protocol Department of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R.

LUNCHEON GIVEN BY V. M. MOLOTOV, PEOPLE'S COMMISSAR FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE U.S.S.R., IN CELEBRATION OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOVIET-BRITISH TREATY OF ALLIANCE

In celebration of the second anniversary of the Treaty between the U.S.S.R. and Great Britain for alliance in the war against Hitlerite Germany and her associates in Europe and for collaboration and mutual assistance after the war, V. M. Molotov, People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., gave a luncheon on 26 May, 1944. There were present: the Ambassador of Great

Britain Sir Archibald Clark Kerr, the Ambassador of Canada Mr. L. D. Wilgress, the Minister of Australia Mr. J. Maloney, the U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Mr. M. Hamilton, members of the British Military Mission—Rear-Admiral D. Fisher, Brigadier D. Hill, Colonel R. Turner, Wing-Commander D. Hughes—together with the head of the Naval Section of the U.S. Military Mission, Rear-Admiral K. Olsen, the head of the Soviet Relations Division of the British Ministry of Information, Mr. H. P. Smollett (at present in Moscow) and the diplomatic staff of the British Embassy. On the Soviet side there were present A. I. Mikoyan, Admiral N. G. Kuznetsov, A. Y. Yyshinsky, V. G. Dekanozov, I. M. Maisky, A. D. Krutikov, Colonel-General F. I. Golikov, Colonel-General of the Air Force A. V. Nikitin, Lieutenant-General F. F. Kuznetsov and senior personnel of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs and the People's Commissariat for Foreign Trade.

V. M. Molotov and Sir Archibald Clark Kerr made short speeches on the occasion of the second anniversary of the Anglo-Soviet Treaty.

EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES BETWEEN V. M. MOLOTOV, PEOPLE'S COMMISSAR FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE U.S.S.R., AND MR. ANTHONY EDEN, BRITISH SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ON THE OCCASION OF THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNATURE OF THE TREATY OF ALLIANCE BETWEEN THE U.S.S.R. AND GREAT BRITAIN

To Mr. Anthony Eden, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, London.

On the second anniversary of the signature of the Treaty of Alliance between the U.S.S.R. and Great Britain, I send to you, to the British Government, and to the people of Great Britain, on behalf of the Government of the U.S.S.R. and the Soviet people and also in my own name, my friendly greetings and best wishes.

As a result of the successes in battle of the Soviet army and the Allied armies, the forces of Hitlerite Germany have been undermined, and now our common task is by combined and decisive blow finally to beat down and destroy the enemy. The achievement of victory by the Anglo-Soviet-American coalition over our common enemy, Hitlerite Germany, will still further reinforce collaboration between our countries and create a powerful basis for durable and friendly relations between all freedom-loving peoples.

V. MOLOTOV.

26 May, 1944.

To His Excellency Mr. V. M. Molotov, People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs, Moscow.

On this second anniversary of the Anglo-Soviet Treaty of Alliance I send you, and through you to the Government and people of the U.S.S.R., my greetings and good wishes, and also the greetings and good wishes of His Majesty's Government and the people of the United Kingdom.

Great events were planned at the Moscow and Teheran Conferences. Side by side, and together with their American and other Allies, our two peoples will carry this mighty assault on the common enemy to a victorious conclusion, and so strengthen the bonds of friendship and understanding on which our alliance is based.

ANTHONY EDEN.

26 May, 1944.

ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW OF MR. ERIC A. JOHNSTON

Mr. Eric A. Johnston, Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce of the U.S.A., arrived in Moscow on 1 June, 1944.

He was met at the Moscow aerodrome by V. A. Sergeyeve (Deputy People's Commissar for Foreign Trade), P. N. Kумыкин (member of the Collegium of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Trade), M. V. Nesterov (Chairman of the Presidium of the All-Union Chamber of Commerce), V. G. Kirillov (head of the Protocol Department of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Trade), P. S. Alexeyev (head of the American sector in the Department of Trade Treaties of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Trade), P. S. Seldiakov (President of the "Stankoimport" Organization), A. K. Bayar (Deputy President of the "Technopromimport" Organization), and also by Mr. Maxwell M. Hamilton (acting Chargé d'Affaires of the U.S.A.), Major-General J. P. Deane (chief of the U.S. Military Mission), Rear-Admiral K. Olsen (Chief of the Navy Section of the U.S. Military Mission) and Mr. E. Page (Second Secretary at the U.S. Embassy). (TASS.)

LUNCHEON GIVEN BY V. M. MOLOTOV, PEOPLE'S COMMISSAR FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE U.S.S.R., IN CELEBRATION OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOVIET-AMERICAN AGREEMENT

On the occasion of the second anniversary of the Agreement between the Soviet Union and the United States of America on the principles applying to mutual aid in the conduct of the war against aggression, V. M. Molotov, People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., gave a luncheon on 10 June, 1944. There were present Mr. W. A. Harriman (Ambassador of the United States), Sir Archibald Clark Kerr (Ambassador of Great Britain), Major-General J. P. Deane (chief of the U.S. Military Mission), Brigadier-General W. Crist (chief of the Army Section of the U.S. Military Mission), Mr. E. Johnston (President of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States), Lieutenant-General Burrowes (chief of the British Military Mission), Rear-Admiral E. Archer and also the diplomatic staff of the U.S. Embassy. On the Soviet side there were present A. I. Mikoyan, A. Y. Vyshinsky, V. G. Dekanozov, M. M. Litvinov, Admiral L. M. Galler, A. D. Krutkov, V. A. Sergeyeve, M. S. Stepanov, Colonel-General of the Air Force A. V. Nikitin, and senior personnel of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs and the People's Commissariat for Foreign Trade.

V. M. Molotov and Mr. Harriman made brief speeches on the occasion of the second anniversary of the Soviet-American Agreement.

TELEGRAM TO N. S. KHRUSHCHEV OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF POLAND

When leaving the territory of the Ukrainian S.S.R., the representatives of the National Council of Poland sent the following telegram to N. S. Khrushchev:

To Citizen N. S. Khrushchev, Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the Ukrainian S.S.R.

When leaving the territory of the Ukrainian Republic, we representatives of the National Council of Poland express to you, citizen Khrushchev, our

most sincere gratitude for the hospitality and exceptionally warm welcome given to us, and for the friendly attitude of the Ukrainian Soviet Government, the entire Ukrainian people and you personally, citizen Khrushchev, towards us and towards the Polish Army in the U.S.S.R.

We express our profound conviction that the joint struggle of the Polish and Ukrainian peoples against our common enemy, the German-Fascist invader, the sufferings and miseries suffered by you and us as a result of the barbarous occupation of the German imperialists, will put an end for ever to the old disputes which artificially separated our peoples to the joy of our enemies, and will make a beginning of the establishment of the eternal friendship and fraternity of our peoples and States.

Long live the eternal friendship of the Ukrainian and Polish peoples!

Long live the friendship of all Slav peoples!

Hail to victory over our common enemy, Hitlerite Germany!

Representatives of the National Council of Poland.

Summary. 10 June, 1944.

DELIVERIES OF ARMAMENTS, STRATEGICAL RAW MATERIALS, INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT AND FOODSTUFFS TO THE SOVIET UNION BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, GREAT BRITAIN AND CANADA

The United States of America and Great Britain, united with the Soviet Union in the common great aim of the earliest defeat of Hitlerite Germany and her associates in Europe, began to supply the U.S.S.R. with armaments, industrial equipment and materials and foodstuffs soon after the invasion of the Soviet Union by the German-Fascist hordes. In this supply Canada is also participating, having prior to 1 July, 1943, effected deliveries to the U.S.S.R. on account of British undertakings, and thereafter effecting them independently. In supplying the Soviet Union with the above-mentioned valuable materials, the United States of America, Great Britain and Canada are contributing to the successes of the Red Army in the liberation of its native soil from the Fascist invaders, and in hastening the common victory of the Allies over Hitlerite Germany and her satellites.

The deliveries have been effected by the United States on the basis of the Lend-Lease Act, by Great Britain chiefly on the basis of the Agreement on mutual deliveries, credit and procedure for payments of 16 August, 1941, and also on the basis of the Agreement on financing war deliveries and other military aid of 27 June, 1942, and by Canada in conformity with the Act of Canada on United Nations Mutual Aid.

Below are published data of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Trade on deliveries to the Soviet Union by the United States of America, Great Britain and Canada.

I. Deliveries by the United States of America to the Soviet Union, made during the period from 1 October, 1941, to 30 April, 1944, on the basis of the Lend-Lease Act.

During the period from 1 October, 1941, to 30 April, 1944, the United States of America, on the basis of the Lend-Lease Act, have despatched to the Soviet Union 8,500,000 tons of armaments, strategical raw materials, foodstuffs and equipment, to the total value of \$5,357,000,000.

Of the amount despatched, there arrived in the Soviet Union 7·4 million tons, to the value of \$4,612,000,000; this including 1·2 million tons in 1941-42, 4·1 million tons in 1943 and 2·1 million tons during the first four months of 1944. On 1 May, 1944, 68,400 tons were on shipboard in transit.

During this period the following of the more important forms of armament and war equipment were *delivered* to the Soviet Union from the United States: 6,430 aircraft, and in addition 2,442 aircraft received from the U.S.A. on account of British obligations; 3,734 tanks; 10 minesweepers; 12 large submarine chasers; 82 E-boats and small submarine chasers; 206,771 lorries; 5,397 other military mechanized transport vehicles; 17,017 motor-cycles; 3,168 A.A. guns, 1,111 Oerlikon guns; 22,400,000 shells; 991,400,000 cartridges; 87,900 tons of gunpowder; 130,000 tons of toluol, trinitrotoluol and ammonite; 1,229,000 kilometres of field telephone wire; 245,000 telephones; 5,500,000 pairs of army boots; 22,800,000 yards of army cloth; 2,073,000 automobile tyres.

Among the strategic raw materials delivered were: 476,000 tons of high-octane aviation spirit (aviabenzine and iso-octane); 99,000 tons of aluminium and duralumin; 184,000 tons of copper and copper articles; 42,000 tons of zinc; 6,500 tons of nickel; 1,160,000 tons of steel and steel goods (including 246,000 tons of rails and ties).

For the needs of the defence industry there were delivered: 20,380 metal-cutting lathes; 257,200,000 dollars' worth of various industrial equipment (including power-plant equipment to a total capacity of 288,000 kilowatts, including 263 mobile power stations with a total capacity of 39,000 kilowatts), the equipment for 4 oil refineries and 1 aluminium rolling mill, 4,138 ships' engines with a total capacity of 1,768,700 h.p., 2,718 presses and hammers, 524 cranes, 209 excavators, and the following railway equipment—241 locomotives, 1,154 platforms, 80 tank-cars for transport of acids.

Food deliveries amounted to 2,199,000 tons.

II. Deliveries by Great Britain to the Soviet Union during the period from 22 June, 1941, to 30 April, 1944.

During the period from 22 June, 1941, to 30 April of the present year, Great Britain *despatched* to the Soviet Union 1,150,000 tons of armaments, strategical raw materials, industrial equipment and foodstuffs. Of this quantity, 319,000 tons of armaments were despatched without payment as military aid; 815,000 tons of raw materials, industrial equipment and foodstuffs, to the value of £83,700,000, were despatched on the basis of the Agreement between the U.S.S.R. and Great Britain on mutual deliveries, credit and procedure for payments of 16 August, 1941 (partly on credit, partly for cash payment); a small quantity of supplies (2000 tons to a value of £500,000) was despatched at the very beginning of the war for cash payment.

Of the cargoes despatched, there *arrived* in the Soviet Union 1,041,000 tons, including 158,000 tons in 1941, 375,000 tons in 1942, 364,000 tons in 1943 and 144,000 tons during the first four months of the current year.

On 1 May of this year 44,000 tons of cargoes were on their way to the Soviet Union.

The following are the most important items of armament and war equipment delivered to the Soviet Union from Great Britain: 3,384 planes (as well as 2,442 planes delivered from the U.S.A. on account of British undertakings); 4,292 tanks; 12 minesweepers; 5,239 lorries and armoured troop carriers; 562 A.A. guns; 548 anti-tank guns; 17 million shells; 290 million cartridges;

17,300 tons of gunpowder; 214 radio installations for direction of artillery fire; 116 anti-submarine detection devices.

Among strategical raw materials delivered were: 103,500 tons of rubber, 35,400 tons of aluminium, 33,400 tons of copper, 29,400 tons of tin, 47,700 tons of lead, 7,400 tons of zinc, 2,700 tons of nickel, 245 tons of cobalt, 93,000 tons of jute, sisal and articles manufactured from them.

Among the equipment for the needs of the defence industry were delivered: 6,491 metal-cutting lathes, and various industrial equipment to the value of £14,400,000, including power-plant equipment to a total capacity of 374,000 kilowatts, 15,084 electric motors, 104 presses and hammers, 24 portal cranes, and industrial diamonds to the value of £1,206,000.

Food deliveries amounted to 138,200 tons.

III. Deliveries by Canada to the Soviet Union.

From the beginning of the war up to 1 July, 1943, deliveries to the Soviet Union from Canada were effected on account of British obligations and under the Agreement on Credit between the U.S.S.R. and Canada of 8 September, 1942. Since 1 July, 1943, Canada has been effecting deliveries to the Soviet Union independently, under the Agreement between the U.S.S.R. and Canada on the effecting by Canada of war deliveries to the Soviet Union in conformity with the Act of Canada on United Nations Mutual Aid.

From the commencement of deliveries up to 30 April of the current year Canada has *despatched* to the Soviet Union 450,000 tons of armaments, strategic materials and foodstuffs (wheat and flour), to the total value of 187,600,000 Canadian dollars. Of this quantity there were despatched: on account of British obligations (prior to 1 July, 1943), 93,000 tons of cargoes to a value of 116,600,000 Canadian dollars; under the Agreement on Credit between the U.S.S.R. and Canada, 182,000 tons of wheat and flour to the value of 10,000,000 Canadian dollars; and in conformity with the Act of Canada on United Nations Mutual Aid (during the period from 1 July, 1943, to 30 April, 1944), 175,000 tons of cargoes, to a value of 61,000,000 Canadian dollars.

Of the cargoes despatched by Canada, there *arrived* in the Soviet Union 355,000 tons, including 125,000 tons in 1942, 124,000 tons in 1943, and during the first four months of the current year 106,000 tons.

There have been delivered from Canada to the Soviet Union: 1,188 tanks; 842 armoured troop-carriers; 2,568 trucks; 827,000 shells; 34,800,000 cartridges; 5,000 tons of gunpowder; 36,300 tons of aluminium; 9,100 tons of lead; 23,500 tons of copper; 6,700 tons of zinc; 1,324 tons of nickel; 13,300 tons of rails; 208,600 tons of wheat and flour.

On 1 May this year 60,000 tons of cargoes were on their way from Canada to the Soviet Union.

11 June, 1944.

UNITED NATIONS DAY

This year, just as in 1942 and 1943, 14 June is a day of demonstration of the solidarity of the United Nations in their common struggle against aggression. On the occasion of this day, the Council of People's Commissars of the U.S.S.R. has requested all Soviet State institutions on 14 June, 1944, to hoist over their buildings the State flag of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, in honour of Great Britain, the United States of America and the other United Nations, who are also appropriately celebrating this noteworthy day.

14 June, 1944.

STATEMENT BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF POLAND

After visiting the Polish National Military Units in the U.S.S.R., the representatives of the National Council of Poland requested a correspondent of TASS to issue the following through the press :

We wish through the Soviet press to express our sincere gratitude to the State, party and military organizations of the Soviet Union for the exceptionally valuable aid and assistance afforded by them to the Command of the Polish military formations in the U.S.S.R.

Our Polish Army is marching shoulder to shoulder with the heroic Red Army to the final rout of Hitlerism. The Polish people will never forget that understanding and attention which it is experiencing at the hands of the Soviet people, and personally from the great Marshal Joseph Vissarionovich Stalin. We see in this the pledge of great friendship between our Polish people and the brother Russian and Ukrainian peoples.

Long live the alliance of freedom-loving peoples fighting the bloody Hitler!
Long live the great Stalin!

Members of the Chief Board of the Union of Polish Patriots :

ANDRZEI WITOS.

Doctor BOLESŁAW DROBNER.
STANISŁAW RADKIEWICZ.

Representatives of the National Council of Poland :

MORAWSKI.

K.

R. :

W.

14 June, 1944.

LETTER TO J. V. STALIN FROM MR. H. A. WALLACE, VICE- PRESIDENT OF THE U.S.A.

MY DEAR MARSHAL STALIN,

On the eve of my departure from the city of Alma-Ata into China, I should like to express to you my profound appreciation for the friendly and splendid hospitality shown to me during my four weeks' visit to Siberia and Soviet Central Asia. The official representatives and the people with whom I met in towns and villages, in collective farms, in factories and mines, astonished me by their initiative, capacity and skill, and likewise by their constant kindness in helping me to become acquainted as well as possible with the plans and problems facing them and with their great achievements.

Of particular interest to me were the agricultural experimental and selection stations, which I visited in great numbers along the whole route from Magadan to Alma-Ata. They are doing most outstanding work for the benefit of the State farms, collective farms and innumerable "Victory allotments". A particularly profound impression was made on me by the progress and achievements of the Yakuts, Buriat-Mongols, Kazakhs and Uzbeks. The policies of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, thanks to which this progress and these achievements have proved possible, are a visible testimony of the most outstanding and talented statesmanship.

I want once more to thank you for granting me the opportunity of personally seeing the vast army of men and women in Siberia and Central Asia who in the factories and farms are fighting for the achievement of victory.

May our two great nations, working in close harmony, make their contribution to the prosperity of the whole world by means of the same abundant production in peacetime as was reached by them in days of war.

Ambassador Harriman will transmit to you the present expression of appreciation, together with my best greetings and wishes.

HENRY A. WALLACE.

Alma-Ata, 17 June, 1944.

VISIT TO J. V. STALIN OF MR. ERIC JOHNSTON

On 26 June, 1944, J. V. Stalin, Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the U.S.S.R., received Mr. E. Johnston, President of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States.

V. M. Molotov, People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., and Mr. W. A. Harriman, Ambassador of the U.S.A. in the U.S.S.R., were present at the conversation.

PRESENTATION TO J. V. STALIN BY MR. W. A. HARRIMAN, U.S. AMBASSADOR, OF ADDRESSES OF HONOUR FROM PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT FOR STALINGRAD AND LENINGRAD

On 26 June, 1944, at the Kremlin, Mr. W. A. Harriman, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America, presented to J. V. Stalin, Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the U.S.S.R., Addresses of Honour from President Roosevelt to be conveyed to the city of Stalingrad and the city of Leningrad, in commemoration of the heroic defence of those cities. The Addresses are signed by Mr. Roosevelt, in the name of the people of the United States.

V. M. Molotov, People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., attended the presentation of the Addresses of Honour.

Letter to J. V. Stalin from President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

MY DEAR MARSHAL STALIN,

I am sending you two Addresses for Stalingrad and Leningrad—cities which have won the sincere admiration of the American people. The heroism of the citizens of these two cities, and of the soldiers who so skilfully defended them, have not only inspired the people of the United States but have helped even more strongly to seal the friendship of our two peoples. Stalingrad and Leningrad have become synonyms for steadfastness of spirit and staunchness, which gave us the opportunity to resist and which in the final reckoning will give us the possibility of overcoming the aggression of our enemies.

I hope that, in presenting these Addresses to the two cities, you will find it possible to convey to their citizens my personal expression of friendship and admiration and my hope that our people will, in future as well, develop that profound mutual understanding which has marked our common efforts.

Sincerely yours,

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

The White House, Washington. 25 May, 1944.

ADDRESS OF HONOUR TO STALINGRAD

In the name of the people of the United States of America, I present this Address to the people of Stalingrad to express our admiration for its gallant defenders, whose courage, fortitude of spirit and devotion, during the siege from 13 September, 1942, to 31 January, 1943, will forever inspire the hearts of all free peoples. Their glorious victory stopped the wave of invasion, and became a turning-point of the war of the Allied nations against the forces of aggression.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

Washington. 17 May, 1944.

ADDRESS OF HONOUR TO LENINGRAD

In the name of the people of the United States of America, I present this address to the people of the City of Leningrad, in memory of its valiant warriors and of its loyal men, women and children who, being isolated by the invader from the rest of their people, and in spite of constant bombardment and untold suffering from cold, hunger and disease, successfully defended their beloved city during the critical period from 8 September, 1941, to 18 January, 1943, and thereby symbolized the dauntless spirit of the peoples of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and of all the peoples of the world resisting the forces of aggression.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

Washington. 17 May, 1944.

STATEMENT BY J. V. STALIN ON THE OCCASION OF THE PRESENTATION TO HIM BY U.S. AMBASSADOR HARRIMAN OF THE ADDRESSES FROM PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT

I accept the addresses of President Roosevelt as a symbol of the fruitful collaboration between our States, collaboration proceeding in the name of the liberty of our peoples and the progress of humanity. The addresses will be presented to the representatives of Leningrad and Stalingrad.

26 June, 1944.

ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND FIGHTING DENMARK

On 18 April, 1944, the Danish "Freedom Council" addressed a proposal to the Soviet Government to establish relations between the Soviet Union and Fighting Denmark, and requested the Soviet Government to receive in Moscow a representative of Fighting Denmark. This request was also conveyed by the representatives of the Free Danes in London and Washington. The address of the Danish "Freedom Council" stated that the rupture of diplomatic relations between Denmark and the Soviet Union in 1941 was decided upon against the will of the Danish people and under the strong pressure of the Germans. In the same way, it was emphasized in the address, the adherence of Denmark to the Anti-Comintern Pact, dictated by the Germans, aroused strong indignation among the broad masses of the Danish people, and led to the first open demonstrations since the occupation. After the Government and the Riksdag on 29 August, 1943, had laid down their powers, and the King was made a

prisoner, the "Freedom Council" had become the only body in Denmark which could freely and independently express the will of the Danish people to restore friendly relations with the Soviet Union.

On 23 April, 1944, the Soviet Government replied that it agreed immediately to establish relations with the Danish "Freedom Council", and to receive in Moscow a representative of Fighting Denmark, similar to the representative of Fighting Denmark in London.

By decision of the "Freedom Council", Mr. Thomas Doessing, a prominent public figure in Denmark, has been appointed plenipotentiary representative of Fighting Denmark in the U.S.S.R., with the rights of a Minister.

12 July, 1944.

ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND THE SYRIAN REPUBLIC

The Soviet Government has accepted the proposal of the Government of Syria, for the establishment of diplomatic relations and the exchange of diplomatic representatives between the U.S.S.R. and the Syrian Republic.

On 21 July, 1944, M. Djemil Mardam Bey, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Republic, sent the following telegram to V. M. Molotov, People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R. :

"Moved by its admiration for the Soviet people, whose efforts and achievements in the great struggle of democracy against the spirit of conquest and domination provide the basis for legitimate hopes of future freedom and equality for all nations, great and small; encouraged on the other hand by the foreign policy of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which from the beginning of its existence proclaimed the abolition of all privileges, capitulations and other advantages which Tsarist Russia enjoyed, and the incompatibility of which with the equality of nations was recognized by the Soviet Government; Syria, which has just seen, after long efforts and vast sacrifices, the solemn recognition of her international existence as an independent and sovereign State, and which sees in the victory of democracy over the Axis, a victory to which she is contributing to the best of her means, the consolidation and guarantee of her independence and her sovereignty, would be happy to maintain in such capacity friendly diplomatic relations with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, relations which would be established within the shortest time possible by the exchange of diplomatic missions.

In this connection I have the honour to request the consent of your Government to the despatch of an Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary whom the Syrian Government would accredit to the Soviet Government from the moment that a diplomat of the same rank would be accredited to the Syrian Government."

In reply to this telegram, V. M. Molotov, People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., sent the following telegram to M. Djemil Mardam Bey :

"The Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics highly appreciates the sentiments expressed by you in regard to the great struggle of the Soviet people against Hitlerite Germany and her accomplices.

The Soviet Government accepts with satisfaction the proposal of the Syrian Government for the establishment of friendly diplomatic relations between the U.S.S.R. and Syria. The Soviet Government is ready within the shortest

possible time to accredit a Minister Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the U.S.S.R. to the President of the Syrian Republic, and to receive the Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Syria who shall be accredited to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.”

26 July, 1944.

ATTITUDE OF THE SOVIET UNION TO POLAND

Statement by the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R.

The Soviet Government has instructed the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R. to make the following statement :

The Red Army in its successful advance has reached the State frontier between the Soviet Union and Poland. Pursuing the retreating German armies, the Soviet troops, together with the Polish army operating on the Soviet-German front, have crossed the river Western Bug, passed over the Soviet-Polish frontier and entered the territory of Poland. Thereby a beginning has been made of the liberation of our long-suffering brother Polish people from German occupation.

The Soviet troops have entered Poland filled with one resolution—to crush the enemy German armies and to help the Polish people in its liberation from the yoke of the German invaders, and in the restoration of an independent, strong and democratic Poland.

The Soviet Government declares that it regards the military operations of the Red Army in the territory of Poland as operations in the territory of a sovereign, friendly and Allied State. In this connection the Soviet Government does not intend to establish its own administrative bodies in the territory of Poland, considering this to be the affair of the Polish people. It has decided in view of this to conclude with the Polish Committee of National Liberation an Agreement on relations between the Soviet Command and the Polish Administration.

The Soviet Government states that it does not pursue the aim of acquiring any part of Polish territory or of changing the social order in Poland, and that the military operations of the Red Army in the territory of Poland are dictated solely by military necessity and by the desire to afford the friendly Polish people aid in its liberation from German occupation.

The Soviet Government declares its firm confidence that the brother peoples of the U.S.S.R. and Poland will together carry to its conclusion the struggle for liberation from the German invaders, and will lay durable foundations for friendly Soviet-Polish collaboration.

26 July, 1944.

SIGNATURE OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOVIET UNION AND THE POLISH COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION, ON RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SOVIET COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF AND THE POLISH ADMINISTRATION AFTER THE ENTRY OF SOVIET TROOPS INTO POLISH TERRITORY

In the course of the past few days negotiations have taken place between the Government of the U.S.S.R. and the Polish Committee of National Libera-

tion, for the conclusion of an Agreement on relations between the Soviet Commander-in-Chief and the Polish Administration after the entry of Soviet troops into the territory of Poland.

As a result of these negotiations, which proceeded in an atmosphere of cordiality and friendly mutual understanding, there were signed on 26 July, 1944, in Moscow an Agreement between the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Polish Committee of National Liberation on relations between the Polish Administration and the Soviet Commander-in-Chief after the entry of Soviet troops into the territory of Poland.

The Agreement was signed in the Kremlin by V. M. Molotov, People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs, by authorization of the Government of the U.S.S.R., and by E. B. Osobka-Morawski, Chairman and head of the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Polish Committee of National Liberation, by authorization of the Committee.

There were present at the signature of the Agreement, on the part of the U.S.S.R.: J. V. Stalin (Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the U.S.S.R.), A. Y. Vyshinsky (Deputy People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R.), A. P. Pavlov (Member of the Collegium of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R.) and General G. S. Zhukov.

There were present on the part of the Polish Committee of National Liberation: A. Witos (Vice-Chairman and head of the Department of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform), Colonel-General M. Rola-Zymierski (head of the Department of National Defence) and Dr. B. Drobner (head of the Department of Labour Protection, Social Welfare and health).

The following is the text of the Agreement:

Agreement between the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Polish Committee of National Liberation on Relations between the Soviet Commander-in-Chief and the Polish Administration after the entry of Soviet troops into the Territory of Poland.

The Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Polish Committee of National Liberation, desiring that relations between the Soviet Commander-in-Chief and the Polish Administration in the territory of the Polish Republic after the entry of Soviet troops into the territory of Poland should be settled in a spirit of friendship, have concluded the present agreement to the following effect:

Article One

In the zone of military operations in the territory of Poland, after the entry of Soviet troops, supreme authority and responsibility in all matters relating to the conduct of the war shall for the time necessary for the execution of military operations be concentrated in the hands of the Commander-in-Chief of the Soviet troops.

Article Two

In Polish territory liberated from the enemy, the Polish Committee of National Liberation shall:

- (a) set up and direct, in accordance with the laws of the Polish Republic, administrative bodies which the latter has established;
- (b) give effect to measures for the further organization, formation and replenishment of the Polish Army;

(c) ensure the active assistance of the Polish administrative bodies to the Soviet Commander-in-Chief in the execution of military operations by the Red Army, and in meeting its requirements and needs during its presence in Polish territory.

Article Three

Polish military units formed in the territory of the U.S.S.R. shall operate in the territory of Poland.

Article Four

Contact between the Soviet Commander-in-Chief and the Committee of National Liberation shall be maintained through a Polish Military Mission.

Article Five

In the zone of direct military operations, contact between Polish administrative bodies and the Soviet Commander-in-Chief shall be maintained through a Delegate of the Polish Committee of National Liberation.

Article Six

So soon as any part of the liberated territory of Poland ceases to be a zone of direct military operations, the Polish Committee of National Liberation shall assume full direction of all the affairs of civil administration.

Article Seven

All the personnel of the Soviet troops in the territory of Poland shall be under the jurisdiction of the Soviet Commander-in-Chief. All personnel of the Polish armed forces shall be under Polish military laws and regulations. The civilian population in Polish territory shall also be under the jurisdiction of the latter, even in cases of crimes committed against Soviet troops: with the exception of crimes committed in the zone of military operations, which shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the Soviet Commander-in-Chief. In disputed cases the question of jurisdiction shall be decided by mutual agreement between the Soviet Commander-in-Chief and the Delegate of the Polish Committee of National Liberation.

Article Eight

For the entire duration of the joint military operations of the Soviet armies and the Polish armed forces, the latter shall be subordinated operationally to the Supreme Command of the U.S.S.R., and in matters relating to organization and personnel to the Chief Command of the Polish Armed Forces.

Article Nine

A special Agreement shall be concluded concerning financial and economic problems relating to the stay of Soviet troops in the territory of Poland and also relating to Polish armed forces being formed in the territory of the U.S.S.R.

Article Ten

The present Agreement enters into effect immediately upon its signature. The Agreement has been made in two copies each in the Russian and Polish languages. Both texts are equally authentic.

*By authorization of the Government
of the Union of Soviet Socialist
Republics.*

*By authorization of the Polish Com-
mittee of National Liberation,
E. OSOBKA-MORAWSKI.*

V. MOLOTOV.

Moscow. 26 July, 1944.

**PRESENTATION BY THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN GREAT
BRITAIN OF ORDERS AND MEDALS TO PERSONNEL OF THE
BRITISH ARMED FORCES**

Speeches by F. T. Gusev and the Rt. Hon. G. H. Hall, M.P.

Soviet Ambassador Gusev has presented Orders and Medals conferred by the Soviet Government upon 106 members of the British Armed Forces for outstanding gallantry in action and in the transporting of war material to the U.S.S.R. The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. G. H. Hall, M.P., was present at the ceremony, with representatives of the Admiralty, the War Office, the Air Ministry and the Ministry of War Transport.

After presenting the Orders and Medals, the Ambassador said: "The decoration of British military personnel with Orders and Medals of the U.S.S.R. is an expression of the growing and deepening friendship and collaboration between our two Great Powers. This friendship is being steeled in the fire of the struggle so successfully waged by the Soviet Union, Great Britain and the United States of America, jointly with the other United Nations, against Hitlerite Germany and her satellites."

Further the Ambassador said: "The enemy is seeking to prolong the war and to postpone his inevitable defeat. The Allies now possess ever-growing resources of men and material, a tested leadership and an inflexible determination to crush the enemy, to shorten the duration of the war and to liberate the enslaved peoples. Close collaboration between the Allies now is the guarantee of the achievement of victory over the enemy, and of fruitful collaboration after the war for the establishment of stable peace and security."

In his reply, Mr. Hall expressed thanks for the decorations. Referring to the great successes of the Allied forces in recent weeks, Mr. Hall declared that the war effort of the Allies must be increased. "Now is not the time for self-satisfaction," he said. (TASS.)

26 July, 1944.

**DINNER GIVEN BY J. V. STALIN, CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL
OF PEOPLE'S COMMISSARS OF THE U.S.S.R., IN HONOUR OF
THE LEADERS OF THE POLISH COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL
LIBERATION**

On 27 July, 1944, J. V. Stalin, Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the U.S.S.R., gave a dinner at the Kremlin in honour of the leaders of the Polish Committee of National Liberation.

There were present at the dinner: E. B. Osobka-Morawski (Chairman of the Polish Committee of National Liberation), A. Witos (Vice-Chairman), Colonel-General M. Rola-Zymierski, B. Drobner, S. Skrzyszewski, J. M. Hrubiecki (heads of Departments of the Committee), Academician Y. O. Parnas, Professor L. B. Chwistek, M. Popiel (members of the Board of the Union of Polish Patriots in the U.S.S.R.), Colonel M. Spsychalski (member of the High Command of the Polish Army) and others.

There were present on the Soviet side: N. M. Molotov, Marshal K. E. Voroshilov, A. I. Mikoyan, L. M. Kaganovitch, A. A. Zhdanov, G. M. Malenkov, L. P. Beria, A. S. Shcherbakov, N. A. Voznesensky, Admiral of the Fleet N. G. Kuznetsov, Marshal G. K. Zhukov, Marshal A. M. Vassilevsky, A. Y. Vyshinsky, V. G. Dekanozov, Air Chief Marshal A. A. Novikov, Artillery Chief Marshal N. N. Voronov, Marshal of Tank Troops Y. N. Fedorenko, Marshal of Artillery N. D. Yakovlev, Army General A. V. Khrulev, Colonel-General F. I. Golikov and others.

The dinner was held in an atmosphere of Soviet-Polish friendship and comradeship.

The leaders of the Soviet Government and the Polish Committee of National Liberation made speeches which dwelt on the cause of the strengthening of Soviet-Polish friendship and of fighting co-operation against the common enemy—the German invaders.

VISIT TO J. V. STALIN OF MR. S. MIKOLAJCZYK

On 3 August, 1944, J. V. Stalin, Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the U.S.S.R., received Messrs. S. Mikolajczyk, S. Grabski and T. Romer, representatives of the Polish émigré government who had arrived in Moscow from London.

The conversation was devoted to the state of affairs in Poland and to Soviet-Polish relations. J. V. Stalin expressed the wish that questions of the situation in Poland should be settled by the Poles themselves, and that Mr. Mikolajczyk should discuss them with the Polish Committee of National Liberation.

V. M. Molotov, People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., took part in the conversation.

ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST-REPUBLICS AND THE LEBANESE REPUBLIC

The Soviet Government has accepted the proposal of the Government of the Lebanon for the establishment of diplomatic relations and an exchange of diplomatic representatives between the U.S.S.R. and the Lebanese Republic.

On 31 July, 1944, Selim Tacla, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lebanese Republic, sent V. M. Molotov, People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., the following telegram:

“The Government of the Lebanese Republic expresses its ardent desire to enter into cordial diplomatic relations with the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

This desire corresponds to the profound aspirations of the Lebanese nation, which feels the greatest admiration at the splendid heroism of the peoples of the Soviet Union and at the lofty principles by which the foreign policy of its

leaders is directed. The Lebanese people, which for long years has fought for its independence and sovereignty, only now completely achieved, is fully convinced that Soviet foreign policy is based on respect for the liberty and equality of all peoples—principles incompatible with attempts at conquest and domination, just as with the capitulations, privileges and other advantages which were enjoyed by Tsarist Russia.

Expressing its sentiments, the Government of the Lebanese Republic, which freely took the side of the democracies in their courageous and glorious battle against the countries of the Axis, considers that an exchange of diplomatic missions between our two countries will create a new and happy guarantee of Lebanese sovereignty.

In consequence of this I have the honour to ask Your Excellency for the agreement of your Government to the appointment of an Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary whom the Lebanese Government would accredit to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, as soon as a diplomat of the same rank is accredited to itself."

In reply to this telegram, V. M. Molotov, People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., sent M. Selim Tacla the following telegram:

"The Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics highly appreciates the sentiments expressed by you, in the name of the Lebanese Republic, in regard to the heroism of the peoples of the Soviet Union displayed in struggle against Hitlerite Germany and her accomplices. The Soviet Government accepts with satisfaction the proposal of the Government of the Lebanese Republic for the establishment of friendly diplomatic relations between the U.S.S.R. and the Lebanon.

The Soviet Government is ready to accredit a Minister Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the President of the Lebanese Republic, and to receive an Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Lebanon, who shall be accredited to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics."

5 August, 1944.

ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW OF MR. B. BIERUT, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF POLAND, AND MR. E. OSOBKA-MORAWSKI, CHAIRMAN OF THE POLISH COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION

On 5 August, 1944, there arrived in Moscow from Lublin Mr. Boleslaw Bierut (President of the National Council of Poland), Mr. E. Osobka-Morawski, Mr. A. Witos (Vice-Chairman of the Polish Committee of National Liberation), Colonel-General M. Rola-Zymierski and others.

They were met at the Moscow aerodrome by A. Y. Vyshinsky (Deputy People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R.), W. L. Wassilewska (Vice-Chairman of the Polish Committee of National Liberation), V. A. Zorin (Director of the Fourth European Department of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs), Major-General V. N. Yevstigneyev (Chief of the Department of External Relations of the People's Commissariat for Defence), Major-General K. R. Sinilov (Commandant of the City of Moscow) and others.

A guard of honour was drawn up, and the State anthems of Poland and the Soviet Union were performed.

The aerodrome was decorated with the Polish and Soviet flags.

After receiving the report of the Commander of the Guard of Honour, Mr. Boleslaw Bierut, President of the National Council of Poland, made the following speech in Polish addressed to the citizens of Moscow :

“On behalf of the Polish people, on behalf of the National Council of Poland, I convey the most cordial greetings to the people of the capital of the Soviet Union.

I am happy to be able to visit this country which Poland, my motherland, greets as the most mighty country with the most valorous and heroic army, and whose friendship my country desires always to enjoy.

I convey to the citizens of Moscow my most hearty greetings.”

Mr. Edward Osobka-Morawski, Chairman of the Polish Committee of National Liberation, also made the following speech in Polish :

“On behalf of the Polish Committee of National Liberation I wish to express the feelings of my compatriots to the Soviet Union and to the Red Army, which, together with the Polish Army, is already liberating our motherland. In the name of the Polish people and in the name of those who represent it today—the National Council of Poland and the Polish Committee of National Liberation,—I should like to give the assurance that this brotherhood-in-arms, created on the field of battle, will remain for long ages and will be the foundation of fraternity between our country and the Soviet Union.”

VISIT TO J. V. STALIN OF MR. B. BIERUT, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF POLAND, AND MR. E. OSOBKA-MORAWSKI, CHAIRMAN OF THE POLISH COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION

During the last few days J. V. Stalin, Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the U.S.S.R., has received Mr. B. Bierut (President of the National Council of Poland), Mr. E. Osobka-Morawski (Chairman of the Polish Committee of National Liberation), Mr. A. Witos and Mme Wassilewska (Vice-Chairmen of the Polish Committee of National Liberation) and Colonel-General M. Rola-Zymierski (Commander-in-Chief of the Polish Forces), who have arrived in Moscow from Lublin.

During the conversations which took place there were discussed questions relating to the liberated territory of Poland and the mutual relations between the Polish Committee of National Liberation and the Command of the Red Army.

V. M. Molotov, People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., took part in the conversations.

9 August, 1944.

VISIT TO J. V. STALIN OF MR. S. MIKOLAJCZYK

On 9 August, 1944, Messrs. S. Mikolajczyk, S. Grabski and T. Romer, representatives of the Polish émigré government, paid a farewell visit to J. V. Stalin, Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the U.S.S.R.

V. M. Molotov, People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., took part in the conversation.

DEPARTURE FROM MOSCOW OF MR. B. BIERUT, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF POLAND, AND MR. E. OSOBKA-MORAWSKI, CHAIRMAN OF THE POLISH COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION

On 9 August, 1944, Mr. Boleslaw Bierut (President of the National Council of Poland), Mr. E. Osobka-Morawski (Chairman of the Polish Committee of National Liberation), Mr. A. Witos (Vice-Chairman of the Polish Committee of National Liberation), Colonel-General M. Rola-Zymierski and others took their departure from Moscow.

Messrs. B. Bierut, E. Osobka-Morawski and the persons accompanying them were seen off at the Moscow aerodrome by A. Y. Vyshinsky (Deputy People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R.), V. A. Zorin (Director of the Fourth European Department of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs), G. I. Fomin (Acting Director of the Protocol Department of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs), Major-General V. N. Yevstigneyev (Chief of the Department of External Relations of the People's Commissariat for Defence), Major-General K. R. Sinilov (Commandant of the City of Moscow), and others.

A Guard of Honour was drawn up and the State anthems of Poland and the Soviet Union were performed.

The aerodrome was decorated with the Polish and Soviet flags.

EDICT OF THE PRESIDIUM OF THE SUPREME SOVIET OF THE U.S.S.R. GRANTING AN AMNESTY TO POLISH CITIZENS SENTENCED FOR CRIMES IN THE TERRITORY OF THE U.S.S.R.

To mark the entry of the Red Army and of units of the Polish Army into the territory of Poland, which has made a beginning of the liberation of the Polish people from the German-Fascist yoke, an amnesty is granted to all Polish citizens sentenced for committing crimes in the territory of the U.S.S.R., with the exception of persons guilty of particularly heinous crimes (espionage, banditry, murder).

The scope of the present Edict is extended to cases in which Polish citizens are accused of crimes mentioned above, which at the time of the promulgation of the present Edict are in process of investigation or are being heard by judicial bodies.

M. KALININ,
*President of the Presidium of the
Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.*
A. GORKIN,
*Secretary of the Presidium of the
Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.*

Kremlin, Moscow. 10 August, 1944.

FORTHCOMING NEGOTIATIONS IN WASHINGTON BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE U.S.S.R., THE U.S.A. AND GREAT BRITAIN ON THE CREATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ORGANIZATION

As was previously announced, there should have taken place, at the beginning of August in Washington, preliminary unofficial negotiations between

representatives of the U.S.S.R., the U.S.A. and Great Britain on the fundamental questions involved in the establishment of an international organization for the maintenance of peace and security. By an agreement now reached, the negotiations referred to will begin in Washington on 21 August.

The Council of People's Commissars of the U.S.S.R. has appointed a delegation to take part in these negotiations, composed as follows: A. A. Gromyko (Soviet Ambassador in the U.S.A., Chairman of the Delegation), A. A. Sobolev, S. K. Tsarapkin, Rear-Admiral K. K. Rodionov, Major-General N. V. Slavin, Professor S. A. Golunsky, Professor S. B. Krylov, G. G. Dolbin, M. M. Yunin (secretary of the Delegation), V. M. Berezhkov (secretary-interpreter).

Information Bureau of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs.

11 August, 1944.

SOVIET-AMERICAN EXPLORATORY CONVERSATIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO POST-WAR CIVIL AVIATION

During June and July of the present year conversations have taken place in Washington, on the initiative of the Government of the United States of America, between representatives of the United States and the Soviet Union on questions of post-war civil aviation. The conversations were of a preliminary character and were conducted in a friendly atmosphere.

In these conversations between the delegations of the U.S.S.R. and the U.S.A. there was reached a general mutual understanding of the interests and points of view of the two parties as to the problems and course of development of post-war civil aviation. In particular, it was established that it may prove desirable to organize an International Commission on civil aviation with consultative technical functions, facilitating flights and promoting their increased safety on the international air routes. An agreement was reached to arrange in the near future an exchange of opinion between technical experts of the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. on questions of co-ordinating technical measures in the sphere of international air transport.

16 August, 1944.

PRESENTATION OF AMERICAN DECORATIONS TO SOLDIERS, SERGEANTS, OFFICERS AND GENERALS OF THE RED ARMY

On 22 August, 1944, at the American Embassy in Moscow, there was held an investiture with American decorations which President Franklin D. Roosevelt had in 1944 conferred upon soldiers, sergeants, officers and generals of the Red Army for gallantry and outstanding performance of their military duty in operations at the Soviet-German front in struggle against Hitlerite Germany—the common enemy of the United States of America and the Soviet Union. As the recipients, being engaged in their military duties, could not personally attend to receive the decorations, Mr. W. A. Harriman, U.S. Ambassador in the U.S.S.R., handed them to V. M. Molotov, People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs, to be subsequently conveyed to those to whom they had been awarded. At the investiture Mr. W. A. Harriman and V. M. Molotov made the following speeches:

Speech of Mr. W. A. Harriman, Ambassador of the U.S.A. in the U.S.S.R.

I consider it a high honour and privilege to convey through you these awards of the Government of the United States to some, yet so few, of the

gallant heroes of the Red Army. This is only a small sign, yet it symbolizes the respect which we Americans feel with all our hearts for the personal heroism of every soldier and airman of the Red Army, and also the recognition by the American people of the great contribution made by the Red Army to the cause of the complete defeat and rout of the evil forces of our common enemy—Hitler and Fascism. Ahead there will still be cruel battles to achieve our common end, but today, when the armies of the Allies, supported by their comrades in the air, are advancing from the east, from the west and the south, victory is unquestionable.

I regret that the military obligations of these soldiers do not allow me personally to hand the decoration to each of them, to shake his hand and to say: "I have been granted the high honour of decorating you with this medal. We people from beyond the seas share the feeling of pride of your people in your gallant deeds. The President of the United States has instructed me to confer this decoration upon you as a sign of recognition of your services to our common cause."

The men who receive these decorations have played a great part in our common cause. However, I hope that all the citizens of the Soviet Union, so zealously performing their duty to make victory possible, will see in this honour shown to these individual persons the respect which the people of the United States feel for the men and women of the Soviet Union.

After the war is won we shall have to do a great deal together to build up a world in which peace-loving peoples will be able to live a full and happy life without fear of aggression. The links established between our countries and between our soldiers in wartime will be preserved so that we can achieve our common peaceful aims.

Speech of V. M. Molotov, People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R.

Mr. Ambassador, accepting from you the decorations which the President of the United States of America has awarded to gallant soldiers and commanders of the Red Army, I beg you to transmit on behalf of those decorated, and on behalf of the Soviet Government, our profound gratitude to the President and to the American Government for these battle decorations.

The high appreciation given by you and your Government to the services of these Soviet warriors will find a friendly and ardent echo in the hearts of the soldiers and officers of the Red Army, and of many millions of Soviet people. The war imposed on our peaceable peoples by Hitler and the criminal Fascist Governments has brought with it much wickedness, sufferings and disasters. It has torn from our ranks many of our best people who self-sacrificingly fought for their people, their liberties and a happy future. We still have before us many difficult battles. We are required, and will again and again be required, to strain all our energies in order to achieve victory. But in the fire of this struggle have been forged the foundations of such a friendship between the peoples of the Soviet Union, the United States and the other democratic countries as will lead to the crushing defeat of our common enemy, whose hours are numbered, and will serve the great cause of bringing about stable peace between the peoples.

Today our common foe is already receiving blows not only on two fronts, but from the mighty attack of Soviet, American and British troops, air and sea forces from various sides. And already an ever-increasing number of people in the enemy camp are understanding the hopelessness of their position and the coming of collapse. Today in Washington have begun their work the delegates of the United States, Great Britain and the Soviet Union, to whom has fallen

the task of beginning to work out the principles of an international organization of security, so necessary for the creation of a stable peace. The success of this effort is ensured by the goodwill of the peace-loving nations and the augmented understanding of the necessity for reliable guarantees against those who foment new wars. On this day the high American decorations conferred on Soviet soldiers will serve as a new call to deeds of battle in our Armies and as a means for further strengthening the friendship between our peoples.

STATEMENT BY THE PEOPLE'S COMMISSARIAT FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE U.S.S.R. ON EVENTS IN RUMANIA

In connection with developments in Rumania, the Soviet Government believes it not unnecessary to confirm its statement made in April of this year that the Soviet Union has no intention of acquiring any part of Rumanian territory, or of altering the existing social order in Rumania, or of prejudicing in any way the independence of Rumania. On the contrary, the Soviet Government considers it necessary to restore, jointly with the Rumanians, the independence of Rumania by means of the liberation of Rumania from the German-Fascist yoke.

The Soviet Supreme Command considers that, if the Rumanian troops discontinue military operations against the Red Army, and if they undertake, hand in hand with the Red Army, to wage a war of liberation against the Germans for the independence of Rumania, or against the Hungarians for the liberation of Transylvania, the Red Army will not disarm them, will leave them all their arms without exception and will help them by every means to fulfil this honourable task.

However, the Red Army can discontinue military operations in the territory of Rumania only after the German troops in Rumania, which are the instruments of the oppression and enslavement of the Rumanian people, have been liquidated.

The assistance of the Rumanian troops to the forces of the Red Army in the task of liquidating the German troops is the only means leading to the speedy cessation of military operations in the territory of Rumania, and to the conclusion by Rumania of an armistice with the Allied Coalition.

25 August, 1944.

ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW OF A CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT DELEGATION

On 25 August, 1944, there arrived in Moscow a Czechoslovak Government delegation from the liberated territory of Czechoslovakia, headed by Mr. Frantisek Nemecek, Minister and Delegate of the Czechoslovak Government, his deputy, Divisional General Rudolf Viest and Divisional General Antonin Nizborski, head of the Military Mission. Together with Mr. Nemecek there arrived the following members of the State Council of Czechoslovakia: Mr. B. Lausman, Mr. J. Valo, Mr. F. Uglirz and Monsignor F. Hala; together with the staff of the Delegate.

The delegation were met at the Central Aerodrome by V. A. Zorin (director of the Fourth European Department of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs), G. I. Fomin (acting director of the Protocol Department of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs) and Major-General V. N. Yevstigneyev (Chief of the Department of External Relations of the People's Commissariat

for Defence); together with Mr. Zd. Fierlinger (Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Czechoslovak Republic in the U.S.S.R.), Brigadier-General G. Pika (Chief of the Czechoslovak Military Mission in the U.S.S.R.), the diplomatic personnel of the Czechoslovak Embassy and others.

EVENTS IN RUMANIA

According to information in the possession of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., Bucharest is firmly in the hands of the new Rumanian Government of General Sanatescu. The German Military Mission, headed by General Hansen, and other Germans have been interned. Marshal Antonescu has been arrested and is in custody in the Royal Palace.

After the King's declaration had been made public, a tumultuous demonstration took place in Bucharest greeting the new Government. The statement of the Soviet Government published on the night of August 24/25 was received in Rumania with tremendous enthusiasm.

The Germans are shelling Bucharest from anti-aircraft guns, as they have no other artillery there, and are bombing the neighbourhood of the army barracks from the air. In Transylvania the Germans and the Hungarians are feverishly erecting defences. Rumanian troops have occupied the passes in the Carpathians, and have engaged the Germans retreating to the west, from the Soviet-German front. Information is to hand that the Germans are making attempts to set up a puppet Rumanian "government" headed by Horia Sima, the leader of the Fascist "Iron Guard" organization.

On 25 August the Rumanian Minister at Ankara, M. Creceanu, on the instructions of the King of Rumania and the Prime Minister of the new Rumanian Government, General Sanatescu, visited the Soviet Ambassador at Ankara, Vinogradov, and handed a Note to him, in which the Rumanian Government informed the Soviet Government that the King of Rumania had removed the Government of Marshal Antonescu from office and had appointed General Sanatescu President of the Council of Ministers. The Note states that the new Government represents a National Union, in which are represented the heads of the four political parties composing the National Democratic Bloc—Maniu, Bratianu, Lucretiu Patrascanu and Petrescu. The new Government, the Note continues, has decided immediately to sign an armistice and to proceed, with the help of the whole forces of the country, to the complete removal of all Germans from Rumanian territory.

27 August, 1944.

Note on Conditions for an Armistice with Rumania, proposed by the Soviet Government in April, 1944.

On 12 April, 1944, the Soviet Government presented the following six conditions for an Armistice with Rumania to the Rumanian Government of Marshal Antonescu:

1. A break with the Germans and joint struggle of the Rumanian troops with the armies of the Allies, including the Red Army, against the Germans, with a view to restoring the independence and sovereignty of Rumania.
2. The restoration of the Soviet-Rumanian frontier in accordance with the Treaty of 1940.
3. Compensation for the losses caused to the Soviet Union by hostilities and by the occupation of Soviet territory by Rumania.

4. Repatriation of all Soviet and Allied war prisoners and interned persons.

5. Soviet troops as well as other Allied troops to be ensured the possibility of freely moving over Rumanian territory in any direction, should the war situation so require, the Rumanian Government rendering the utmost assistance in this respect by its means of transport, on land, by water and in the air.

6. Consent of the Soviet Government to the annulment of the Vienna Award on Transylvania, and the rendering of assistance in the liberation of Transylvania.

These conditions were rejected by the former Rumanian Government of Marshal Antonescu.

The Rumanian King Michael and the new Rumanian Government of General Sanatescu have expressed their agreement to acceptance of these conditions. (TASS.)

27 August, 1944.

SITUATION IN BULGARIA

On 26 August, 1944, M. Draganov, Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Affairs, on behalf of the Bulgarian Government, made a statement to the Soviet Chargé d'Affaires in Bulgaria, Kirsanov, to the effect that the Bulgarian Government had decided on the complete neutrality of Bulgaria. The Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Affairs stated that, in the event of the German troops at present in Rumania retreating to Bulgarian territory, they would be disarmed and dealt with in accordance with the Hague Convention. As for the German troops on the territory of Bulgaria, M. Draganov declared, the Bulgarian Government on 25 August had put before the German Government and Military Command the question of withdrawal of these troops from Bulgaria. M. Draganov also stated that in the event of the Germans refusing to withdraw their troops from Bulgaria, the troops would be disarmed.

*Information Bureau, People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R.
27 August, 1944.*

ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW OF MR. DONALD NELSON AND MAJOR-GENERAL PATRICK HURLEY

On 30 August, 1944, Mr. Donald Nelson, chairman of the War Production Administration of the U.S.A., and Major-General Patrick Hurley arrived in Moscow.

Mr. Nelson and Major-General Hurley were met at the Moscow aerodrome by V. A. Sergeev (Deputy People's Commissar for Foreign Trade), K. A. Mikhailov (acting director of the U.S.A. Department of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs), G. I. Fomin (acting director of the Protocol Department of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs), K. I. Lukashev, A. A. Rostarchuk, V. G. Kirillov (senior members of the staff of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Trade), Colonel I. D. Kochegarov (deputy chief of the Department of External Relations of the People's Commissariat for Defence); together with the personnel of the American Embassy, headed by Mr. Averell Harriman (Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary), and the personnel

of the Chinese Embassy, headed by Mr. Fu Ping-Chang (Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary).

RUMANIAN AFFAIRS

A Rumanian Government delegation, composed of Messrs. B. Stirbey, K. Visoianu, L. Patrascanu (Minister of Justice), D. Damanceanu (Deputy Minister of the Interior), I. Cristu, G. Popp and Lieutenant-Colonel J. Focsanianu has arrived in Moscow to conduct negotiations for the conclusion of an armistice.

The Rumanian delegates were met at the aerodrome by representatives of the Protocol Department of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R. and of the Department of External Relations of the People's Commissariat for Defence.

31 August, 1944.

SOVIET-FINNISH RELATIONS

On 25 August, 1944, the Finnish Minister at Stockholm, Mr. Gripenberg, handed to A. M. Kollontai, the Soviet Minister, the following statement of Mr. Enckell, Finnish Minister for Foreign Affairs:

"I have the honour to bring to your knowledge that the President of the Finnish Republic and the Finnish Government have authorized Mr. Gripenberg, Minister of the Finnish Republic at Stockholm, to address a request through you to the Soviet Government that Moscow should receive a Finnish Government delegation in order to come to an agreement on an armistice, or on conclusion of peace, or on both, between Finland and the Soviet Union."

In addition, Mr. Gripenberg handed to A. M. Kollontai a Note Verbale, in which was stated that the President of the Finnish Republic "on 17 August declared to Field-Marshal Keitel, who visited him on the instructions of the German Reichs-Chancellor, that he did not consider himself bound by the agreement by which the former President Ryti had pledged himself with regard to the German Government".

In this connection, the Soviet Government instructed A. M. Kollontai to convey on 29 August the following to the Finnish Government:

"The Soviet Government can receive a delegation of the Finnish Government only in the event of the acceptance by the Finnish Government of the following preliminary condition:

The Finnish Government must state publicly that it breaks relations with Germany; that it presents to Germany the demand for the withdrawal by Germany of her armed forces from Finland within two weeks of the day of acceptance by the Finnish Government of the present proposal of the Soviet Government, and in any case not later than 15 September of this year; and that if Germany does not withdraw her armed forces from Finland within the specified time, the German armed forces will be disarmed and turned over to the Allies as prisoners of war.

If the Finnish Government fulfils the present preliminary condition, the Soviet Government is agreeable to receive in Moscow a delegation of the

Finnish Government for negotiations on an armistice or on peace, or on both together."

Simultaneously Mr. Grippenbergr was informed that the present reply of the Soviet Government had been agreed with the British Government, and had not met with any observations on the part of the Government of the U.S.A.

On 2 September Mr. Grippenbergr handed to A. M. Kollontai a statement by the Finnish President Mannerheim. In this statement the Finnish President declared that the Finnish Government, even before sending its answer to the preliminary condition of the Soviet Government, was proposing that Finland herself should carry into effect the voluntary evacuation of the German troops, or their internment in one (southern) portion of Finnish territory. Moreover, the statement of the Finnish President proposes that hostilities should be suspended on one definite (southern) part of the front, and that the Finnish troops on this part of the front should be withdrawn to the Soviet-Finnish frontier of 1940, Soviet troops being moved correspondingly up to this line.

In addition to this, Mr. Grippenbergr stated that the declaration of the Finnish Government of a break with Germany, which the Soviet Government was demanding, would be made after receipt from the Soviet Government of its reply to the communication of the Finnish President. Moreover, Mr. Grippenbergr stated that the Finns were ready to take part also in the operation for the proposed disarming of the German troops in the northern part of Finland, but wished to come to an understanding in Moscow with the Soviet Military Command with regard to co-ordination and assistance in this matter.

The Soviet Government gave its answer to the latest Finnish statement on 3 September. This answer stated that the Soviet Government insists on the acceptance by the Finnish Government of the preliminary condition mentioned earlier, namely that the Finnish Government must publicly state that it breaks relations with Germany and demands the withdrawal of the German troops from Finland not later than 15 September and that, in the event of the German troops not being withdrawn from Finland in the time specified, those troops will be disarmed and turned over to the Allies as prisoners of war. The Soviet reply also states that, if Germany does not withdraw her troops from Finland before 15 September, the Soviet Government agrees to render assistance to the Finnish army in disarming the German armed forces. The Soviet Government, moreover, agreed that hostilities should cease on the southern part of the front, as proposed by the Finnish Government, if the Finnish Government fulfils the above-mentioned preliminary condition. The Soviet Government has declared itself in favour of all other questions being settled during negotiations for an armistice.

Information Bureau, People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R.

4 September, 1944.

**EDICT OF THE PRESIDIUUM OF THE SUPREME SOVIET OF THE
U.S.S.R. CONFERRING THE ORDER OF SUVOROV (FIRST CLASS)
ON MARSHAL JOSEPH BROZ-TITO, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF
THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY OF YUGOSLAVIA**

For outstanding successes in the direction of armies, and in the carrying out of military operations against Hitlerite Germany, the common enemy of

the Soviet Union [and Yugoslavia, the Order of Suvorov (First Class) is conferred on Marshal Joseph Broz-Tito, Commander-in-Chief of the People's Liberation Army of Yugoslavia.

M. KALININ,
*President of the Presidium of the
Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.*

A. GORKIN,
*Secretary of the Presidium of the
Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.*

Kremlin, Moscow. 5 September, 1944.

EDICT OF THE PRESIDUM OF THE SUPREME SOVIET OF THE U.S.S.R. CONFERRING ORDERS OF THE U.S.S.R. ON GENERALS AND OFFICERS OF THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY OF YUGO- SLAVIA

For outstanding military action and for courage and valour displayed therein in the struggle against Hitlerite Germany, the common enemy of the U.S.S.R. and Yugoslavia, the following declarations are conferred :

Order of Kutuzov (First Class)

1. Major-General Svetozar Vukmanovic.
2. Lieut.-General Milovan Djilas.
3. Lieut.-General Sreten Zujovic.
4. Lieut.-General Arso Jovanovic.
5. Lieut.-General Ivan Pilutinovic.
6. Lieut.-General Alexandar Rankovic.

Order of Suvorov (Second Class)

1. Major-General Mihailo Apostolsky.
2. Lieut.-General Ivan Gosnijk.
3. Lieut.-General Peko Dapcevic.
4. Lieut.-General Koca Popovic.
5. Major-General Franc Rozman.
6. Lieut.-General Velimir Terzic.

Order of Kutuzov (Second Class)

1. Major-General Miroslav Ambrozic.
2. Major-General Petar Drapsin.
3. Colonel Vasa Jovanovic.
4. Colonel Joko Jovanic.
5. Colonel Vlatko Kovacic.
6. Major-General Danilo Lekic.
7. Colonel Miliutin Moraca.
8. Major-General Vlado Matetic.
9. Lieut.-General Kosta Nadj.
10. Colonel Marko Pericin.
11. Major-General Slavko Rodic.
12. Colonel Vlado Cetkovic.
13. Major-General Vlado Segrt.
14. Colonel Pavle Jaksic.

Order of the Red Banner

1. Lieut.-Colonel Ante Banina.
2. Lieut.-Colonel Vlado Baic.
3. Colonel Mitar Bakic.
4. Colonel Bozo Bozovic.
5. Colonel Ljubo Vuckovic.
6. Lieut.-Colonel Milos Zekic.
7. Colonel Glico Mandic.
8. Colonel Vlado Popovic.
9. Captain Rade Ristanovic.
10. Colonel Stanko Semic.
11. Lieut.-Colonel Niko Strugar.
12. Major IvanTursic.
13. Major-General Rade Hamovic.
14. Colonel Bosko Siljegovic.

Order of the Patriotic War (First Class)

1. Colonel Jagos Zaric.
2. Lieut.-Colonel Radivoje Jovanovic.
3. Colonel Stevo Raus.
4. Lieut.-Colonel Drogan Stanic.
5. Major Bogdan Stupar.
6. Lieut.-Colonel Hadji Halil Murtezic.

M. KALININ,

*President of the Presidium of the
Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.*

A. GORKIN,

*Secretary of the Presidium of the
Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.*

Kremlin, Moscow. 5 September, 1944.

NOTE OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BULGARIA

On 5 September, 1944, at 7 p.m., V. M. Molotov, People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., on the instructions of the Soviet Government, handed to M. Stamenov, Bulgarian Minister in the U.S.S.R., the following Note:

"For over three years Bulgaria has in actual fact assisted Germany in her war against the Soviet Union. The Soviet Government took into consideration that a small country like Bulgaria was not in a position to resist the powerful armed forces of Germany at a time when Germany held in her hands nearly the whole of Europe. The Soviet Government tolerated this state of affairs. The Soviet Government was also tolerant when Bulgarian ruling circles helped the Germans to evacuate from the Crimea and to save the remnants of the German troops routed in the south of the Soviet Union.

This summer, however, Germany's armed forces found themselves in a state of severe crisis. Caught in pincers by the Soviet armies, from the east, and by the Allied armies, which had landed in France, from the west, Germany has found herself in a disastrous situation, and her armed forces, utterly routed, are compelled to retreat on all fronts. Germany has finally lost Italy. Germany has lost France. After this Rumania has fallen away from Germany.

Even such a small country as Finland is breaking away, because she sees that continuation of friendly relations with Germany is leading the country to destruction.

Germany's fate is sealed. Germany has lost the war for good.

With events taking such a turn, it might have been expected that Bulgaria would decide to take advantage of this favourable moment and, following Rumania and Finland, would renounce a pro-German policy, break with Germany and join the anti-Hitler coalition of the democratic countries.

In spite of this, the Bulgarian Government even now refuses to break with Germany, and conducts a policy of so-called neutrality, on the strength of which it continues direct help to Germany against the Soviet Union, saving the retreating German forces from pursuit by the Red Army, and providing them with a base on Bulgarian territory for the creation of a new centre of resistance by Germany to the forces of the anti-German coalition, both on land and at sea.

The Soviet Government cannot regard this policy of Bulgaria otherwise than as virtual prosecution of the war in the camp of Germany against the Soviet Union—a policy being pursued at this time, despite the radical deterioration of the war situation for Germany, and despite the fact that Bulgaria now has every opportunity, without fear of Germany, to break with Germany and thereby save the country from destruction.

In view of this, the Soviet Government no longer deems it possible to maintain relations with Bulgaria, severs all relations with Bulgaria, and declares that not only is Bulgaria in a state of war with the U.S.S.R., inasmuch as in actual fact she was already in a state of war with the U.S.S.R., but that the Soviet Union likewise will henceforth be in a state of war with Bulgaria.

Moscow, 5 September, 1944. 7 p.m.

M. Stamenov stated that he would immediately inform his Government of the Soviet Government's Note.

PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE PEOPLE'S COMMISSARIAT FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

On 5 September, 1944, at 8 p.m., a press conference was held at the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., at which V. M. Molotov, People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs, acquainted representatives of the Soviet and foreign press with the Note of the Soviet Government to the Government of Bulgaria, which had been handed to M. Stamenov, Bulgarian Minister in the U.S.S.R., on that day.

V. M. Molotov replied to the questions of the journalists present.

In reply to a question put by Mr. Shapiro, correspondent of the United Press of America, as to whether the British and United States Governments were aware of this Note from the Soviet Government, V. M. Molotov answered that, before the Note was presented to the Bulgarian Minister, he informed the British Ambassador, Sir Archibald Clark Kerr, and the American Ambassador, Mr. Harriman, of its contents.

Mr. Loterbach, correspondent of *Time*, asked what demands would be put forward by the Soviet Union to Bulgaria. V. M. Molotov said: "The Bulgarian Government has just been presented with a Note of great importance. We must give time to the Bulgarian Government to study this Soviet declaration."

Further, the *New York Times* correspondent, Mr. Lawrence, asked how armistice negotiations were proceeding with the Rumanian Government

delegation which had arrived in Moscow. V. M. Molotov stated: "Negotiations have not yet started, as it is essential first to complete the necessary preparations for them, and these preparations do not depend on the Soviet Union alone, but on our friends—the British and Americans—as well."

Mr. Magidoff, correspondent of the American National Broadcasting Company, asked about the progress of negotiations between the U.S.S.R. and Finland. V. M. Molotov replied that the negotiations had not yet begun, but that the arrival of a Finnish delegation in the U.S.S.R. was expected soon.

"Such a request has been received from the Government of Finland," said Molotov, "and a positive reply has been given. The Soviet Government has permitted the arrival of a Finnish delegation in Moscow." (TASS.)

SOVIET-FINNISH RELATIONS

1. On the night of 3/4 September the Finnish Government broadcast a statement in which it announced that Finland had accepted the preliminary condition put forward by the Soviet Government, namely the breaking of relations with Germany and of the withdrawal of German troops from Finland not later than September 15.

2. Simultaneously with the statement of the Finnish Government of its acceptance of the Soviet preliminary condition, the Finnish High Command announced the cessation of hostilities along the entire zone of disposition of the Finnish troops as from 8 a.m. on 4 September.

3. In view of the acceptance by the Finnish Government of the preliminary condition laid down by the Soviet Government, the Soviet High Command has ordered the cessation of hostilities in the zone of disposition of the Finnish troops as from 8 a.m. on 5 September.

6 September, 1944.

THE BREAKING OFF OF SOVIET-BULGARIAN RELATIONS

The Bulgarian Government, which in 1941 entered the path of military collaboration with Hitlerite Germany, began from that time onwards to give assistance to the Germans in their bandit war against the Soviet Union. From the spring of the present year, when the military situation of Germany very sharply deteriorated, the Bulgarian Government increased its help to the Hitlerites still further, affording them wide possibilities of making use of aerodromes, river and maritime ports and of the whole territory of Bulgaria for military purposes against the Soviet Union.

In this connection, on 17 April this year, V. M. Molotov, People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs, handed a Note to M. Stamenov, Bulgarian Minister in Moscow, of which the tenor was as follows:

The Soviet Government has already more than once made representations to the Bulgarian Government concerning the facts at its disposal of the use of Bulgarian territory and Bulgarian ports for Germany's military operations against the Soviet Union. Nevertheless, and in reply to the latest representations of the Soviet Government, the Bulgarian Government once again confined itself to a bare denial of the facts cited, which cannot be regarded as an attempt to cover up the actions of the Bulgarian authorities inimical to the Soviet Union.

Today, when the military situation of Germany has begun to grow

worse and worse, the German Fascists have begun making particularly extensive use of Bulgarian territory and of the Black Sea ports at Varna and Burgas for military purposes against the U.S.S.R. The Soviet Government has at its disposal authentic data to the effect that the Bulgarian ports of Varna and Burgas, equally with the Rumanian port of Constanza, have been now transformed into German bases, on which the main German naval forces in the Black Sea are based for their operations against the Soviet Union, and are thus under the protection of the Bulgarian authorities. In the same way the Germans are making use of aerodromes in Bulgarian territory, whence raids against the Soviet forces are being made.

Thus Bulgaria, while maintaining diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union, has placed her ports and aerodromes at the disposal of Hitlerite Germany for military operations against the Soviet Union. Lately, in connection with the worsened military situation of Germany, the Germans enjoy particularly extensive assistance from the Bulgarian authorities in their military objectives against our country. Such a situation is incompatible with normal relations between the U.S.S.R. and Bulgaria, and cannot further be tolerated.

The Soviet Government insistently requests the Bulgarian Government immediately to put an end to the use by Hitlerite Germany of Bulgarian territory and Bulgarian ports against the Soviet Union.

On 24 April, in its reply to this Note, the Bulgarian Government attempted to deny that Bulgarian territory, ports and aerodromes were being used by the Germans in their war against the U.S.S.R., and hypocritically spoke of its readiness to verify every fact of such a kind which might be submitted to it by the Soviet Government. The Note of the Bulgarian Government stated :

“The Bulgarian Government has taken into account the contents of the Note of the People’s Commissariat for Foreign Affairs, all the more because it desires to maintain those correct, loyal and friendly diplomatic relations which it has maintained hitherto. The Bulgarian Government, however, considers it necessary to emphasize that it never confined itself to a bare denial of those circumstances of which from time to time the Soviet Government has until now complained through its Minister in Sofia, but always grounded its replies upon carefully verified facts. So also in the present case the Bulgarian Government must state that the assertions of the Soviet Government as to the use by the Germans of aerodromes in Bulgarian territory for raids against Soviet troops, the transformation of the ports of Varna and Burgas into German bases in which the main German naval forces are being concentrated, and that Bulgaria in general, while maintaining diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union, has placed her ports and aerodromes at the disposal of Germany for military operations against the Soviet Union, do not correspond to the facts.

The Bulgarian Government declares its readiness to study in the most careful way all real facts which the Soviet Government may consider that it has at its disposal, and which might be in contradiction with the above-mentioned assertions on our side. We request that, if such facts are available, they should be immediately communicated to us, for verification and for adoption of appropriate measures.

In conclusion, the Bulgarian Government thinks it necessary to point out yet again that it has not in any way altered its attitude to the Soviet

Union in comparison with the situation when Bulgaria acceded to the Tripartite Pact [the Pact concluded on 27 September, 1940, by Germany, Italy and Japan—Ed.], when the Soviet Union and Germany were also linked by a single pact. The Bulgarian Government once again declares, as M. Shishmanov, Minister for Foreign Affairs, has on various occasions hitherto likewise declared to the Soviet Minister, that it most earnestly and sincerely desires to maintain with the Soviet Union the most correct, loyal and friendly relations.”

As the Bulgarian Government had adopted the method of denying quite evident facts, unilateral verification of the latter by the Bulgarian authorities naturally could produce no results. Therefore the Soviet Government on 26 April sent a Note to the Bulgarian Government in which it proposed the re-establishment of the Soviet Consulate at Varna which had previously been closed, and the establishment of Soviet Consulates at Burgas and Rushchuk, so as to make it possible to carry out the necessary verification of the true state of affairs, jointly with the Bulgarian authorities. This Note stated:

“In spite of the statement of the Soviet Government that it had authentic facts at its disposal of the use of Bulgarian ports and aerodromes by the armed forces of Germany in war against the Soviet Union, the Bulgarian Government in its reply of 24th April again confined itself to the bare denial of these facts. Moreover, the proposal of the Bulgarian Government that more detailed information should be communicated to it for verification is unacceptable to the Soviet Government, since unilateral verification by the Bulgarian authorities cannot produce positive results and cannot meet with the confidence of the Soviet Government. It is sufficient to recall that the Soviet Consulate which existed at Varna up to the autumn of 1942 was closed at the request of the Bulgarian authorities, although Consulates of States friendly to Germany continue to exist in Varna and in other ports up to the present time. One cannot but mention also that for over two years already the Bulgarian authorities have been denying Soviet representatives in Sofia any access to the Black Sea and Danubian ports of Bulgaria.

If the Bulgarian Government is striving to establish the true facts and to ensure the verification of the real situation on the spot, this should be done not only by representatives of the Bulgarian Government but also by representatives of the Soviet Government. With this object the Soviet Government considers it essential to re-establish the Soviet Consulate at Varna, and also to establish Soviet Consulates at Burgas and Rushchuk on the Danube, since the Black Sea and Danubian ports of Bulgaria are, according to the information of the Soviet Government, bases for the German armed forces operating against the Soviet Union. The presence of Soviet Consulates at Varna, Burgas and Rushchuk would make it possible for representatives of the Soviet Union, together with representatives of Bulgaria, to effect the necessary verification of the facts on the spot, and to carry out such verification in the future, should necessity arise.”

The Bulgarian Government evaded a direct reply to the proposal put forward by the Soviet Government, attempting to make the opening of Soviet Consulates in Bulgaria dependent on the restoration of economic relations between Bulgaria and the U.S.S.R., interrupted by the war. In its Note of 6 May the Bulgarian Government stated:

"Bearing in mind the juridical substance of commercial Consulates, and in consequence of the circumstance that economic relations between Bulgaria and the Soviet Union ceased to exist three years ago, the Bulgarian Government at the appropriate time desired that the Soviet Consulate at Varna should be closed. Now, when the Soviet Government is insisting not only on the reopening of this Consulate, but also on the setting-up of new Consulates at Burgas and Rushchuk, it is essential, in the opinion of the Bulgarian Government, once again to renew economic ties between Bulgaria and the Soviet Union—which for six months already has been urged upon the Soviet Minister at Sofia, without any reply whatsoever being received from Moscow. In view of this and in reply to the Note of Mr. Molotov of 26 April, the Bulgarian Government considers it necessary to state that it is ready to examine in the most favourable way the desire of the Soviet Government concerning the opening of Soviet Consulates at Varna, Burgas and Rushchuk after the restoration of economic relations between Bulgaria and the Soviet Union.

In conclusion, the Bulgarian Government considers it necessary again to repeat what it pointed out in its Note of 24th April, namely that it desires to maintain for the future also those correct, loyal and friendly relations with the Soviet Union which it has maintained up to now, and that it has not in any way altered its attitude to the U.S.S.R. in comparison with the situation when Bulgaria acceded to the Tripartite Pact, when the Soviet Union and Germany were also linked by a single pact. The Bulgarian Government considers it necessary once again to underline that it is ready to do everything possible to reinforce and consolidate confidence and friendship between the two Powers."

Such a statement by the Bulgarian Government could not be understood otherwise than as a refusal to satisfy the just request of the Soviet Government and as indicating the intention of the Bulgarian Government to continue affording aid to Germany in her war against the U.S.S.R. In its Note of 9 May the Soviet Government drew this conclusion, and likewise pointed out all the baselessness of the attempts to link up the question of the Consulates with the question of restoring commercial connections between Bulgaria and the U.S.S.R. This Note stated in part:

"The Soviet Government did not break off commercial relations with Bulgaria, whose economic connections with the Soviet Union were interrupted, as is well known, on account of military operations in the Black Sea. Moreover, the Soviet Consulate which previously existed at Varna never carried on any commercial operations, and to link up the question of re-establishing this Consulate, as the Bulgarian Government does, as well as the question of establishing Soviet Consulates at Burgas and Rushchuk, with the question of restoring commercial relations, is entirely unjustified. It is sufficient to point out that at the present time there exist at Varna a number of foreign Consulates, which do not engage in any commercial activity just as they did not engage in it in the past. Equally groundless is the reference of the Bulgarian Government to the 'juridical substance of commercial Consulates', as no commercial Consulates exist anywhere at all, and the conducting of commercial operations does not enter into the functions of Consulates.

When expressing the desire for the opening of its Consulates at Varna, Burgas and Rushchuk, the Soviet Government was prompted, as was set forth in the Note of 26 April, by the necessity of making it possible for

Soviet representatives, together with representatives of Bulgaria, to carry out on the spot verification of the facts of the use by the Germans of Bulgarian ports and aerodromes in war against the U.S.S.R., and to carry out such verification in future, should necessity arise.

In view of the foregoing, the Soviet Government considers the statement of the Bulgarian Government that it will consider the proposal of the Soviet Government for opening of Soviet Consulates at Varna, Burgas and Rushchuk only after the renewal of economic relations between Bulgaria and the Soviet Union as a refusal to satisfy the desire of the Soviet Government indicated above, and as signifying the intention to continue for the future to afford assistance to Hitlerite Germany in the use of Bulgarian ports and aerodromes in war against the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Government insists on the satisfaction of its desire for the re-establishment of the Soviet Consulate at Varna and the establishment of Soviet Consulates at Burgas and Rushchuk."

In spite of this, the Bulgarian Government of Bozhilov, continuing to evade a direct reply to the proposal of the Soviet Government for the opening of Consulates, and hypocritically declaring its wish to maintain friendly relations with the Soviet Union, again put forward in its Note of 15 May the arguments already exposed in the Soviet Note of 9 May. The Bulgarian Government in its Note stated:

"The Bulgarian Government has studied most attentively the contents of the above-mentioned Note; with the sincere desire of finding a means both for maintaining the friendly relations between Bulgaria and the Soviet Union which have existed so far, and for the correct solution of the question raised by the Government of the Soviet Union concerning the re-establishment of the Soviet Consulate at Varna and the opening of new Soviet Consulates at Burgas and Rushchuk. The Bulgarian Government can place on record with satisfaction that the Soviet Government itself recognizes that it did not interrupt commercial relations with Bulgaria, and that economic connections between the latter and the Soviet Union were interrupted as a result of military operations in the Black Sea. Hence it follows that there are possibilities of finding other existing routes, for example through Turkey, for the restoration of economic connections between Bulgaria and the Soviet Union, even if on the most limited scale, even at the present time, when there is a certain difference in the situation compared with that which existed when economic connections between Bulgaria and the Soviet Union were interrupted three years ago.

Therefore the Bulgarian Government finds it possible to ask the Government of the Soviet Union once again to give its favourable attention to the arguments set forth in its Note of 6 May this year.

In doing so the Bulgarian Government thinks it essential to repeat and emphasize that it is inspired by a sincere desire for mutual understanding and for the strengthening of the relations of confidence and friendship between the two countries and their Governments."

Such conduct on the part of the Bulgarian Government plainly showed its desire to continue helping Germany, covering up this help by hypocritical manoeuvres. In view of this, the Soviet Government in its Note of 18 May subjected the whole position of the Bulgarian Government in this question to detailed analysis, and gave a serious warning to the Bozhilov Government. The Soviet Note stated:

"In its Note of 17 April, 1944, the Soviet Government drew the attention of the Bulgarian Government to the incompatibility with normal relations between the U.S.S.R. and Bulgaria of such facts as when, in connection with the ever-deteriorating military position of Germany, the Bulgarian ports of Varna and Burgas, like the Rumanian port of Constanza, have now been transformed into German bases, where are concentrated the German naval forces in the Black Sea operating against the U.S.S.R. under the protection of the Bulgarian authorities. The Soviet Government drew the attention of the Bulgarian Government to the fact that such a state of affairs could no longer be tolerated.

The Soviet Government requested the Bulgarian Government immediately to put an end to the use of Bulgarian territory and Bulgarian ports by Fascist Germany against the Soviet Union.

In view of the fact that the Bulgarian Government, in reply to this request of the Soviet Government, confined itself to a wholesale denial of the facts set forth above, the Soviet Government expressed the desire to re-establish the Soviet Consulate at Varna, closed at the insistence of the Bulgarian Government, and also to establish Soviet Consulates at Burgas and Rushchuk, so as to make it possible for representatives of the Soviet Union, together with representatives of Bulgaria, to effect the necessary verification of the facts on the spot, and carry out such verification in future, should necessity arise.

The Bulgarian Government evaded a direct reply to the desire expressed by the Soviet Government, and made the question of opening Soviet Consulates in Bulgaria dependent upon the restoration of commercial relations between Bulgaria and the U.S.S.R., which had been interrupted by the military operations of Germany in the Black Sea, and although the restoration of commercial relations has no bearing upon the establishment of Soviet Consulates in Bulgaria—not to speak of the fact that such a proposal by the Bulgarian Government has no practical meaning, in view of warlike operations in the Black Sea.

The Soviet Government, in its Note presented to the Bulgarian Government on 9 May, drew the attention of the latter to the fact that the Soviet Government considers this attempt of the Bulgarian Government as a refusal to satisfy the above-mentioned wish, and as signifying the intention of the present Bulgarian Government to continue to afford assistance to Hitlerite Germany in the use of Bulgarian ports and aerodromes in war against the Soviet Union. The Soviet Government in the same Note again declared to the Bulgarian Government that it insisted on the satisfaction of its desires for the re-establishment of a Soviet Consulate at Varna and for the establishment of Soviet consulates at Burgas and Rushchuk.

The Bulgarian Government in its Note of 15 May again evaded a direct answer to the question of the establishment of three Soviet Consulates in Bulgaria, on the same pretext of the necessity first of all of a resumption of commercial relations between the Soviet Union and Bulgaria, although the Bulgarian Government could not but know that, in so far as diplomatic relations are maintained between the two countries, all the conditions for commercial relations are in existence once the military situation permits.

All this obliges the Soviet Government to record that the Bulgarian Government cannot refute the declaration of the Soviet Government that the territory of Bulgaria, its ports and aerodromes, have been placed by the Bulgarian Government at the disposal of Hitlerite Germany for military operations against the Soviet Union, and that it is just because of this that the Bulgarian Government is seeking pretexts for evading a direct answer

to the Soviet Government's proposal for the opening of Soviet Consulates in Bulgaria.

In view of the foregoing, the Soviet Government insists that the Bulgarian Government should without further delay satisfy the requests of the Soviet Government for the re-establishment of the Soviet Consulate at Varna and for the opening of Soviet Consulates at Burgas and Rushchuk. The Soviet Government gives warning that, failing the satisfaction of the above-mentioned desire of the Soviet Government, it will consider impossible the maintenance of relations with Bulgaria, as a State which is helping, and intends to continue to help, Hitlerite Germany in war against the Soviet Union."

The Bulgarian Government in every possible way delayed replying to this Soviet Note. The Government of Bagryanov, which took the place of the Bozhilov Government, continued to manoeuvre, holding up a decision on the question of the opening of Soviet Consulates and of the discontinuance of all aid to Hitlerite Germany in its war against the U.S.S.R.

Only at the end of July, when the summer offensive of the Red Army and the successful operations of the Allied forces in France and in Italy brought Germany face to face with disaster, did the Government of Bagryanov at length express its conditional agreement, in a Note of 29 July, to the re-establishment of a Soviet Consulate at Varna, but postponing for an indefinite period the opening of Soviet Consulates at Burgas and Rushchuk. This Note of the Bulgarian Government stated:

"One of the first tasks of the new Bulgarian Government was to study the Note received from the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on 18 May of the present year, and to find a solution for the questions raised, taking as its point of departure the policy which it is resolved to apply in relation to the Government of the Soviet Union, namely, the establishment and development of relations of friendship and confidence with the Soviet Union. The exceptional position in which Bulgaria is situated, as a country which signed the Tripartite Pact, makes the application of this policy involved in certain difficulties which require great care. In the absence of the latter, complications might arise in the Balkans which would interfere with the application of this policy and would not be in the interests either of Bulgaria or of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

As a result of a profound study of the question and of the circumstances in which the Government finds itself when taking a decision, measures were taken to eliminate everything that might be considered incompatible with the position of Bulgaria as a neutral country in relation to the Soviet Union, which is at war with Germany.

By this the Government desired to give effective proof of its sincere intention to realize a policy of friendship with the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union has been informed in good time of what has been done so far, through Mr. Kirsanov, its representative at Sofia, and also through the Bulgarian Minister at Moscow.

The Bulgarian Government has decided firmly to continue this policy for the future also, naturally taking account of the possibilities of the moment, lest premature action should prevent its application.

Pursuing this course of action, it gives consideration also to the question of the Consulates demanded by the above-mentioned Note, in order to afford the possibility to representatives of the Soviet Union, together with

representatives of Bulgaria, to make the necessary verification of the facts on the spot and to effect such verification in the future, should necessity arise.

The Bulgarian Government considers that, by the policy which it has adopted and is carrying out in practice, and taking into account what it has already done up to the present, it has done much more for the establishment and maintenance of friendly relations with the Soviet Union than would have been achieved merely by the opening of the Consulates demanded. But, given the situation already created as a result of the negotiations carried on by the former and present Bulgarian Governments with the Soviet Union and in view of the desire expressed by the Government of the Soviet Union to open Consulates at Varna, Burgas and Rushchuk, the Bulgarian Government considers, if this will still further promote the policy which it desires to pursue, that it might be put into effect gradually, beginning, for example, with the re-establishment of the Consulate at Varna, with a field of operations extending to Burgas and Rushchük. In view of the inconsiderable distance of these towns from Varna, and of the assistance which the Bulgarian Government gives and will give to the Soviet Union, the Consulate at Varna will not experience any difficulties in performing its functions."

By this time the military situation of Germany had taken a sharp turn for the worse. Military operations against the Hitlerite army had come close to the Bulgarian frontiers, and the German High Command, with the assent of the Bulgarian Government, had considerably extended its utilization of the territory of Bulgaria for the purpose of affording assistance to the southern group of its forces. In these new conditions only a complete rupture between Bulgaria and Hitlerite Germany could make certain that any aid to the latter in her war against the U.S.S.R. would be brought to an end. In connection with this the Soviet Government, through its Chargé d'Affaires at Sofia, made the following statement on 12 August to the Bulgarian Premier, Bagryanov:

"In view of the great delay in settling the question of the three Soviet Consulates in Bulgaria, and in connection with the altered military situation, the question of the Consulates has now lost all meaning. If Bulgaria intends to get out of its blind alley in any way, the only possible question at the present time can be one of a rupture between Bulgaria and Germany. The Soviet Government asks the Bulgarian Government whether it is ready for a rupture with Germany. The Soviet Government awaits a reply to this question, and trusts that this affair will not be delayed by the Bulgarian Government."

The Bagryanov Government, not wishing to break with Hitlerite Germany, and trying to cover up its assistance to the latter, proclaimed the so-called "complete neutrality" of Bulgaria, vainly attempting in this way to deceive the people of its country and world public opinion. Facts proved that Bulgarian "neutrality" in practice is only a new form of assistance to Hitlerite Germany. The Bulgarian Government has afforded the German High Command the full possibility not only of sheltering its battered troops and the crews of its warships in the "neutral" territory of Bulgaria, but also of moving its reserves through Bulgaria into Rumania, where the German forces under the blows of the Red Army are suffering one defeat after another. Taking this into consideration, the Soviet Government instructed the Soviet Chargé d'Affaires at Sofia to hand the Bulgarian Government on 30 August a Note in the following terms:

“On the instruction of the Soviet Government, I inform you that, according to authentic information, the Bulgarian Government continues to allow the passage of German troops to Rumanian territory, where Soviet troops are now disposed and engaged in clearing Rumanian territory from the German forces. The Soviet Government considers this step of the Bulgarian Government as constituting direct aid to the Germans in war against the Soviet Union. The Soviet Government requests the Bulgarian Government immediately to cease granting the German forces passage to Rumanian territory.”

The Bulgarian Government did not draw the necessary conclusions from this statement by the Soviet Government, and continued to harbour German troops in its territory. The full texts of the Soviet and Bulgarian Notes, quoted above, confirm that Bulgarian ruling circles did not want and do not want to break with Hitlerite Germany.

The new Bulgarian Government formed on 3 September and headed by Muraviev, instead of breaking with the Hitlerites, also proclaimed in its declaration its intention to pursue the policy of “neutrality”, which in fact means direct aid to Germany in war against the Soviet Union and the other democratic countries.

The Soviet Government could not understand this policy of Bulgaria as other than in effect the waging of war in the camp of Germany against the U.S.S.R., and announced, in its Note of 5 September, that

“the Soviet Government no longer deems it possible to maintain relations with Bulgaria, severs all relations with Bulgaria, and declares that not only is Bulgaria in a state of war with the U.S.S.R., inasmuch as in actual fact she was already in a state of war with the U.S.S.R., but that the Soviet Union likewise will henceforth be in a state of war with Bulgaria”.

Thus the ruling circles of Bulgaria, having entered the path of military collaboration with Hitlerite Germany, have dragged the Bulgarian people contrary to its basic national interests into war, first against Britain and the U.S.A. and then even against the Soviet Union, against the brother Russian people which shed its blood for the liberation of Bulgaria.

The Bulgarian people must find within itself the strength to break the alliance with Hitlerite Germany which has been imposed upon it, and to restore the independence and national honour of its motherland.

Information Bureau of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R.

7 September, 1944.

ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW OF A FINNISH GOVERNMENT DELEGATION

A Finnish Government delegation has arrived in Moscow to conduct peace negotiations between the Soviet Union and Finland. It is composed as follows: Mr. A. Hackzell, Prime Minister (Chairman of the delegation), General of Infantry R. Walden (Minister of Defence), Lieut.-Gen. A. Heinrichs (Chief of the General Staff) and Lieut.-Gen. O. Enckell.

There arrived with the delegation the following experts: Messrs. P. Hjunnen, B. Groeneblum, E. Castren and secretaries.

The delegation was met at the Moscow aerodrome by V. G. Dekanozov, Deputy People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., and other representatives of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs, and by Major-General V. N. Yevstigneyev, Chief of the Department of External Relations of the People's Commissariat for Defence of the U.S.S.R.

8 September, 1944.

BULGARIAN AFFAIRS

On 5 September the Soviet Union broke off relations with Bulgaria and proclaimed a state of war between the U.S.S.R. and Bulgaria. This decision was adopted by the Soviet Government because Bulgaria, in spite of the fact that the deterioration of Germany's military position afforded her the full possibility of breaking off relations with Germany, and in this way of putting an end to her pro-German policy, continued to maintain relations with Germany, harbouring Germans in Bulgarian territory and enabling them to create a new base there for resistance to the forces of the Allies.

After the publication of the Soviet Note, representatives of the Bulgarian Government—Mr. Sarafov, Secretary-General of the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Altynov, Director of the Political Department of that Ministry—visited D. G. Yakovlev, the Soviet Chargé d'Affaires at Sofia, on the night of 5 September and, on behalf of the Bulgarian Government, asked him to inform the Soviet Government that Bulgaria had broken off her relations with Germany and that the Bulgarian Government was asking the Soviet Government for an armistice.

In spite of these official statements, the Bulgarian Government on 6 September only proclaimed that it had approached the Soviet Government with a request for an armistice, but said nothing about a rupture with Germany. In this way there was revealed a contradiction between the statement of the Bulgarian Government made to the Soviet Chargé d'Affaires at Sofia and the statement made publicly by the Bulgarian Government. Such a contradictory situation could not but arouse the Soviet Government's distrust of the attitude of the Bulgarian Government. In view of this the Soviet Government could not proceed with consideration of the request of the Bulgarian Government for an armistice.

Only on 7 September did the Bulgarian Government announce that it had broken off relations with Germany.

On 8 September the Bulgarian Government declared war on Germany.

At the present time the Soviet Government has found it possible to accept for consideration the request of the Bulgarian Government concerning negotiations for an armistice.

Information Bureau of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R.

9 September, 1944.

SOVIET FORCES CEASE MILITARY OPERATIONS IN BULGARIA

In view of the fact that the Bulgarian Government has broken off relations with Germany, declared war on Germany and addressed a request for an armistice to the Soviet Government, the Soviet forces ceased military operations in Bulgaria at 10 p.m. on 9 September.

The Soviet Government, jointly with the Governments of Great Britain and the U.S.A., is at the present time working out the conditions of an armistice with Bulgaria.

Information Bureau of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R.

SIGNATURE OF AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE POLISH COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC, AND BETWEEN THE POLISH COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC, FOR THE EVACUATION OF THE UKRAINIAN AND BYELORUSSIAN POPULATION FROM THE TERRITORY OF POLAND AND OF POLISH CITIZENS FROM THE TERRITORY OF THE UKRAINIAN S.S.R. AND THE BYELORUSSIAN S.S.R.

During the last few days negotiations have been taking place between the Polish Committee of National Liberation and the Government of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, and between the Polish Committee of National Liberation and the Government of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, for the conclusion of agreements for the mutual evacuation of the Polish population from the territory of the Ukrainian S.S.R. and the Byelorussian S.S.R. to Poland, and of the Ukrainian and Byelorussian population from the territory of Poland to the Ukrainian and Byelorussian Republics. As a result of these negotiations, which took place in an atmosphere of friendly mutual understanding, agreements were signed on 9 September at Lublin between the Polish Committee of National Liberation and the Government of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, and between the Polish Committee of National Liberation and the Government of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, for the evacuation of Polish citizens from the territory of the Ukrainian and Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republics to Poland who were of Polish citizenship prior to 17 September, 1939, and of the Ukrainian and Byelorussian population from the territory of Poland to Ukraine and Byelorussia.

The agreements provide that the evacuation will take place on a completely voluntary basis. The dates and conditions of evacuation will be notified to the population by special plenipotentiaries of the Polish Committee of National Liberation and the Council of People's Commissars of the Ukrainian S.S.R. and the Council of People's Commissars of the Byelorussian S.S.R., appointed to take practical measures for the evacuation both in the territory of Poland and in the territory of Ukraine and Byelorussia. The resettlement and employment of those evacuated will be the responsibility of the Polish Committee of National Liberation in the territory of Poland, and of the Governments of the Ukrainian S.S.R. and the Byelorussian S.S.R. in the territory of the Ukrainian and Byelorussian Republics. Persons evacuated from Poland to the territory of Ukraine and Byelorussia will, as they may desire, be either settled in collective farms or given an allocation of land for individual farming. Persons evacuated from Ukraine and Byelorussia to the territory of Poland will also receive land to the extent provided by the Law on Agrarian Reform in Poland. Both in Poland and in Ukraine and Byelorussia resettled landless peasants, should they desire, will also receive land in conformity with general practice.

The agreements provide various privileges for those evacuated. All their

arrears of deliveries in kind, money taxes and insurance payments are cancelled. All evacuated households, both in the territory of Poland and in the territory of the Ukrainian and Byelorussian S.S.R., are exempted from all State taxation in cash and all insurance payments for a period of two years. At their places of resettlement, those evacuated will be paid a money grant to the amount of 5,000 zloty or roubles per household for immediate requirements, household goods, etc., this loan to be repaid over a period of five years. Those evacuated are also permitted the export of various articles of domestic and economic use to a total weight of two tons per family, and of the cattle and poultry belonging to them. If the person evacuated hands over his harvest to the State at the place of his departure, the agreements provide for the full repayment to him of the same quantity of harvest at the place where he is being resettled. All those evacuated who sow winter crops at the place of their departure will receive land sown with winter crops at the place of their arrival, if possible of the same size. The value of the movable and immovable property left behind after evacuation will be made good to those evacuated, in conformity with the laws existing in Poland and the corresponding laws in the Ukrainian and Byelorussian S.S.R.

The agreement between the Council of People's Commissars of the Ukrainian S.S.R. and the Polish Committee of National Liberation was signed, on the authorization of the Government of the Ukrainian S.S.R., by N. S. Khrushchev, Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the Ukrainian S.S.R., and on the authorization of the Polish Committee of National Liberation by Mr. E. B. Osobka-Morawski, chairman of the Committee. The agreement between the Council of People's Commissars of the Byelorussian S.S.R. and the Polish Committee of National Liberation was signed, on the authorization of the Government of the Byelorussian S.S.R., by P. K. Ponomarenko, Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the Byelorussian S.S.R., and, on the authorization of the Polish Committee of National Liberation, by Mr. E. B. Osobka-Morawski.

COMMUNIQUÉ ON THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT WITH RUMANIA

From September 10 to 12, negotiations took place in Moscow between representatives of the Soviet Union, Great Britain and the United States of America, acting in the interests of all the United Nations, on the one hand, and a delegation of the Rumanian Government, on the other, on the question of concluding an agreement for an armistice with Rumania. There took part in the negotiations, for the Soviet Union, V. M. Molotov, A. Y. Vyshinsky, I. M. Maisky, D. Z. Manuilsky, N. V. Novikov, General V. P. Vinogradov and Rear-Admiral V. L. Bogdenko; for Great Britain, the British Ambassador, Sir Archibald Clark Kerr; for the U.S.A., Ambassador Harriman. As representatives of Rumania there took part the delegates of the Rumanian Government, Messrs. L. Patrascanu, General D. Damanceanu, B. Stirbey, G. Popp.

The negotiations terminated with the signature on 12 September of an agreement for an armistice with Rumania. The armistice agreement was signed, on the authorization of the Governments of the Soviet Union, Great Britain and the United States of America, by Marshal of the Soviet Union R. Y. Malinovsky. On behalf of Rumania the agreement was signed by Messrs. L. Patrascanu, General D. Damanceanu, B. Stirbey, G. Popp.

The text of the armistice agreement will be published separately.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE SOVIET UNION, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON THE ONE HAND, AND THE GOVERNMENT OF RUMANIA ON THE OTHER, CONCERNING AN ARMISTICE

The Government and High Command of Rumania, recognizing the fact of the defeat of Rumania in the war against the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, and the other United Nations, accept the armistice terms presented by the Governments of the above-mentioned three Allied Powers, acting in the interests of all the United Nations.

On the basis of the foregoing the representative of the Allied (Soviet) High Command, Marshal of the Soviet Union R. Y. Malinovski, duly authorized thereto by the Governments of the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, acting in the interests of all the United Nations, on the one hand, and the representatives of the Government and High Command of Rumania, Minister of State and Minister of Justice L. Patrascanu, Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs, Adjutant of His Majesty the King of Rumania, General D. Damanceanu, Prince Stirbey and Mr. G. Popp, on the other hand, holding proper full powers, have signed the following conditions:

1. As from the 24th August, 1944, at 4 a.m., Rumania has entirely discontinued military operations against the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on all theatres of war, has withdrawn from the war against the United Nations, has broken off relations with Germany and her satellites, has entered the war and will wage war on the side of the Allied Powers against Germany and Hungary for the purpose of restoring Rumanian independence and sovereignty, for which purpose she provides not less than 12 infantry divisions with Corps Troops.

Military operations on the part of Rumanian armed forces, including naval and air forces, against Germany and Hungary will be conducted under the general leadership of the Allied (Soviet) High Command.

2. The Government and High Command of Rumania undertake to take steps for the disarming and interning of the armed forces of Germany and Hungary on Rumanian territory and also for the interning of the citizens of both States mentioned who reside there. (See Annex to Article 2.)

3. The Government and High Command of Rumania will ensure to the Soviet and other Allied forces facilities for free movement on Rumanian territory in any direction if required by the military situation, the Rumanian Government and High Command of Rumania giving such movement every possible assistance with their own means of communications and at their own expense on land, on water and in the air. (See Annex to Article 3.)

4. The State frontier between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Rumania, established by the Soviet-Rumanian Agreement of the 28th June, 1940, is restored.

5. The Government and High Command of Rumania will immediately hand over all Soviet and Allied prisoners of war in their hands, as well as interned citizens and citizens forcibly removed to Rumania, to the Allied (Soviet) High Command for the return of these persons to their own country.

From the moment of the signing of the present terms and until repatriation the Rumanian Government and High Command undertake to provide at their own expense all Soviet and Allied prisoners of war, as well as forcibly removed and interned citizens, and displaced persons and refugees, with adequate food,

clothing and medical service, in accordance with hygienic requirements, as well as with means of transport for the return of all these persons to their own country.

6. The Rumanian Government will immediately set free, irrespective of citizenship and nationality, all persons held in confinement on account of their activities in favour of the United Nations or because of their sympathies with the cause of the United Nations, or because of their racial origin, and will repeal all discriminatory legislation and restrictions imposed thereunder.

7. The Rumanian Government and High Command undertake to hand over as trophies into the hands of the Allied (Soviet) High Command all war material of Germany and her satellites located on Rumanian territory, including vessels of the fleet of Germany and her satellites located in Rumanian waters.

8. The Rumanian Government and High Command undertake not to permit the export or expropriation of any form of property (including valuables and currency) belonging to Germany and Hungary or to their nationals or to persons resident in their territories or in the territories occupied by them without the permission of the Allied (Soviet) High Command. They will keep this property in such manner as may be prescribed by the Allied (Soviet) High Command.

9. The Rumanian Government and High Command undertake to hand over to the Allied (Soviet) High Command all vessels belonging or having belonged to the United Nations which are located in Rumanian ports, no matter at whose disposal these vessels may be, for the use of the Allied (Soviet) High Command during the period of the war against Germany and Hungary in the general interests of the Allies, these vessels subsequently to be returned to their owners.

The Rumanian Government bear the full material responsibility for any damage or destruction of the aforementioned property until the moment of the transfer of this property to the Allied (Soviet) High Command.

10. The Rumanian Government must make regular payments in Rumanian currency required by the Allied (Soviet) High Command for the fulfilment of its functions and will in case of need ensure the use on Rumanian territory of industrial and transportation enterprises, means of communication, power stations, enterprises and installations of public utility, stores of fuel, fuel oil, food and other materials, services in accordance with instructions issued by the Allied (Soviet) High Command.

Rumanian merchant vessels, whether in Rumanian or foreign waters, shall be subject to the operational control of the Allied (Soviet) High Command for use in the general interest of the Allies. (See Annex to Article 10.)

11. Losses caused to the Soviet Union by military operations and by the occupation by Rumania of Soviet territory will be made good by Rumania to the Soviet Union, but, taking into consideration that Rumania has not only withdrawn from the war, but has declared war and in fact is waging war against Germany and Hungary, the Parties agree that compensation for the indicated losses will be made by Rumania not in full but only in part, namely to the amount of 300 million United States dollars, payable over six years in commodities (oil-products, grain, timber, products, seagoing and river craft, sundry machinery, etc.).

Compensation will be paid by Rumania for losses caused to the property of other Allied States and their nationals in Rumania during the war, the amount of compensation to be fixed at a later date. (See Annex to Article 11.)

12. The Rumanian Government undertakes within the periods indicated

by the Allied (Soviet) High Command to return to the Soviet Union in complete good order all valuables and materials removed from its territory during the war, belonging to State, public and co-operative organizations, enterprises, institutions or individual citizens, such as: factory and works equipment, locomotives, railway trucks, tractors, motor vehicles, historic monuments, museum valuables and any other property.

13. The Rumanian Government undertakes to restore all legal rights and interests of the United Nations and their nationals on Rumanian territory as they existed before the war and to return their property in complete good order.

14. The Rumanian Government and High Command undertake to collaborate with the Allied (Soviet) High Command in the apprehension and trial of persons accused of war crimes.

15. The Rumanian Government undertakes immediately to dissolve all pro-Hitler organizations (of a Fascist type) situated on Rumanian territory, whether political, military or para-military, as well as other organizations conducting propaganda hostile to the United Nations, in particular to the Soviet Union, and will not in future permit the existence of organizations of that nature.

16. The printing, importation and distribution in Rumania of periodical and non-periodical literature, the presentation of theatrical performances and films, the work of wireless stations, post, telegraph and telephone shall be carried out in agreement with the Allied (Soviet) High Command. (See Annex to Article 16.)

17. Rumanian civil administration is restored in the whole area of Rumania separated by not less than 50-100 kilometres (depending upon conditions of terrain) from the front line, Rumanian administrative bodies undertaking to carry out, in the interests of the re-establishment of peace and security, instructions and orders of the Allied (Soviet) High Command issued by them for the purpose of securing the execution of these armistice terms.

18. An Allied Control Commission will be established which will undertake until the conclusion of peace the regulation of and control over the execution of the present terms under the general direction and orders of the Allied (Soviet) High Command, acting on behalf of the Allied Powers. (See Annex to Article 18.)

19. The Allied Governments regard the decision of the Vienna Award regarding Transylvania as null and void and are agreed that Transylvania (or the greater part thereof) should be returned to Rumania subject to confirmation at the peace settlement, and the Soviet Government agrees that Soviet forces shall take part for this purpose in joint military operations with Rumania against Germany and Hungary.

20. The present terms come into force at the moment of their signing.

Done in Moscow, in four copies, each in the Russian, English and Rumanian languages, the Russian and English texts being authentic.

By authority of the Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

(Signed) MALINOVSKI.

By authority of the Government and High Command of Rumania.

(Signed) L. PATRASCANU.
D. DAMANCEANU.
B. STIRBEY.
G. POPP.

12th September, 1944.

ANNEXES TO THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE SOVIET UNION, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON THE ONE HAND, AND THE GOVERNMENT OF RUMANIA ON THE OTHER HAND.

A.—*Annex to Article 2.*

The measures provided for in Article 2 of the Agreement regarding the internment of citizens of Germany and Hungary now in Rumanian territory do not extend to citizens of those countries of Jewish origin.

B.—*Annex to Article 3.*

Under co-operation of the Rumanian Government and High Command of Rumania, mentioned in Article 3 of the Agreement, is understood the placing at the disposal of the Allied (Soviet) High Command for use at its discretion during the Armistice all Rumanian military, air and naval constructions and installations, ports, harbours, barracks, warehouses, airfields, means of communication, meteorological stations which might be required for military needs in complete good order and with the personnel required for their maintenance.

C.—*Annex to Article 10.*

The Rumanian Government will withdraw and redeem within such time limits and on such terms as the Allied (Soviet) High Command may specify, all holdings in Rumanian territory of currencies issued by the Allied (Soviet) High Command, and will hand over currency so withdrawn free of cost to the Allied (Soviet) High Command.

D.—*Annex to Article 11.*

The basis for settlements of payment of compensation provided for in Article 11 of the present Agreement will be the American dollar at its gold parity on the day of signing of the Agreement, i.e. 35 dollars for 1 ounce of gold.

E.—*Annex to Article 16.*

The Rumanian Government undertakes that wireless communication, telegraphic and postal correspondence, correspondence in cypher and courier correspondence, as well as telephonic communication with foreign countries of Embassies, Legations and Consulates situated in Rumania, will be conducted in the manner laid down by the Allied (Soviet) High Command.

F.—*Annex to Article 18.*

Control over the exact execution of the Armistice terms is entrusted to the Allied Control Commission to be established in conformity with Article 18 of the Armistice Agreement.

The Rumanian Government and their organs shall fulfil all instructions of the Allied Control Commission arising out of the Armistice Agreement.

The Allied Control Commission will set up special organs or sections entrusting them respectively with the execution of various functions. In addition, the Allied Control Commission may have its officers in various parts of Rumania.

The Allied Control Commission will have its seat in the city of Bucharest.

Moscow. 12th September, 1944.

ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND IRAK

The Soviet Government has accepted a proposal of the Government of Irak for the establishment of diplomatic relations and an exchange of diplomatic representatives between the U.S.S.R. and Irak.

On 25 August, 1944, M. Arshad al-Umari, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Irak, sent the following telegram to V. M. Molotov, People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R.:

"Referring to the conversations which have taken place between the Minister of Irak and the representative of the Soviet Government at Teheran, and taking into consideration the mutual desire to establish diplomatic relations between Irak and the Soviet Union, I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that a decision of His Majesty's Government has just been adopted to establish these relations and to exchange diplomatic representatives between the two countries. I wish that both Governments should not delay in appointing their representatives. For me it is truly joyful to address you on this subject at the very moment when victories are crowning the mighty efforts of the Soviet armies, those glorious armies which always made the greatest sacrifices for the liberation of the peoples. I am happy in this connection to take advantage of the opportunity to express my most sincere wishes for the happiness of your country and to ask Your Excellency to accept assurances of my highest respect."

In reply to this telegram, V. M. Molotov, People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., sent the following telegram to M. Arshad al-Umari:

"MR. MINISTER, I have the honour to confirm receipt of your telegram of 25 August.

The Government of the Soviet Union highly values the sentiments expressed by you in regard to the Soviet Army. The Soviet Government accepts with satisfaction the proposal of the Irak Government for the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Irak.

The Soviet Government agrees to consider normal diplomatic relations established between the Soviet Union and Irak as from the present moment, and is ready to exchange Ministers in the shortest possible time."

13 September, 1944.

DEPARTURE FROM MOSCOW OF THE RUMANIAN GOVERNMENT DELEGATION

The Rumanian Government Delegation, comprising Mr. L. Patrascanu (Minister of State and Minister of Justice), General D. Damanceanu (Deputy Minister for Internal Affairs), Prince B. Stirbey, Mr. G. Popp and others, which took part in negotiations with representatives of the Soviet Union, Great

Britain and the United States of America for the conclusion of an armistice, and in the signature of the Armistice Agreement, left Moscow on 14 September, 1944.

At the Moscow aerodrome the members of the delegation were seen off by A. Y. Vyshinsky (Deputy People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs), N. V. Novikov (Minister of the U.S.S.R. at Cairo), Lieut.-General V. P. Vinogradov and G. I. Fomin (Acting Director of the Protocol Department of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs).

ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW OF MR. C. ENCKELL, CHAIRMAN OF THE FINNISH GOVERNMENT DELEGATION

On 16 September, 1944 Mr. C. Enckell, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland, who has been appointed chairman of the Finnish delegation for peace negotiations instead of Mr. Hackzell, who has fallen ill, arrived in Moscow.

Mr. Enckell was met at the Moscow aerodrome by V. G. Dekanozov, Deputy People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., and also by members of the Finnish delegation.

COMMUNIQUÉ ON AN ARMISTICE WITH FINLAND

During the period from September 14 to 19, negotiations took place in Moscow between representatives of the Soviet Union and Great Britain, acting on behalf of all the United Nations which are in a state of war with Finland on the one hand, and a delegation of the Finnish Government on the other hand, on the question of the conclusion of an agreement for an armistice with Finland. There took part in the negotiations, for the U.S.S.R., V. M. Molotov, Marshal K. E. Voroshilov, A. A. Zhdanov, V. G. Dekanozov, M. M. Litvinov, Col.-Gen. S. M. Shtemenko, Rear-Admiral A. P. Alexandrov; and for Great Britain, Ambassador Sir Archibald Clark Kerr and Mr. Balfour, Minister and Counsellor of Embassy. As representatives of Finland there took part in the negotiations the following delegates of the Finnish Government: Mr. C. Enckell (Minister for Foreign Affairs), General R. Walden (Minister of Defence), General E. Heinrichs (Chief of General Staff) and Lieut.-General O. Enckell.

The text of the Armistice Agreement will be published separately. (TASS.)

AGREEMENT FOR AN ARMISTICE BETWEEN THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS AND THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND, ON THE ONE HAND, AND FINLAND ON THE OTHER HAND

Whereas the Finnish Government has accepted the preliminary condition of the Soviet Government regarding a break with Germany and the removal of German troops from Finland, and whereas the conclusion of a future treaty of peace will be facilitated by the inclusion in an Armistice Agreement of certain conditions of this peace treaty, the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, acting on behalf of all the United Nations at war with Finland, on the one hand, and the Government of Finland, on the other hand, have decided to conclude the present agreement for an armistice, the execution of which will be controlled by the Soviet High Command

similarly acting on behalf of the United Nations at war with Finland, hereinafter named the Allied (Soviet) High Command.

On the basis of the foregoing the representative of the Allied (Soviet) High Command, Colonel-General A. A. Zhdanov, and the representatives of the Government of Finland, Mr. Carl Enckell, Minister for Foreign Affairs, General Rudolf Walden, Minister of Defence, General Erik Heinrichs, Chief of General Staff, and Lieutenant-General Oscar Enckell, duly authorized thereto, have signed the following conditions:

Article 1.

In connection with the cessation of military activities on the part of Finland on the 4th September, 1944, and on the part of the Soviet Union on the 5th September, 1944, Finland undertakes to withdraw her troops behind the line of the Soviet-Finnish frontier of 1940 in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Annex attached to the present Agreement. (See Annex to Article 1.)

Article 2.

Finland undertakes to disarm the German land, naval and air armed forces which have remained in Finland since the 15th September, 1944, and to hand over their personnel to the Allied (Soviet) High Command as prisoners of war, in which task the Soviet Government will assist the Finnish army.

The Finnish Government also accepts the obligation to intern German and Hungarian nationals in Finnish territory. (See Annex to Article 2.)

Article 3.

Finland undertakes to make available at the request of the Allied (Soviet) High Command the aerodromes on the southern and south-western coast of Finland with all equipment to serve as bases for Soviet aircraft during the period necessary for air operations against German forces in Estonia and against the German navy in the northern part of the Baltic Sea. (See Annex to Article 3.)

Article 4.

Finland undertakes to place her army on a peace footing within two and a half months from the day of signing of the present Agreement. (See Annex to Article 4.)

Article 5.

Finland, having broken off all relations with Germany, also undertakes to break off all relations with Germany's satellites States. (See Annex to Article 5.)

Article 6.

The effect of the Peace Treaty between the Soviet Union and Finland, concluded in Moscow on the 12th March, 1940, is restored subject to the changes which follow from the present Agreement.

Article 7.

Finland returns to the Soviet Union the *oblast* of Petsamo (Pechenga), voluntarily ceded to Finland by the Soviet State in accordance with the Peace Treaties of the 14th October, 1920, and the 12th March, 1940, within the boundary indicated in the Annex and on the map ⁽¹⁾ attached to the present Agreement. (See Annex to Article 7 and map to scale 1 : 500,000.)

Article 8.

The Soviet Union renounces its rights to the lease of the Peninsula of Hango, accorded to it by the Soviet-Finnish Peace Treaty of the 12th March, 1940, and Finland for her part undertakes to make available to the Soviet Union on lease territory and waters for the establishment of a Soviet naval base in the area of Porkkala-Udd.

The boundaries of the land and water area of the base at Porkkala-Udd are defined in the Annex to the present article and indicated on the map.⁽²⁾ (See Annex to Article 8 and map to scale 1 : 100,000.)

Article 9.

The effect of the Agreement concerning the Aaland Islands, concluded between the Soviet Union and Finland on the 11th October, 1940, is completely restored.

Article 10.

Finland undertakes immediately to transfer to the Allied (Soviet) High Command to be returned to their homeland all Soviet and Allied prisoners of war now in her power and also Soviet and Allied nationals who have been interned in or deported by force to Finland.

From the moment of the signing of the present Agreement and up to the time of repatriation Finland undertakes to provide at her cost for all Soviet and Allied prisoners of war and also nationals who have been deported by force or interned adequate food, clothing and medical service in accordance with hygienic requirements, and also with means of transport for their return to their homeland.

At the same time Finnish prisoners of war and interned persons now located on the territory of Allied States will be transferred to Finland.

Article 11.

Losses caused by Finland to the Soviet Union by military operations and the occupation of Soviet territory will be indemnified by Finland to the Soviet Union to the amount of three hundred million dollars payable over six years in commodities (timber products, paper, cellulose, seagoing and river craft, sundry machinery).

Provision will also be made for the indemnification in the future by Finland of the losses caused during the war to the property of the other Allied States and their nationals in Finland, the amount of the compensation to be fixed separately. (See Annex to Article 11.)

¹ Not reproduced.

Article 12.

Finland undertakes to restore all legal rights and interests of the United Nations and their nationals located on Finnish territory as they existed before the war and to return their property in complete good order.

Article 13.

Finland undertakes to collaborate with the Allied Powers in the apprehension of persons accused of war crimes and in their trial.

Article 14.

Finland undertakes within the periods fixed by the Allied (Soviet) High Command to return to the Soviet Union in complete good order all valuables and materials removed from Soviet territory to Finland during the war belonging to State, public and co-operative organizations, factories, institutions or individual citizens, such as: equipment for factories and works, locomotives, railway carriages, ships, tractors, motor vehicles, historical monuments, valuables from museums and all other property.

Article 15.

Finland undertakes to transfer as booty to the disposition of the Allied (Soviet) High Command all war material of Germany and her satellites located on Finnish territory, including naval and other ships belonging to these countries in Finnish waters.

Article 16.

Finland undertakes not to permit the export or expropriation of any form of property (including valuables and currency) belonging to Germany or Hungary or to their nationals or to persons resident in their territories or in the territories occupied by them without the permission of the Allied (Soviet) High Command.

Article 17.

Finnish merchant ships other than those already under Allied control shall be placed under the control of the Allied (Soviet) High Command for their use in the general interests of the Allies.

Article 18.

Finland undertakes to transfer to the Allied (Soviet) High Command all ships in Finnish ports belonging to the United Nations, no matter at whose disposal these vessels may be, for the use of the Allied (Soviet) High Command for the duration of the war against Germany in the general interests of the Allies, these vessels subsequently to be returned to their owners.

Article 19.

Finland will make available such materials and products as may be required by the United Nations for purposes connected with the war.

Article 20.

Finland undertakes immediately to release all persons, irrespective of citizenship or nationality, held in prison on account of their activities in favour of the United Nations or because of their sympathies with the cause of the United Nations, or in view of their racial origin, and will also remove all discriminatory legislation and disabilities arising therefrom.

Article 21.

Finland undertakes immediately to dissolve all pro-Hitler organizations (of a Fascist type) situated on Finnish territory, whether political, military or para-military, as well as other organizations conducting propaganda hostile to the United Nations, in particular to the Soviet Union, and will not in future permit the existence of organizations of that nature.

Article 22.

An Allied Control Commission will be established which until the conclusion of peace with Finland will undertake the regulation and control of the execution of the present Agreement under the general direction and instructions of the Allied (Soviet) High Command, acting on behalf of the Allied Powers. (See Annex to Article 22.)

Article 23.

The present Agreement comes into force as from the moment of signature. Done in Moscow the nineteenth day of September, 1944, in one copy which will be entrusted to the safe-keeping of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, in the Russian, English and Finnish languages, the Russian and English texts being authentic.

Certified copies of the present Agreement, with Annexes and maps, will be transmitted by the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to each of the other Governments on whose behalf the present Agreement is being signed.

*For the Governments of the Union of
Soviet Socialist Republics and the
United Kingdom:*

A. ZHDANOV.

For the Government of Finland:

C. ENCKELL.

R. WALDEN.

E. HEINRICHS.

O. ENCKELL.

19 September, 1944.

ANNEXES TO THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS AND THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND, ON THE ONE HAND, AND FINLAND, ON THE OTHER, SIGNED IN MOSCOW ON THE 19TH SEPTEMBER, 1944.

A.—*Annex to Article 1.*

The procedure for the withdrawal of Finnish troops behind the line of the State frontier between the U.S.S.R. and Finland laid down in the Peace Treaty of the 12th March, 1940, subject to the modifications arising from the

Armistice Agreement signed on the 19th September, 1944, on all sectors occupied by Finnish troops, shall be as follows:

1. In the course of the first day as from the moment of signing of the Armistice Agreement Finnish troops shall be withdrawn to such a distance that there shall be a gap of not less than one kilometre between the forward units of the Red Army and the Finnish troops.

2. Within forty-eight hours (two days), counted as from the same moment, the Finnish troops shall make passages through their mines, barbed wire and other defences to a width of not less than thirty metres, in order thereby to make possible the free movement of battalion columns with their transport, and shall also enclose the remaining minefields within clearly visible marks.

The above-mentioned passages in the defences and the enclosure of minefields shall be made throughout the whole territory from which Finnish troops are withdrawn.

The clearance of passages by Finnish troops shall be made on all roads or paths which may serve for movement both in the neutral belt of one kilometre and also throughout the whole depth of the defences.

Towards the end of the second day the Command of the Finnish troops shall hand over to the appropriate Red Army Command exact plans of all types of defences with an indication on these plans of the passages made and to be made by the Finnish troops and also of the enclosures of all minefields.

3. The Finnish Command shall hand over within a period of five days to the Command of the Red Army and Navy the charts, forms and descriptive maps at its disposal with legends for all minefields and other defences on land, in rivers, and lakes and in the Baltic and Barents Seas together with data about the courses and channels to be recommended and the rules for navigation along them.

4. The complete removal of mines, barbed wire and other defences throughout the territory from the line occupied by the advanced Finnish units to the line of the State frontier, and also the sweeping and removal of all defences from the channels on the approaches to Soviet territories, shall be made by the Finnish land and naval forces in the shortest possible time and in not more than forty days from the moment of the signing of the Armistice Agreement.

5. The withdrawal of Finnish troops behind the State frontier and the advance of the troops of the Red Army up to it shall begin as from 9.0 a.m. on the 21st September, 1944, simultaneously along the whole length of the front.

The withdrawal of Finnish troops shall be carried out in daily marches of not less than 15 kilometres a day and the advance of the troops of the Red Army shall take place in such a manner that there shall be a distance of 15 kilometres between the rear units of the Finnish troops and the advanced units of the Red Army.

6. In accordance with paragraph 5 the following limits are set for the withdrawal of Finnish troops on individual sectors behind the line of the State frontier:

On the sector Vuokinsalmi, Riahimjaki, the 1st October.

On the sector Riahimkaji, River Koita-Joki, the 3rd October.

On the sector River Koita-Joki, Korpiselka, the 24th September.

On the sector Korpiselka, Lake Puha-Jarvi, the 28th September.

On the sector Puha-Jarvi, Koitsanlahti, the 26th September.

On the sector Koitsanlahti, Station Enso, the 28th September.

On the sector Station Enso, Virolahti, the 24th September.

The retreating Finnish troops shall take with them only such reserves of munitions, food, fodder and fuel and lubricants as they can carry and transport with them. All other stores shall be left on the spot and shall be handed over to the Command of the Red Army.

7. The Finnish Military Command shall hand over on the territories which are being returned or ceded to the Soviet Union in complete good order and repair all inhabited points, means of communication, defence and economic structures including: bridges, dams, aerodromes, barracks, warehouses, railway junctions, station buildings, industrial enterprises, hydro-technical buildings, ports and wharves, telegraph offices, telephone exchanges, electric power stations, lines of communication and electric power lines.

The Finnish Military Command shall give instructions for the timely demining of all the installations enumerated above which are to be handed over.

8. When the Finnish troops are being withdrawn behind the line of the State frontier the Government of Finland shall guarantee the personal inviolability and the preservation of the dwelling-places of the population of the territory to be abandoned by the Finnish troops together with the preservation of all the property belonging to this population and of the property of public, co-operative, cultural-social services and other organizations.

9. All questions which may arise in connection with the transfer by the Finnish authorities of the installations enumerated in paragraph 7 of this Annex shall be settled on the spot by representatives of both sides, for which purpose special representatives for the period of the withdrawal of the troops shall be appointed by the Command to each basic route for the movements of the troops of both armies.

10. The advance of Soviet troops to the line of the State frontier on the sectors occupied by German troops shall be made in accordance with the instructions of the Command of the Soviet forces.

B.—Annex to Article 2.

1. The Finnish Military Command shall hand over to the Allied (Soviet) High Command within a period fixed by the latter all the information at its disposal regarding the German armed forces and the plans of the German Military Command for the development of military operations against the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the other United Nations and also the charts and maps and all operational documents relating to the military operations of the German armed forces.

2. The Finnish Government shall instruct its appropriate authorities regularly to supply the Allied (Soviet) High Command with meteorological information.

C.—Annex to Article 3.

1. In accordance with Article 3 of the Agreement the Allied (Soviet) High Command will indicate to the Finnish Military Command which aerodromes must be placed at the disposal of the Allied (Soviet) High Command and what equipment must remain on the aerodromes and equally will lay down the manner in which these aerodromes are to be used.

The Finnish Government shall enable the Soviet Union to make use of the railways, waterways, roads and air routes necessary for the transport of personnel and freight despatched from the Soviet Union to the areas where the above-mentioned aerodromes are situated.

2. Henceforth until the end of the war against Germany Allied naval

vessels and merchant ships shall have the right to make use of the territorial waters, ports, wharves and anchorages of Finland. The Finnish Government shall afford the necessary collaboration as regards material and technical services.

D.—*Annex to Article 4.*

1. In accordance with Article 4 of the Agreement the Finnish Military Command shall immediately make available to the Allied (Soviet) High Command full information regarding the composition, armament and location of all the land, sea and air forces of Finland and shall come to an agreement with the Allied (Soviet) High Command regarding the manner of placing the Finnish army on a peace footing within the period fixed by the Agreement.

2. All Finnish naval vessels, merchant ships and aircraft for the period of the war against Germany must be returned to their bases, ports and aerodromes and must not leave them without obtaining the requisite permission to do so from the Allied (Soviet) High Command.

E.—*Annex to Article 5.*

1. By the rupture, referred to in Article 5 of the Agreement, by Finland of all relations with Germany and her satellites is meant the rupture of all diplomatic, consular and other relations and also of postal, telegraphic and telephone communications between Finland and Germany and Hungary.

2. The Finnish Government undertakes in future until such time as the withdrawal of German troops from Finland is completed to discontinue postal diplomatic communications and also any radio-telegraphic or telegraphic cypher correspondence and telephone communications with foreign countries by diplomatic missions and consulates located in Finland.

F.—*Annex to Article 7.*

The line of the State frontier between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Finland, in connection with the return by Finland to the Soviet Union of the *oblast* of Petsamo (Pechenga), shall proceed as follows:

From the boundary post No. 859/90 (Korvatunturi), near the Lake Yauri-Yarvi, the line of the State frontier shall be fixed in a north-westerly direction along the former Russian-Finnish boundary by boundary posts Nos. 91, 92 and 93 to the boundary post No. 94, where formerly the frontiers of Russia, Norway and Finland met.

Thence the line of the frontier shall run in a general north-easterly direction along the former Russian-Norwegian State frontier to Varanger-Fjord (see the attached Russian map ⁽¹⁾, scale 1 : 500,000).

The line of the frontier, fixed from the boundary post No. 859/90 (Korvatunturi) to the boundary post No. 94, will be demarcated on the spot by a Soviet-Finnish Mixed Commission.

The Commission will establish boundary signs, will make a detailed description of this line and will enter it on a map of the scale of 1 : 25,000.

The Commission will begin its work on a date to be specified by the Soviet Military Command.

The description of the boundary line and the map of this line made by the above-mentioned Commission shall be confirmed by both Governments.

¹ Not reproduced.

G.—*Annex to Article 8.*

1. The boundary line of the area of Porkkala-Udd leased by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics from Finland shall begin at a point of which the map references are: latitude $59^{\circ} 50'$ North; longitude $24^{\circ} 07'$ East. Thence the boundary line shall proceed North along the meridian $24^{\circ} 07'$ to a point of which the map references are: latitude $60^{\circ} 06' 12''$ North; longitude $24^{\circ} 07'$ East. Thence the boundary line shall proceed along the line indicated in the map in a Northerly direction to a point of which the map references are: latitude $60^{\circ} 08' 6''$ North; longitude $24^{\circ} 07' 36''$ East.

Thence the boundary line shall proceed along the line indicated on the map in a general North-Easterly by Easterly direction to a point of which the map references are: latitude $60^{\circ} 10' 24''$ North; longitude $24^{\circ} 34' 6''$ East. Thence along the line indicated on the map along the bay of Espon-Lahti, and further East of the islands of Smuholmarne, Bjorken, Medvaste, Heg-holm and Stur-Hamn-holm to a point of which the map references are: latitude $60^{\circ} 02' 54''$ North; longitude $24^{\circ} 37' 42''$ East, and thence the boundary line shall proceed South along the meridian $24^{\circ} 37' 42''$ to the outer boundaries of Finnish territorial waters. (See the map, scale 1:100,000, attached to the present Agreement.)

The boundary line of the leased area of Porkkala-Udd will be demarcated on the spot by a Soviet-Finnish Mixed Commission. The Commission shall establish boundary marks and shall draw up a detailed description of this line and shall enter it upon a topographical map, scale 1:20,000, and a naval map, scale 1:50,000.

The Commission shall begin its work on a date to be specified by the Soviet Naval Command.

The description of the boundary line of the leased area and the map of that line prepared by the above-mentioned Commission shall be confirmed by both Governments.

2. In accordance with Article 8 of the Agreement the territory and waters in the area of Porkkala-Udd shall be transferred by Finland to the Soviet Union within ten days from the moment of signature of the Armistice Agreement for the organization of a Soviet naval base on lease, to be used and controlled for a period of fifty years, the Soviet Union making an annual payment of five million Finnish marks.

3. The Finnish Government undertakes to enable the Soviet Union to make use of the railways, waterways, roads and air routes necessary for the transport of personnel and freight despatched from the Soviet Union to the naval base at Porkkala-Udd.

The Finnish Government shall grant to the Soviet Union the right of unimpeded use of all forms of communication between the U.S.S.R. and the territory leased in the area of Porkkala-Udd.

H.—*Annex to Article 11.*

1. The precise nomenclature and varieties of commodities to be delivered by Finland to the Soviet Union in accordance with Article 11 of the Agreement and also the more precise periods for making these deliveries each year shall be defined in a special agreement between the two Governments.

— As the basis for accounts regarding the payment of the indemnity foreseen

in Article 11 of the Agreement the American dollar is to be used at its gold parity on the day of signature of the Agreement, i.e. thirty-five dollars to one ounce of gold.

I.—*Annex to Article 22.*

1. The Allied Control Commission is an organ of the Allied (Soviet) High Command, to which it is directly subordinated. The Control Commission will be the liaison link between the Allied (Soviet) High Command and the Finnish Government, through which Government the Commission will carry on all its relations with the Finnish authorities.

2. The chief task of the Control Commission is to see to the punctual and accurate fulfilment by the Finnish Government of Articles 2, 3, 4, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20 and 21 of the Armistice Agreement.

3. The Control Commission shall have the right to receive from the Finnish authorities all the information which it requires for the fulfilment of the above-mentioned task.

4. In the event of the discovery of any violation of the above-mentioned Articles of the Armistice Agreement the Control Commission shall make appropriate representations to the Finnish authorities in order that proper steps may be taken.

5. The Control Commission may establish special organs or sections, entrusting them respectively with the execution of various tasks.

Moreover, the Control Commission may through its officers make the necessary investigations and the collection of the information which it requires.

6. The Control Commission shall be established in Helsingfors.

7. The members of the Control Commission and equally its officers shall have the right to visit without let or hindrance any institution, enterprise or port and to receive there all the information necessary for their functions.

8. The Control Commission shall enjoy all diplomatic privileges, including inviolability of person, property and archives, and it shall have the right of communication by means of cypher and diplomatic courier.

9. The Control Commission shall have at its disposal a number of aircraft for the use of which the Finnish authorities shall grant all the necessary facilities.

ARREST OF THE GROUP OF MARSHAL ANTONESCU AND OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GERMAN COMMAND IN RUMANIA

In view of the fact that the group of Marshal Antonescu and the military representatives of Germany in Rumania may prove to be suitable candidates for inclusion in the list of war criminals, the Command of the Soviet forces in Rumania has arrested (1) Marshal J. Antonescu; (2) M. Antonescu, former Minister for Foreign Affairs; (3) General K. Pantazi, former War Minister; (4) K. Vasiliu, former Inspector-General of Internal Gendarmerie; (5) M. Eleutherescu, former Prefect of the Bucharest Police; (6) K. Clodius, German Ambassador on Economic Questions in Rumania; (7) General of Cavalry E. Hansen, Chief of the German Military Mission in Rumania; (8) Admiral W. Tillesen, Chief of the German Naval Liaison Staff in Rumania; (9) Lieut.-Gen. A. Herstenberg, commanding the German Air Force in Rumania; (10) Major-General R. Stagel, German Commandant of Warsaw in 1944.

20 September, 1944.

ARREST OF FILOV, PRINCE CYRIL AND LIEUTENANT-GENERAL MIKHOV, FORMER MEMBERS OF THE BULGARIAN REGENCY COUNCIL, AND ALSO OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GERMAN LEGATION AND THE MUSSOLINI "LEGATION" IN BULGARIA

The Command of the Soviet forces in Bulgaria has arrested (1) B. Filov; (2) Prince Cyril; (3) Lieutenant-General N. Mikhov; (4) D. Bozhilov, formerly Prime Minister of Bulgaria; (5) Vassiliev, former Minister; (6) A. Beckerle, German Minister in Bulgaria; (7) A. Mohrman, Assistant to the German Minister; (8) W. von Hulsen, Assistant German Military Attaché; (9) G. Pertzgen, Attaché at the German Legation; (10) P. Witter, Attaché at the German Legation; (11) C. Simen, Consul-General of the Mussolini "Legation"; (12) C. Deliur, Attaché at the same "Legation"; (13) G. Grazia, Assistant Attaché at the same "Legation".

22 September, 1944.

SIGNATURE OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE LITHUANIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC AND THE POLISH COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION FOR THE EVACUATION OF THE LITHUANIAN POPULATION FROM THE TERRITORY OF POLAND AND OF POLISH CITIZENS FROM THE TERRITORY OF THE LITHUANIAN S.S.R.

During the past few days negotiations have taken place between the Government of the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Polish Committee of National Liberation for the conclusion of an Agreement for the mutual evacuation of the Lithuanian population from the territory of Poland to the Lithuanian S.S.R., and of the Polish population from the territory of the Lithuanian S.S.R. to Poland. As a result of these negotiations, which took place in an atmosphere of friendly mutual understanding, an Agreement was signed at Lublin on 22 September, 1944, between the Government of the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Polish Committee of National Liberation for the evacuation of the Lithuanian population from the territory of Poland to Lithuania and of Polish citizens from the territory of the Lithuanian S.S.R. to Poland.

The Agreement provides that the evacuation will be effected on an entirely voluntary basis. The dates and conditions of evacuation will be made known to the population by special plenipotentiaries of the Council of People's Commissars of the Lithuanian S.S.R. and the Polish Committee of National Liberation, appointed for the practical direction of evacuation both in the territory of Poland and in the territory of the Lithuanian S.S.R.

The resettlement and employment of those evacuated will be the responsibility, in the territory of the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic, of the Government of the Lithuanian S.S.R. and, in the territory of Poland, of the Polish Committee of National Liberation.

Persons evacuated from Poland to the territory of the Lithuanian S.S.R. will as they desire either be allotted land for farming or be afforded the possibility of finding employment in keeping with their education and profession.

Persons evacuated from Lithuania to the territory of Poland will also receive land on the scale provided by the Law of Agrarian Reform in Poland. Both in Lithuania and in Poland evacuated landless peasants, should they so desire, will also receive land on general terms. All other persons evacuated will

be afforded the possibility of finding work according to their education and profession. The Agreement provides for various privileges for those evacuated. All their arrears of deliveries in kind, money taxation and insurance payments are cancelled. All evacuated homesteads, both in the territory of the Lithuanian S.S.R. and in the territory of Poland, are freed from all State money taxes and insurance payments for a period of two years.

Those evacuated will receive, in their places of resettlement a cash allowance of 5,000 roubles or zloty per homestead for economic and other needs, with repayment of this loan over a period of five years. If the person evacuated delivers his harvest to the State at the place of his departure, the Agreement provides for full compensation to him of the same quantity of harvest at the place where he is resettled. Those evacuated who have sown winter crops at the place of their departure will receive winter sowings at the place of their resettlement of the same size, if possible. The value of movable and immovable property left behind after evacuation, with the exception of land, is to be repaid to those evacuated, in conformity with the laws existing in the Lithuanian S.S.R. and in Poland.

The Agreement is signed, on the authorization of the Government of the Lithuanian S.S.R., by M. Gedvilas, Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the Lithuanian S.S.R. and, on the authorization of the Polish Committee of National Liberation, by E. B. Osobka-Morawski, Chairman of the Committee.

VISIT TO MARSHAL J. V. STALIN OF THE BRITISH AND AMERICAN AMBASSADORS

On 23 September, 1944, Marshal J. V. Stalin received the British Ambassador, Sir Archibald Clark Kerr, and the United States Ambassador, Mr. W. A. Harriman.

The Ambassadors, on the instructions of President Roosevelt and the British Prime Minister, Mr. Churchill, informed J. V. Stalin of the decisions adopted at the Conference held in the city of Quebec.

V. M. Molotov, People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs, was present at the conversation.

ARREST OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GERMAN AND HUNGARIAN LEGATIONS AND ALSO OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MUSSOLINI "LEGATION" IN RUMANIA

In addition to the representatives of the German Command in Rumania who were arrested earlier, as announced on 19 September, the Command of the Soviet Forces in Rumania has also arrested (1) Major-General K. Spalke, German Military Attaché; (2) Major-General E. von Czammer und Osten, Head of the German Field Kommandatur at Czernawoda; (3) Colonel A. Dietel, Chief of Staff of the German Military Mission; (4) W. Redel, First Counsellor of the German Legation; (5) G. Stoelzer, Counsellor of the German Legation; (6) G. Richter, Attaché for Police Affairs at the same Legation; (7) A. A. Odenigo, Minister and Head of the Mussolini "Legation"; (8) F. I. Trandafilo, Deputy Head of the same "Legation"; (9) R. E. Tozzi, Consul-General at the same "Legation"; (10) A. E. Metiesi-Schwartz, Hungarian Chargé d'Affaires; (11) Colonel A. L. Barta, Military Attaché of the Hungarian Legation.

23 September, 1944.

ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE POLISH COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION

On 28 September, 1944, there arrived in Moscow Mr. Bierut (President of the National Council of Poland), Mr. Osobka-Morawski (Chairman of the Polish Committee of National Liberation), Mr. A. Witos, Colonel-General Rola-Zymierski and Mr. Rzymowski.

They were met at the aerodrome by A. Y. Vyshinsky, Deputy People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs, Colonel-General Bulganin, Representative of the Soviet Government to the P.C.N.L., and others.

STATEMENTS BY A. A. GROMYKO, MR. E. J. STETTINIUS AND SIR ALEXANDER CADOGAN, CHAIRMEN OF THE DELEGATIONS OF THE U.S.S.R., U.S.A. AND U.K., AT THE CLOSING SESSION OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN-SOVIET CONFERENCE AT DUMBARTON OAKS

A representative of the Press Section of the State Department of the U.S.A. has published the statements made by the leaders of the delegations of the U.S.S.R., U.S.A. and Great Britain—Gromyko, Stettinius and Cadogan—at the closing session of the Anglo-American-Soviet Conference at Dumbarton Oaks on 28 September, 1944. In his statement A. A. Gromyko said:

“The three delegations have sat together from August 21 until now, discussing a number of important questions on the establishment of an international security organization. Today we have all grounds for stating that the conversations have undoubtedly been useful. On behalf of the Soviet delegation I wish to express appreciation of the friendly atmosphere in which the delegates carried out their work. I believe I shall express the opinion of all present if I thank Mr. Stettinius for his able chairmanship. I also wish to thank the United States Government—and in this, I am sure, I express the appreciation of every one of us—for the hospitality that we have received.”

Mr. Edward R. Stettinius said:

“Nearly six weeks have elapsed since we began these important conversations. In this brief period of time we have accomplished a great deal, more than many thought possible. In large measure, our achievements have been made possible by the cordial co-operation of my fellow-chairmen, Ambassador Gromyko and Sir Alexander Cadogan, and all who have worked with us. I wish to express my deep personal appreciation and thanks for this co-operation, which has resulted in the splendid spirit of harmony and goodwill which has prevailed throughout the conversations.

We have every reason for satisfaction with what has been accomplished. We have developed in the brief period of six weeks a wide area of agreement on the fundamental and necessary principles for an international organization to maintain peace and security. These principles will be of vital importance in guiding our Governments at every step that must yet be taken to bring into existence the organization which we have here envisaged.

The peace-loving peoples of the world will be heartened and encouraged by what we have accomplished at Dumbarton Oaks. They will await with eager hope the early completion of the task. We must not fail them, and I

confidently anticipate that the spirit of co-operation which has united our nations in war and which has prevailed throughout our deliberations here will lead to early agreement among the Governments of all peace-loving nations."

Sir Alexander Cadogan made the following statement:

"I should like to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for what you have said on behalf of all of us. I agree that much useful work has been done here which will contribute to ultimate success in the latest stages of the discussion.

I wish to say a word about the manner in which Mr. Stettinius has conducted the conversations. He knew how to combine energy with courtesy and patience, and thus as chairman he has hastened our passage over the smooth parts of the road and has helped to iron out the asperities. A large part of such success as we have achieved is due to him.

I do not of course use the word 'asperities' in its more sinister sense. There was never anything of that. Sometimes we found ourselves in disagreement in our discussions, but I believe that we disagreed amiably and agreeably. It was the experience of each of us at some time to be in opposition to the other two delegations, but even if we considered the views of the other two peculiar, we recognized that they were sincerely held and therefore were worthy of respect. I believe this is a good augury for the future.

I wish to add my thanks to the Secretariat. They have been prompt, efficient and helpful. I also wish to express our indebtedness to the United States Government for their hospitality. They have given us every facility in this wonderful setting. They have filled, in fact almost over-filled, our scanty leisure hours. We will go home with the most agreeable memories and a deep sense of gratitude." (TASS.)

VISIT TO J. V. STALIN OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF POLAND

On 29 September, 1944, J. V. Stalin received Mr. Bierut (President of the National Council of Poland), Mr. Osobka-Morawski (Chairman of the Polish Committee of National Liberation), Chairman Witos, Col.-Gen. Rola-Zymierski and Mr. Rzymowski.

V. M. Molotov was present at the ^{Minister} _{Deputy} _{Chairman} _{of} _{the} _{Delegation}.

THE SITUATION ^{of} _{the} _{Country} _{of} _{YUGOSLAVIA}

A few days ago, having in mind the interests of the development of military operations against the German and Hungarian forces in Hungary, the Soviet Command approached the National Committee of Liberation of Yugoslavia and the Command of the Yugoslav People's Liberation Army with a request for their agreement to the temporary entry of Soviet troops into Yugoslav territory bordering on Hungary. The Soviet Command stated in doing so that the Soviet forces on completion of their operational tasks would be withdrawn from Yugoslavia.

The National Committee and High Command of Yugoslavia agreed to grant the request of the Soviet Command. The Soviet Command accepted the condition put forward by the Yugoslav side that the civil administration of the National Committee of Liberation of Yugoslavia would continue to function in those districts of Yugoslavia where Red Army units were operating. (TASS.)

29 September, 1944.

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SOVIET UNION, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM

As has previously been reported, preliminary unofficial conversations on the main questions involved in the establishment of an international organization for the maintenance of peace and security were held at Dumbarton Oaks (Washington) from 21 August, 1944, onwards. There took part in the negotiations a delegation of the Soviet Union headed by A. A. Gromyko (Soviet Ambassador in the U.S.A.), a delegation of the United States of America headed by Mr. Edward A. Stettinius (U.S. Under-Secretary of State) and a delegation of Great Britain headed by Sir Alexander Cadogan (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs).

The chairmen of the three delegations issued the following communiqué on 29 September:

"Conversations between the Soviet Union, the United States and the United Kingdom delegations in Washington regarding the establishment of a world security organization have now been completed. These conversations have been useful and have led to a large measure of agreement on recommendations for the general framework of the organization, and in particular for the machinery required to maintain peace and security. The three delegations are making reports to their respective Governments, who will consider these reports and will in due course issue a simultaneous statement on the subject."

LETTER OF MR. C. ENCKELL, MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF FINLAND

In connection with the return from Finland of Mr. Hackzell, former Prime Minister of Finland, Mr. C. Enckell, Minister for Foreign Affairs, visited the Soviet Political Adviser to the Allied Control Commission Orlov on 29 September, 1944, and handed him a letter with the following effect:

"The Finnish Government, in appreciation of the aid, sympathy and care shown by the Soviet Government to the Finnish people, and in particular to the Prime Minister Hackzell, who so tragically fell ill, expresses its sincere appreciation and gratitude for the kindly assistance of the Soviet authorities and professors, thanks to whose efforts the invalid managed successfully to survive the first and most dangerous stage of the crisis."

CARL ENCKELL,
Minister for Foreign Affairs."

DEPARTURE FROM MOSCOW OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE POLISH COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION

Mr. Bierut, President of the National Council of Poland; Mr. Osobka-Morawski, Chairman of the Polish Committee of National Liberation and Mr. A. Witos left Moscow on 3 October, 1944.

The representatives of the Polish Committee of National Liberation were seen off at the Moscow aerodrome by A. Y. Vyshinsky (Deputy People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R.), Col.-Gen. N. A. Bulganin (Representative of the Soviet Government to the P.C.N.L.) and others.

VISIT TO J. V. STALIN OF U.S. AMBASSADOR HARRIMAN

On 4 October, 1944, J. V. Stalin received Mr. Harriman, Ambassador of the United States. In commemoration of the anniversary of the signature of the first Protocol concerning deliveries to the Soviet Union, Mr. Harriman presented J. V. Stalin with a bust of President Roosevelt.

V. M. Molotov was present at the interview.

APPOINTMENT OF A DELEGATE OF THE COUNCIL OF PEOPLE'S COMMISSARS OF THE U.S.S.R. FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE REPATRIATION OF SOVIET CITIZENS

By a decision of the Council of People's Commissars of the U.S.S.R. on 4 October, 1944, Colonel-General F. I. Golikov has been appointed Delegate of the Council of People's Commissars of the U.S.S.R. for matters pertaining to the repatriation of citizens of the U.S.S.R. who were prisoners of war and forcibly deported to Germany and to countries occupied by her.

Colonel-General I. V. Smorodinov and Lieut.-Gen. K. D. Golubyov are appointed his Deputies. His assistants are Major-General V. M. Dragun and A. A. Smirnov.

The delegate for repatriation is placed in charge of the returning of citizens of the U.S.S.R. from Germany and from the countries occupied by her, as they are liberated by the Red Army and the Allied forces, and the organization of the transportation of liberated citizens of the U.S.S.R. to their own country.

ARRIVAL AT HELSINKI OF COLONEL-GENERAL A. A. ZHDANOV, CHAIRMAN OF THE ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION IN FINLAND

Colonel-General A. A. Zhdanov (Chairman of the Allied Control Commission) arrived at Helsinki on 5 October, 1944. He was met at the aerodrome by the Finnish Prime Minister Castren, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Walden, the Minister for Foreign Affairs Enckell, the Minister of the Interior Hillilae, the Deputy Minister of Transport and Public Works Vuori, Lieut.-Gen. Valve (Commander of the Naval Forces), the Director of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Hakkarainen, Rear-Admiral Sundman (Chief of the Naval Staff), General Helenius (Governor of Nyland) and senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

He was also met by senior officials of the Allied Control Commission:

MEETING BETWEEN A. A. ZHDANOV AND PRESIDENT MANNERHEIM

On 7 October, 1944, at Helsinki, A. A. Zhdanov (Chairman of the Allied Control Commission in Finland) had his first meeting with the Finnish President Mannerheim. The conversation lasted two and a half hours. There were present at the conversation Lieut.-Gen. Savonenkov (Deputy Chairman of the Allied Control Commission) and General Walden (Finnish Minister of Defence).
(TASS.)

ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW OF MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL, PRIME MINISTER OF GREAT BRITAIN, AND MR. ANTHONY EDEN, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

On 9 October, 1944, Mr. Winston Churchill (Prime Minister of Great Britain) and Mr. Anthony Eden (Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs) arrived in Moscow, accompanied by Field-Marshal Sir Alan Brooke (Chief of the Imperial General Staff), General Sir Hastings Ismay and others.

They were met at the Moscow aerodrome by V. M. Molotov (Deputy Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars and People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R.), A. Y. Vyshinsky and I. M. Maisky (Deputies of the People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs), Army General A. I. Antonov (Deputy Chief of the General Staff), A. V. Astafiev (Vice-Chairman of the Moscow City Soviet), Major-General M. P. Kutuzov (Chief of the Department of External Relations of the People's Commissariat for Defence) and Colonel N. V. Grebenshchikov (Acting Commandant of the City of Moscow).

There were also present at the aerodrome Sir Archibald Clark Kerr (Ambassador of Great Britain), W. A. Harriman (United States Ambassador), Mr. L. D. Wilgress (Canadian Ambassador), Mr. J. Maloney (the Australian Minister), Mr. C. Boswell (the New Zealand Minister), Lieut.-Gen. Burrows (Chief of the British Military Mission,) Major-General J. Deane (Chief of the United States Military Mission), the diplomatic staff of the Embassies and members of the Military Missions of Great Britain and the U.S.A.

A Guard of Honour was drawn up at the aerodrome, which was decorated with the flags of Great Britain and the Soviet Union. The British and Soviet State anthems were performed.

Statement by Mr. Winston Churchill.

On the day of his arrival in Moscow Mr. Winston Churchill made the following speech before the microphone of the News Reel Studio:

"Mr. Molotov, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen. This is the second time I have landed on this airfield in Moscow during the progress of this fearful and bloody war. More than two years have passed since I was last here. But they have been two years of unbroken victory. From our different quarters of the globe we have all marched steadfastly forward against the common foe who destroyed the treasure and peace of mankind, who has stained his every step with cruel deeds and horrible atrocities and upon whom the combined vengeance of the United Nations is now closing.

During this famous period of victories attained with so much sacrifice and devotion, the Russian armies, the armies of the Soviet Union, have struck enormous blows. They were the first to break the spirit and the structure of the German army.

We too, for our part, the United States and the British Commonwealth of Nations, have exerted ourselves to the utmost. And it shall be for you to say whether we have struck heavy blows or not.

I have come here on the tide of hope, on the tide of assurance that victory will be won, and with the hope that when it is won we shall all of us endeavour to make the world a better place for the great mass of human beings to live in."

CONVERSATION BETWEEN J. V. STALIN AND MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL

On 9 October, 1944, there took place a conversation between J. V. Stalin, Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the U.S.S.R., and Mr. Winston Churchill, Prime Minister of Great Britain.

There were present at the conversation: V. M. Molotov (People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R.), Mr. Anthony Eden (British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs) and Sir Archibald Clark Kerr (British Ambassador in the U.S.S.R.)

CONVERSATION BETWEEN V. M. MOLOTOV AND MR. ANTHONY EDEN

On 9 October, 1944, there took place a conversation between V. M. Molotov, People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., and Mr. Anthony Eden, British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

A. Y. Vyshinsky, Deputy People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., and the British Ambassador Sir Archibald Clark Kerr, were present at the conversation.

LUNCHEON GIVEN BY J. V. STALIN IN HONOUR OF MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL AND MR. ANTHONY EDEN

On 10 October, 1944, J. V. Stalin, Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the U.S.S.R., gave a luncheon in honour of Mr. Winston Churchill, Prime Minister of Great Britain, and Mr. Anthony Eden, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

In addition to the guests of honour, there were present at the luncheon: Sir Archibald Clark Kerr (Ambassador of Great Britain), United States Ambassador Mr. W. A. Harriman, the Canadian Ambassador Mr. L. D. Wilgress, the Australian Minister Mr. J. Maloney, the New Zealand Minister Mr. C. Boswell, Field-Marshal Sir Alan Brooke (Chief of the British Imperial General Staff), General Sir Hastings Ismay, Lieut.-Gen. Burrows (Chief of the British Military Mission), Major-General J. Deane (Chief of the United States Military Mission), the staff of the British Embassy and the suite of Mr. Churchill and Mr. Eden, together with V. M. Molotov, A. I. Mikoyan, F. T. Gusev (Ambassador of the U.S.S.R. in Great Britain), Admiral of the Fleet N. G. Kuznetsov, A. Y. Vyshinsky, V. G. Dekanozov, I. M. Maisky, Army General A. I. Antonov and responsible officials of the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs and the People's Commissariat for Defence of the U.S.S.R.

MEETING BETWEEN COLONEL-GENERAL A. A. ZHDANOV, CHAIRMAN OF THE ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION, AND MR. CASTREN, PRIME MINISTER OF FINLAND

On 10 October, 1944, at Helsinki, Colonel-General Zhdanov, Chairman of the Allied Control Commission, had a meeting with Mr. Castren, Prime Minister of Finland. There took part in the conversation Lieut.-Gen. Savonenkov, Deputy Chairman of the Allied Control Commission, Political Adviser Orlov and Mr. Enckell, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland. (TASS.)

STATEMENT ON THE RESULTS OF PRELIMINARY CONVERSATIONS OF THE DELEGATIONS OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE U.S.S.R., THE U.S.A. AND THE UNITED KINGDOM, HELD IN WASHINGTON, ON THE QUESTION OF CREATING AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND SECURITY

The Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics has received the report of its Delegation which took part in conversations held in Washington between 21 August and 29 September with the Delegations of the United States of America and the United Kingdom on the question of an international organization for the maintenance of peace and security.

There is annexed hereto a statement of tentative proposals indicating in detail the wide range of subjects on which agreement has been reached in the course of the conversations.

The Governments which were represented in the discussions in Washington have agreed that, after further study of these proposals, they will as soon as possible take the necessary steps with a view to the preparation of complete proposals, which could then serve as a basis of discussion at a conference of the United Nations.

PROPOSALS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GENERAL INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ORGANIZATION

There should be established an international organization under the title of "The United Nations", the charter of which should contain provisions necessary to give effect to the following proposals:

CHAPTER I—PURPOSES

The purposes of the Organization should be:

(1) To maintain international peace and security; and to that end to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to peace and the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means the adjustment or settlement of international disputes which may lead to a breach of the peace;

(2) To develop friendly relations among nations and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace;

(3) To achieve international co-operation in the solution of international, economic, social and other humanitarian problems; and

(4) To afford a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the achievement of these common ends.

CHAPTER II—PRINCIPLES

In pursuit of the purposes mentioned in Chapter I, the Organization and its members should act in accordance with the following principles:

(1) The Organization is based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all peace-loving States.

(2) All members of the Organization undertake, in order to ensure to all of them the rights and benefits resulting from membership in the Organization, to fulfil the obligations assumed by them in accordance with the Charter.

(3) All members of the Organization shall settle their disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security are not endangered.

(4) All members of the Organization shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent with the purposes of the Organization.

(5) All members of the Organization shall give every assistance to the Organization in any action undertaken by it in accordance with the provisions of the Charter.

(6) All members of the Organization shall refrain from giving assistance to any State against which preventive or enforcement action is being undertaken by the Organization.

The Organization should ensure that States not members of the Organization should act in accordance with these principles, so far as may be necessary for the maintenance of international peace and security.

CHAPTER III—MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Organization should be open to all peace-loving States.

CHAPTER IV—PRINCIPAL ORGANS

(1) The Organization should have as its principal organs:

- (a) A General Assembly;
- (b) A Security Council;
- (c) An International Court of Justice; and
- (d) A Secretariat.

(2) The Organization should have such subsidiary agencies as may be found necessary.

CHAPTER V—THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(A) *Composition.*

All members of the Organization should be members of the General Assembly and should have a number of representatives to be specified in the Charter.

(B) *Functions and Powers.*

(1) The General Assembly should have the right to consider the general principles of co-operation in the maintenance of international peace and security, including the principles governing disarmament and the regulation of armaments; to discuss any questions relating to the maintenance of international peace and security brought before it by any member or members of the Organization or by the Security Council; and to make recommendations with regard to any such principles or questions. Any such questions on which action is necessary should be referred to the Security Council by the General Assembly either before or after discussion. The General Assembly should not on its own initiative make recommendations on any matter relating to the maintenance of international peace and security which is being dealt with by the Security Council.

(2) The General Assembly should be empowered to admit new members to the Organization upon the recommendation of the Security Council.

(3) The General Assembly should, upon the recommendations of the Security Council, be empowered to suspend the exercise of any rights or privileges arising from membership of the Organization by any member of the Organization against whom preventive or enforcement action shall have been taken by the Security Council. The rights and privileges, the exercise of which has been thus suspended, may be restored by the decision of the Security Council. The General Assembly should be empowered, upon the recommendation of the Security Council, to expel from the Organization any member of the Organization who persistently violates the principles contained in the Charter.

(4) The General Assembly should elect the non-permanent members of the Security Council and the members of the Economic and Social Council provided for in Chapter IX. It should be empowered to elect, upon the recommendation of the Security Council, the Secretary-General of the Organization. It should perform such functions in relation to the election of the Judges of the International Court of Justice as may be conferred upon it by the Statute of the Court.

(5) The General Assembly should apportion the expenses among the members of the Organization, and should be empowered to approve the budgets of the Organization.

(6) The General Assembly should initiate studies and make recommendations for the purpose of promoting international co-operation in the political, economic and social fields and of adjusting situations likely to impair the general welfare.

(7) The General Assembly should make recommendations for the co-ordination of the policy of the International Economic, Social and the specialized agencies brought into relation with the Organization in accordance with agreements between such agencies and the Organization.

(8) The General Assembly should receive and consider annual and special reports from the Security Council and reports from other bodies of the Organization.

(C) *Voting.*

(1) Each member of the Organization should have one vote in the General Assembly.

(2) Important decisions of the General Assembly, including recommendations with respect to the maintenance of international peace and security; the election of members of the Security Council; the election of members of the Economic and Social Council; the admission of members, the suspension of the exercise of the rights and privileges of members, and the expulsion of members; and budgetary questions, should be made by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting in the Assembly. On other questions, including the determination of additional categories of questions to be decided by a two-thirds majority, the decisions of the General Assembly should be made by a simple majority vote.

(D) *Procedure.*

(1) The General Assembly should meet in regular annual sessions and in such special sessions as occasion may require.

(2) The General Assembly should adopt its own rules of procedure and elect its President for each session.

(3) The General Assembly should be empowered to set up such bodies and agencies as it may deem necessary for the performance of its functions.

CHAPTER VI—THE SECURITY COUNCIL

(A) *Composition.*

The Security Council should consist of one representative of each of eleven States—members of the Organization. Representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Republic of China, and in due course France, should have permanent seats. The General Assembly should elect six States to fill the non-permanent seats. These six States should be elected for a term of two years, three retiring each year. They should not be immediately eligible for re-election. In the first election of the non-permanent members three should be chosen by the General Assembly for one-year terms and three for two-year terms.

(B) *Principal Functions and Powers.*

(1) In order to ensure prompt and effective action by the Organization, members of the Organization should by the present Charter confer on the Security Council primary responsibility for the maintenance for international peace and security, and should agree that in carrying out these duties under this responsibility the Security Council should act on their behalf.

(2) In discharging these duties the Security Council should act in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Organization.

(3) The specific powers conferred on the Security Council in order to carry out these duties are laid down in Chapter VIII.

(4) All members of the Organization should bind themselves to accept the decisions of the Security Council and to carry them out in accordance with the provisions of the Charter.

(5) In order to promote the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion of human and economic resources for armaments, the Security Council with the assistance of the Military Staff Committee referred to in Chapter VIII, section (B), paragraph 9, should have the responsibility of formulating plans for the establishment of a system of regulation of armaments for submission to the members of the Organization.

(C) *Voting.*

(NOTE.—The question of voting procedure in the Security Council is still under consideration.)

(D) *Procedure.*

(1) The Security Council should be so organized as to be able to function continuously, and each State member of the Security Council should be permanently represented at the headquarters of the Organization. It also may hold meetings at such other places as in its judgment may best facilitate its work. There should be periodic meetings at which each State member of the Security Council could, if it so desired, be represented by a member of the Government or some other special representative.

(2) The Security Council should be empowered to set up such bodies or agencies as it may deem necessary for the performance of its functions, including regional sub-committees of the Military Staff Committee.

(3) The Security Council should adopt its own rules of procedure, including the method of selecting its President.

(4) Any member of the Organization should participate in the discussion of any question brought before the Security Council whenever the Security Council considers that the interests of that member of the Organization are especially affected.

(5) Any member of the Organization not having a seat on the Security Council, and any State not a member of the Organization, if it is a party to a dispute under consideration by the Security Council, should be invited to participate in the discussion relating to the dispute.

CHAPTER VII—AN INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

(1) There should be an International Court of Justice which should constitute the principal judicial organ of the Organization.

(2) The Court should be constituted and should function in accordance with a Statute which should be annexed to and be a part of the Charter of the Organization.

(3) The Statute of the Court of International Justice should be either (a) the Statute of the Permanent Court of International Justice, continued in force with such modifications as may be desirable, or (b) a new Statute in the preparation of which the Statute of the Permanent Court of International Justice should be used as a basis.

(4) All members of the Organization should, *ipso facto*, be parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice.

(5) Conditions under which States not members of the Organization may become parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice should be determined in each case by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council.

CHAPTER VIII—ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY, INCLUDING THE PREVENTION AND SUPPRESSION OF AGGRESSION

(A) *The Pacific Settlement of Disputes.*

(1) The Security Council should be empowered to investigate any dispute, or any situation which may lead to international friction or give rise to a dispute, in order to determine whether its continuance is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security.

(2) Any State, whether a member of the Organization or not, may bring any such dispute or situation to the attention of the General Assembly or of the Security Council.

(3) The parties to any dispute the continuance of which is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security should bind themselves, first of all, to seek a solution by negotiation, mediation, conciliation, arbitration or judicial settlement, or by other peaceful means of their own choice. The Security Council should call upon the parties to settle their dispute by such means.

(4) If nevertheless the parties to a dispute of the nature referred to in paragraph 3 above fail to settle it by the means indicated in that paragraph, they should bind themselves to refer it to the Security Council. The Security

Council should in each case decide whether or not the continuance of the particular dispute is in fact likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security, and accordingly whether the Security Council should deal with the dispute and, if so, whether it should take action under paragraph 5.

(5) The Security Council should be empowered at any stage of a dispute of the nature referred to in paragraph 3 above to recommend appropriate procedures or methods of adjustment.

(6) Justiciable disputes should normally be referred to the International Court of Justice. The Security Council should be empowered to refer to the Court for advice on legal questions connected with other disputes.

(7) The provisions of paragraphs 1-6 of Chapter VIII, section (A), should not apply to situations or disputes arising out of matters which by international law are solely within the domestic jurisdiction of the State concerned.

(B) Determination of Threats to Peace or Acts of Aggression and Action with Respect Thereto.

(1) Should the Security Council deem that a failure to settle a dispute in accordance with the procedure indicated in paragraph 3 of section (A), or in accordance with its recommendations made under paragraph 5 of section (A), constitutes a threat to the maintenance of international peace and security, it should take any measures necessary for the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Organization.

(2) In general the Security Council should determine the existence of any threat to peace, breach of the peace or act of aggression, and should make recommendations or decide upon measures to be taken to maintain or restore peace and security.

(3) The Security Council should be empowered to determine what diplomatic, economic or other measures not involving the use of armed force should be employed to give effect to its decisions, and to call upon members of the Organization to apply such measures. Such measures may include complete or partial interruption of rail, sea, air, postal, telegraphic, radio and other means of communication and the severance of diplomatic and economic relations.

(4) Should the Security Council consider such measures to be inadequate it should be empowered to take such action with the help of air, naval or land forces as may be necessary to maintain or restore international peace and security. Such actions may include demonstrations, blockade or other operations by air, naval or land forces of members of the Organization.

(5) In order that all members of the Organization should contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security, they should undertake to make available to the Security Council, on its call and in accordance with a special agreement or agreements concluded among themselves, armed forces, facilities and assistance necessary for the purpose of maintaining international peace and security. Such agreement or agreements should govern the numbers and types of forces and the nature of the facilities and assistance to be provided. The special agreement or agreements should be negotiated as soon as possible, and should in each case be subject to approval by the Security Council and to ratification by the Signatory States, in accordance with their constitutional processes.

(6) In order to enable urgent military measures to be taken by the Organization, there should be held immediately available by the members of the Organization contingents of their national air forces for combined international enforcement action. The strength and degree of readiness of these

contingents, and plans for their combined action, should be determined by the Security Council with the assistance of the Military Staff Committee, within the limits laid down in the special agreement or agreements referred to in paragraph 5 above.

(7) The action required to carry out the decisions of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security should be taken by all members of the Organization in co-operation or by some of them, as the Security Council may determine. This undertaking should be carried out by the members of the Organization by their own action and through action of the appropriate specialized organizations and agencies of which they are members.

(8) Plans for the application of armed force should be made by the Security Council with the assistance of the Military Staff Committee referred to in paragraph 9 below.

(9) There should be established a Military Staff Committee, the functions of which should be to advise and assist the Security Council on all questions relating to the Security Council's military requirements arising out of the maintenance of international peace and security; to the employment and command of forces placed at the disposal of the Security Council; to the regulation of armaments and to possible disarmament. It should be responsible, under the Security Council, for the strategic direction of any armed forces placed at the disposal of the Security Council. The Committee should be composed of the Chiefs of Staff of the permanent members of the Security Council or their representatives. Any member of the Organization not permanently represented on the Committee should be invited by the Committee to be associated with it, if the effective discharge of the Committee's responsibilities requires that such a State should participate in its work. Questions of the command of forces should be worked out subsequently.

(10) The members of the Organization should join in affording mutual assistance in carrying out the measures decided upon by the Security Council.

(11) Any State, whether a member of the Organization or not, which finds itself confronted with special economic problems arising from the carrying out of measures which have been decided upon by the Security Council should have the right to consult the Security Council in regard to a solution of those problems.

(C) *Regional Arrangements.*

(1) Nothing in the Charter should preclude the existence of regional arrangements or agencies for dealing with such matters, relating to the maintenance of international peace and security, as are appropriate for regional action, provided that such arrangements or agencies and their activities are consistent with the purposes and principles of the Organization. The Security Council should encourage settlement of local disputes through such regional arrangements or by such regional agencies, either on the initiative of the States concerned or by reference from the Security Council.

(2) The Security Council should, where appropriate, utilize such arrangements or agencies for enforcement action under its authority; but no enforcement action should be taken under regional arrangements or by regional agencies without the authorization of the Security Council.

(3) The Security Council should at all times be kept fully informed of activities undertaken or in contemplation under regional arrangements or by regional agencies for the maintenance of international peace and security.

CHAPTER IX—ARRANGEMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CO-OPERATION

(A) Purpose and Relationship.

(1) With a view to the creation of conditions of stability and well-being which are necessary for peaceful and friendly relations among nations, the Organization should facilitate solutions of international economic, social and other humanitarian problems and promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Responsibility for the discharge of this function should be vested in the General Assembly and, under the authority of the General Assembly, in an Economic and Social Council.

(2) The various specialized economic, social and other organizations and agencies would have responsibilities in their respective fields as defined in their Statute. Each such organization or agency should be brought into relationship with the Organization on conditions to be determined by agreement between the Economic and Social Council and the appropriate authorities of the specialized organization or agency, subject to approval by the General Assembly.

(B) Composition and Voting.

The Economic and Social Council should consist of representatives of eighteen members of the Organization. The States to be represented for this purpose should be elected by the General Assembly for terms of three years. Each such State should have one representative, who should have one vote. Decisions of the Economic and Social Council should be taken by a simple majority vote of those present and voting.

(C) Functions and Powers of the Economic and Social Council.

(1) The Economic and Social Council should be empowered:

(a) To carry out, within the scope of its functions, recommendations of the General Assembly;

(b) To make recommendations on its own initiative with respect to economic, social and other humanitarian matters;

(c) To receive and consider reports from the economic, social and other organizations or agencies brought into relationship with the Organization, and to co-ordinate their activities through consultations with and recommendations to such organizations or agencies;

(d) To examine the administrative budgets of such specialized organizations or agencies whom it may concern;

(e) To enable the Secretary-General to provide information to the Security Council;

(f) To assist the Security Council upon its request; and

(g) To perform such other functions within the general scope of its competence as may be assigned to it by the General Assembly.

(D) Organization and Procedure.

(1) The Economic and Social Council should set up an Economic Commission, a Social Commission and such other Commissions as may be required.

These Commissions should consist of experts. There should be a permanent staff which should constitute a part of the Secretariat of the Organization.

(2) The Economic and Social Council should make suitable arrangements for representatives of the specialized organizations or agencies to participate without vote in its deliberations and in those of the Commissions established by it.

(3) The Economic and Social Council should adopt its own rules of procedure and the method of selecting its President.

CHAPTER X—THE SECRETARIAT

(1) There should be a Secretariat comprising a Secretary-General and such staff as may be required. The Secretary-General should be the chief administrative officer of the Organization. He should be elected by the General Assembly on recommendation of the Security Council, for such term and under such conditions as are specified in the Charter.

(2) The Secretary-General should act in that capacity at all meetings of the General Assembly, of the Security Council and of the Economic and Social Council, and should make an annual report to the General Assembly on the work of the Organization.

(3) The Secretary-General should have the right to bring to the attention of the Security Council any matter which in his opinion may threaten international peace and security.

CHAPTER XI—AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Charter should come into force for all members of the Organization when they have been adopted by a majority of two thirds of the members of the General Assembly and ratified, in accordance with their respective constitutional processes, by the members of the Organization having permanent membership on the Security Council and by a majority of the other members of the Organization.

CHAPTER XII—TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

(1) Pending the coming into force of the special agreement or agreements referred to in Chapter VIII, section (B), paragraph 5, and in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 5 of the Four Power Declaration signed at Moscow on 30 October, 1943, the States parties to that Declaration should consult with one another and, as occasion arises, with other members of the Organization, with a view to such joint action on behalf of the Organization as may be necessary for the purpose of maintaining international peace and security.

(2) No provisions of the Charter should preclude action taken or authorized in relation to enemy States, participants in the present war, by the Governments having responsibility for such action.

(NOTE.—In addition to the question of voting procedure in the Security Council, referred to in Chapter VI, several other questions are still under consideration.)

11 October, 1944.

RECEPTION GIVEN BY V. M. MOLOTOV, PEOPLE'S COMMISSAR FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

On 11 October, 1944, V. M. Molotov, Deputy Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the U.S.S.R. and People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs, gave a reception to the Diplomatic Corps in honour of Mr. Winston Churchill, Prime Minister of Great Britain, and Mr. Anthony Eden, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

The reception was attended by the heads and the responsible diplomatic staffs of the Embassies and Missions of Allied and neutral Powers, military, naval and air attachés and their assistants, chiefs and members of Military Missions.

The reception was also attended by A. I. Mikoyan, F. T. Gusev (Ambassador of the U.S.S.R. in Great Britain), Admiral of the Fleet N. G. Kuznetsov, A. Y. Vyshinsky, V. G. Dekanozov, S. A. Lozovsky, M. M. Litvinov, I. M. Maisky, Air Chief Marshal A. A. Novikov, Marshal of Armoured Troops Y. N. Fedorenko, Marshal of Engineering Troops M. P. Vorobyov, A. I. Lavrentiev (People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the R.S.F.S.R.), M. I. Aliev (People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaidjan S.S.R.), a number of People's Commissars of the U.S.S.R., senior officials of the People's Commissariat for Defence, the People's Commissariat for the Navy, the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., and the People's Commissariat for Foreign Trade, together with scientists, writers, artists and representatives of the Soviet and foreign press.

DINNER GIVEN BY SIR ARCHIBALD CLARK KERR IN HONOUR OF J. V. STALIN AND MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL

On 11 October, 1944, Sir Archibald Clark Kerr, Ambassador of Great Britain, gave a dinner at the British Embassy in honour of J. V. Stalin, Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the U.S.S.R., and the British Prime Minister, Mr. Winston Churchill.

There were present at the dinner, in addition to the guests of honour, V. M. Molotov, Mr. Anthony Eden, United States Ambassador Harriman, the Canadian Ambassador Mr. L. D. Wilgress, the Australian Minister Mr. J. Maloney, the New Zealand Minister Mr. C. Boswell, A. I. Mikoyan (People's Commissar for Foreign Trade), F. T. Gusev (Ambassador of the U.S.S.R. at London), A. Y. Vyshinsky, V. G. Dekanozov, S. A. Lozovsky, M. M. Litvinov, I. M. Maisky (Deputies of the People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs), Field-Marshal Sir Alan Brooke (Chief of the Imperial General Staff), General Sir Hastings Ismay, Lieut.-Gen. Burrows (Chief of the British Military Mission), officials of the British Embassy and members of the suite of Mr. Churchill and Mr. Eden.

At the reception held after the dinner there were present senior officials of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., and officials of the United States and Canadian Embassies, the Australian and New Zealand Legations and also of the British and American Military Missions.

ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW OF MR. B. BIERUT, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF POLAND, MR. E. OSOBKA-MORAWSKI, CHAIRMAN OF THE POLISH COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION, AND COLONEL-GENERAL M. ROLA-ZYMIERSKI, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE POLISH FORCES

On 11 October, 1944, Mr. B. Bierut, President of the National Council of Poland, Mr. E. Osobka-Morawski, Chairman of the Polish Committee of National Liberation, and Colonel-General M. Rola-Zymierski, Commander-in-Chief of the Polish Forces, arrived in Moscow. They were met at the Moscow aerodrome by A. Y. Vyshinsky (Deputy People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R.), V. A. Zorin (Director of the Fourth European Department of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs) and Major-General M. P. Kutuzov (Chief of the Department of External Relations of the People's Commissariat for Defence); and likewise by Mr. Jedrychowski (Acting Representative of the Polish Committee of National Liberation to the Soviet Government).

BULGARIA ACCEPTS THE PRELIMINARY CONDITION OF THE THREE ALLIED GOVERNMENTS

In connection with the fact that the Government of Bulgaria has addressed a request for an armistice to the Governments of the Soviet Union, Great Britain and the United States of America, the three Allied Governments mentioned informed the Government of Bulgaria on 11 October, 1944, of the following:

"The Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, having considered the request of the Bulgarian Government for an armistice, have decided that the essential prerequisite for beginning negotiations for an armistice is an undertaking by the Bulgarian Government to evacuate all Bulgarian troops and all Bulgarian officials from Greek and Yugoslav territory. Such evacuation must commence immediately and must be completed within 15 days of this communication. For the purpose of supervision and control over this evacuation the three Allied Governments will send their representatives to Bulgaria, who will act as a Joint Allied Military Mission, with the Soviet representative as chairman."

The Bulgarian Government has accepted the preliminary condition of the Allied Governments. (TASS.)

REPLY OF THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT TO THE PRELIMINARY CONDITION OF THE THREE ALLIED GOVERNMENTS

As has already been reported, the Bulgarian Government has accepted the preliminary condition laid down on 11 October, 1944, by the Governments of the U.S.S.R., the United Kingdom and the U.S.A.

The text of this reply of the Bulgarian Government, handed by the Bulgarian Government on the same day, 11 October, to Marshal F. I. Tolbukhin, commanding the Soviet forces in Bulgaria, is as follows:

"On behalf of the Council of Ministers I have the honour to inform you that the Bulgarian Government accepts in its entirety and will fulfil the decision of the Allied Governments reproduced in your letter No. 1855 of today's date.

I have to add that the evacuation of Bulgarian forces from Greek territory was undertaken yesterday already, 10 October, by a decision of the Council of Ministers, of which I had the honour to inform you in my letter of yesterday evening; while the evacuation of officials and the transfer of administrative authority to the local population was begun much earlier and has already been completed.

The Bulgarian civil and military authorities will give the fullest assistance to the Military Mission being sent by the Allied Governments, in order to enable it to complete its investigation and effect its supervision of this evacuation.

KIMON GEORGIEV,
President of the Council of Ministers."

ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW OF MESSRS. S. MIKOLAJCZYK, S. GRABSKI AND T. ROMER

On 12 October, 1944, Messrs. S. Mikolajczyk, S. Grabski and T. Romer arrived in Moscow from London.

They were met at the aerodrome by representatives of the Protocol Department of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R. and of the Department of External Relations of the People's Commissariat for Defence.

FULFILMENT BY FINLAND OF THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT

During the time which has elapsed since the conclusion of the Armistice Agreement with Finland, i.e. since 19 September of the present year, the Finnish Government has fulfilled a number of its obligations arising out of that Agreement.

Finland has evacuated the area of Porkkala-Udd, which is being handed over on lease to the Soviet Union, within the period laid down in the Agreement.

A Soviet-Finnish Mixed Commission for demarcating the boundaries of the leased area began its work on 7 October, and field work in the locality began on 13 October. The Allied (Soviet) High Command has had aerodromes placed at its disposal on the southern and south-western coast of Finland, with all the necessary equipment, as bases for the Soviet Air Force.

In accordance with the Agreement, Finland on 20 September broke off diplomatic and all other relations with Hungary, Slovakia and Croatia, and has also stopped all communications between foreign Legations and Consulates in Finland and the outside world.

The Finnish authorities have liberated the prisoners of war and the Soviet civilians interned and forcibly deported to Finland. A plan for the return of these civilians to the Soviet Union has been worked out and laid before the Allied Control Commission. The first groups of liberated prisoners of war have begun to arrive at the Soviet-Finnish frontier.

In fulfilment of the Agreement the Finnish Diet on 23 September adopted a law authorizing the Finnish Government to dissolve the pro-Hitlerite organizations (of Fascist type) in Finnish territory. In accordance with this law, the Government of Finland has declared dissolved about 400 such organizations. In particular the Fascist I.K.L. organization has been dissolved. Its newspaper, the *Ajan Suunta*, continued to appear up to 4 October, but on 5 October, on the demand of the Allied Control Commission, the newspaper was closed

down. The Finnish authorities have set free 1,035 political prisoners, including 195 Soviet citizens. It must nevertheless be pointed out that, in spite of these Soviet citizens being formally freed from a prison régime, the Finnish authorities kept them in prison until the last few days. Finland is also partially carrying out the Article in the Agreement concerning the handing over as booty to the Allied (Soviet) High Command of war material which belonged to Germany and Hungary. Part of this material has already been handed over.

At the same time the Finns are not yet satisfactorily fulfilling their most important obligations to disarm the German forces in Finland. Finland has dragged out the disarmament of the German armed forces in her territory. The Finns began military operations against the German troops in the north of Finland only on 1 October, and using only an insignificant part of their army. (TASS.)

15 October, 1944.

ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW OF A BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT DELEGATION

There has arrived in Moscow for negotiations relative to the conclusion of an armistice agreement with the Soviet Union, Great Britain and the U.S.A. a Bulgarian Government Delegation composed as follows: Mr. Petko Stainov (Minister of Foreign Affairs, Chairman of the Delegation), Mr. Dobri Terpeshev (Minister without Portfolio), Mr. Nikola Petkov (Minister without Portfolio), Mr. Petko Stoyanov (Minister of Finance). The Delegation was accompanied by the following advisers: Professor Dimitri Mikhalchev, Colonel-General Georgii Popov, Colonel Ivan Antonov, Anna Kamenova, and secretaries.

The Delegation was met at the Moscow aerodrome by A. Y. Vyshinsky, Deputy People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., and other representatives of the P.C.F.A., and by Major-General M. P. Kutuzov, Chief of the Department of External Relations of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs.

16 October, 1944.

LUNCHEON GIVEN BY V. M. MOLOTOV IN HONOUR OF MR. ANTHONY EDEN

On 17 October, 1944, V. M. Molotov, People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., gave a luncheon in honour of Mr. Anthony Eden, British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

There were present at the luncheon, in addition to the guest of honour, A. Y. Vyshinsky and I. M. Maisky, Deputies of the People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs; the British Ambassador in the U.S.S.R., Sir Archibald Clark Kerr; the Soviet Ambassador in Great Britain, F. T. Gusev; the Counsellor of the British Embassy, Mr. J. Balfour; the Counsellor of the Soviet Embassy in Great Britain, A. A. Sobolev; and K. V. Novikov, Director of the Second European Department of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs.

V. M. MOLOTOV RECEIVES MEMBERS OF THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT DELEGATION

On 17 October, 1944, V. M. Molotov, People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., received the following members of the Bulgarian

Government Delegation which had arrived in Moscow to conduct negotiations for an armistice: Mr. P. Stainov, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Chairman of the Delegation; Mr. N. Petkov, Minister without Portfolio; and Mr. P. Stoyanov, Minister of Finance, who were accompanied by the Delegation's advisers Professor D. Mikhalchev, Colonel-General G. Popov and Colonel I. Antonov.

A. Y. Vyshinsky, Deputy People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., was present.

DINNER GIVEN BY J. V. STALIN IN HONOUR OF MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL AND MR. ANTHONY EDEN

On 18 October, 1944, J. V. Stalin, Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the U.S.S.R., gave a dinner at the Kremlin in honour of Mr. Winston Churchill, Prime Minister of Great Britain, and Mr. Anthony Eden, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

In addition to the guests of honour, there were present at the dinner the British Ambassador, Sir Archibald Clark Kerr; the United States Ambassador, Mr. W. A. Harriman; the Canadian Ambassador, Mr. D. Wilgress; the Australian Minister, Mr. J. Maloney; the New Zealand Minister, Mr. C. Boswell; Field-Marshal Sir Alan Brooke, Chief of the British Imperial General Staff; General Sir Hastings Ismay; Lieut.-Gen. Burrows, Chief of the British Military Mission; Major-General J. Deane, Chief of the U.S. Military Mission; officials of the British Embassy and members of the suite of Mr. Winston Churchill and Mr. Anthony Eden.

On the Soviet side there were present V. M. Molotov, Marshal K. E. Voroshilov, A. I. Mikoyan, L. P. Beria, G. M. Malenkov, L. M. Kaganovich, N. A. Voznesensky, A. S. Shcherbakov, A. N. Kosygin, F. T. Gusev (Ambassador of the U.S.S.R. in Great Britain), Admiral of the Fleet N. G. Kuznetsov, A. I. Shakhurin, V. A. Malyshev, B. L. Vannikov, D. F. Ustinov, I. T. Tevosian, A. Y. Vyshinsky, V. G. Dekanozov, S. A. Lozovsky, M. M. Litvinov, I. M. Maisky, Air Chief Marshal A. A. Novikov, Artillery Chief Marshal N. N. Voronov, Marshal of Armoured Troops Y. N. Fedorenko, Marshal of Engineering Troops M. P. Vorobyov, Army-General A. I. Antonov and responsible officials of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs and the People's Commissariat for Defence.

The dinner took place in a friendly atmosphere, with lively conversation between the Soviet personalities and their guests.

DEPARTURE FROM MOSCOW OF MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL AND MR. ANTHONY EDEN

On 19 October, 1944, Mr. Winston Churchill, Prime Minister of Great Britain, and Mr. Anthony Eden, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Great Britain, left Moscow, accompanied by Field-Marshal Sir Alan Brooke, Chief of the British Imperial General Staff, General Sir Hastings Ismay and others.

Mr. Churchill, Mr. Eden and their suite were seen off at the aerodrome by J. V. Stalin (Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the U.S.S.R.), V. M. Molotov (People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs), A. Y. Vyshinsky and I. M. Maisky (Deputies of the People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs), Army General A. I. Antonov (Deputy Chief of the General Staff), A. V. Astafiev

(Deputy Chairman of the Moscow City Soviet), and senior officials of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs and the People's Commissariat for Defence.

There were also present at the aerodrome Sir Archibald Clark Kerr (British Ambassador), Mr. L. D. Wilgress (Canadian Ambassador), Mr. J. Maloney (Australian Minister), Mr. C. Boswell (New Zealand Minister), Lieutenant-General Burrows (Chief of the British Military Mission), Major-General J. Deane (Chief of the U.S. Military Mission), and diplomatic staff of the British Embassy and members of the British Military Mission.

A guard of honour was drawn up and the British and Soviet State anthems were performed. The aerodrome was decorated with the flags of Great Britain and the Soviet Union.

Speech of Mr. Winston Churchill

On 19 October, before his departure from Moscow, Mr. Churchill made the following speech at the aerodrome before the microphone of the News Reel Studio:

"Marshal Stalin, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, friends and war comrades gathered here.

I have now come to the end of a most strenuous and at the same time a most agreeable visit to Moscow. We have worked very hard. As I said last night, we have been a council of workmen and soldiers, but the generous hospitality and cordial friendship with which we have been welcomed and sustained have left me and my friend and colleague the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Eden, with the most pleasant memories of these crowded and serious days.

Most of all has it been a pleasure to me and an honour to have had so many long and intimate talks with my friend and war comrade Marshal Stalin, and to deal with the many difficult questions inseparable from the united forward march of great nations through the many vicissitudes of war.

I hope most earnestly and I believe with deep conviction that the warrior statesman and head of Russia will lead the Russian peoples, all the peoples of Russia, through these years of storm and tempest into the sunlight of a broader and happier age for all, and that with him in this task will march the British Commonwealth of Nations and the mighty United States of America."

DEPARTURE FROM MOSCOW OF MR. B. BIERUT, MR. E. OSOBKA-MORAWSKI AND COLONEL-GENERAL M. ROLA-ZYMIERSKI

On 19 October, 1944, Mr. B. Bierut (President of the National Council of Poland), Mr. E. Osobka-Morawski (Chairman of the Polish Committee of National Liberation) and Colonel-General M. Rola-Zymierski (Commander-in-Chief of the Polish Forces) left Moscow. They were seen off at the Moscow aerodrome by A. Y. Vyshinsky (Deputy People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R.), V. A. Zorin (Director of the Fourth European Department of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs), N. N. Yatskevich (representing the Protocol Department of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs), and Major-General M. P. Kutuzov (Chief of the Department of External Relations of the People's Commissariat for Defence), together with Mr. St. Jedrychowski (Acting Representative of the Polish Committee of National Liberation to the Soviet Government).

PROCEDURE FOR THE COMPENSATION OF ANGLO-CANADIAN
CONCESSIONAIRES WHO HAD BEEN ENTITLED TO EXPLOIT
THE NICKEL MINES AT PETSAMO

In connection with the conclusion of the Armistice Agreement with Finland, under which in virtue of Article 7 the Petsamo (Pechenga) region has been returned by Finland to the Soviet Union, negotiations took place in the first half of October between the Governments of the U.S.S.R., Great Britain and Canada on the procedure for compensating Anglo-Canadian concessionaires who had been entitled to exploit the nickel mines at Petsamo.

The Soviet Government expressed its agreement to take upon itself to make the compensation in question, and the negotiations terminated by the signature of a Protocol by the representatives of the three above-mentioned Governments. The text of the Protocol is as follows:

Protocol to the Armistice Agreement between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, on the one hand, and Finland on the other, concluded on 19 September, 1944.

On the occasion of the signing of the Armistice Agreement with the Government of Finland, the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of Canada, are agreed that:

In connection with the return by Finland to the Soviet Union of the former Soviet territory of the region of Petsamo, (Pechenga) and with the consequent transfer to ownership of the Soviet Union of nickel mines (including all property and installations appertaining thereto) operated in the said territory for the benefit of the Mond Nickel Company of Canada and the International Nickel Company of Canada, the Soviet Government will pay to the Government of Canada during the course of six years from the date of the signing of the present Protocol in equal instalments, the sum of twenty million United States dollars as full and final compensation of the above-mentioned companies. For the purpose of this payment U.S.A. dollars will be reckoned at the value of 35 dollars to one ounce of gold.

Done in Moscow on 8 October, 1944, in three copies, each in the Russian and English languages, both the Russian and English texts being authentic.

*For the Government of the Union
of Soviet Socialist Republics,*

V. DEKANOZOV.

*For the Government of the United
Kingdom,*

ARCHIBALD CLARK KERR.

For the Government of Canada,

L. D. WILGRESS.

The communiqué on this question is being published simultaneously in Ottawa and London.

20 October, 1944.

VISIT OF MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDIUUM OF THE "FINLAND-
SOVIET UNION" SOCIETY TO COLONEL-GENERAL ZHDANOV,
CHAIRMAN OF THE ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

On the evening of 20 October, 1944, at Helsinki, Colonel-General A. A. Zhdanov, Chairman of the Allied Control Commission, the political adviser

of the Commission, Orlov, being present, received members of the Presidium of the "Finland-Soviet Union" Society: State Secretary J. Paasikivi, Dr. Hela, Industrial Counsellor Sergelius, Dr. Ruutu, Doctor of Medicine Rjuernia and Editor Rikk. Mr. Paasikivi explained the objects of the Society and spoke of the views of Finnish public opinion. A. A. Zhdanov expressed satisfaction at the intention of the Society by its work to facilitate the achievement of the objects of the Control Commission. (TASS.)

ANGLO-SOVIET COMMUNIQUÉ ON THE SOJOURN OF MESSRS. CHURCHILL AND EDEN IN MOSCOW

Meetings were held in Moscow from 9 October to 18 October between Mr. Churchill and Mr. Eden, representing the United Kingdom, and Marshal Stalin and V. M. Molotov, assisted by their political and military advisers. The unfolding of the military plans agreed upon at Teheran was comprehensively reviewed in the light of recent events and of the conclusions of the Quebec Conference on the war in western Europe, and the utmost confidence was expressed in the future progress of the Allied operations on all fronts.

A free and intimate exchange of views took place on many political questions of common interest.

Important progress was made towards the solution of the Polish question, which was closely discussed between the Soviet and British Governments. They held consultations both with the Prime Minister and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Polish Government in London and with the President of the National Council of Poland and the Chairman of the Polish Committee of National Liberation at Lublin. These discussions have notably narrowed the differences and dispelled misconceptions. The conversations are continuing on the outstanding points.

The march of events in south-east Europe was fully considered. Agreement was reached on remaining points in the Bulgarian Armistice terms. The two Governments agreed to pursue a joint policy in Yugoslavia designed to concentrate all energies against the retreating Germans, and to bring about a solution of Yugoslav internal difficulties by a union between the Royal Yugoslav Government and the National Liberation Movement. The right of the Yugoslav people to settle their future constitution for themselves after the war is of course recognized as inalienable.

The meeting took place with the approval and knowledge of the United States Government, who were represented at the conversations by the United States Ambassador at Moscow, Mr. Averell Harriman, acting in capacity of observer.

21 October, 1944.

COMMUNIQUÉ ON THE SOJOURN OF MESSRS. BIERUT AND OSOBKA-MORAWSKI AND OF COLONEL-GENERAL ROLA-ZYMIERSKI TO MOSCOW

The "Polpress" Agency has published a statement concerning the visit to Moscow on 11 October, at the invitation of the Government of the U.S.S.R., of a delegation of the Polish Committee of National Liberation, consisting of Mr. Bierut, President of the National Council of Poland, Mr. Osobka-Morawski, Chairman of the Polish Committee of National Liberation and Colonel-General Rola-Zymierski, Commander-in-Chief of the Polish Army. The purpose of

the delegation's visit was to continue the conversations with Messrs. Mikolajczyk, Grabski and Romer, initiated at the beginning of August of this year, which at that time did not lead to any positive results, on account of the refusal of the above-mentioned representatives of the London emigrants to accept the democratic Constitution of 1921 as a basis, and to repudiate the Constitution of 1935 imposed by violence on the Polish people.

The "Polpress" statement says that on 13 October the delegation of the Polish Committee of National Liberation had a conference with Marshal of the Soviet Union Stalin and Prime Minister of Great Britain Churchill, with participation of V. M. Molotov (People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs), Mr. Eden (British Foreign Secretary), Mr. Harriman (U.S. Ambassador at Moscow), Sir Archibald Clark Kerr (British Ambassador at Moscow) and F. T. Gusev (Soviet Ambassador at London). At the Conference, which took place in a spirit of mutual understanding and friendship, the delegation of the Polish Committee of National Liberation declared its readiness to come to an agreement with the representatives who had arrived from London on the basis of the proposals made last August. The delegation of the Polish Committee of National Liberation emphasized in doing so that it always considered its basic task to be the achievement of the unification of the Polish people, and that for the sake of this principle it is prepared to facilitate all sincere efforts to reach this goal. On 16 October there took place a conversation between Mr. Bierut, President of the National Council of Poland, and Mr. Mikolajczyk, which facilitated clarification of the respective points of view. Mr. Mikolajczyk said during the conversation that he intends to bring his point of view into harmony with that of his colleagues in London and to receive the necessary powers to continue conversations in the near future.

On 19 October the delegation of the Polish Committee of National Liberation returned to Lublin. (TASS.)

21 October, 1944.

RECOGNITION BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC

On 23 October, 1944, A. E. Bogomolov, representative of the Soviet Union in France, made the following statement to the French Minister for Foreign Affairs:

"The Soviet Government considers it necessary to inform you of the following:

The Soviet Government has been informed by the Governments of the United States of America and Great Britain that an agreement has been arrived at between the Governments referred to and the French authorities for the establishment of an internal zone of France, including Paris, under the control of the French Administration. The Soviet Government has also been informed by the Governments of the United States and Great Britain that simultaneously both the above-mentioned Governments are making a statement concerning their recognition of the Provisional Government of France.

The Soviet Union, maintaining an attitude of invariable friendship with democratic France, welcomes the aforesaid decisions of the Governments of the United States and Great Britain. In doing so the Soviet Government proceeds from the fact of the strengthening of the democratic foundations of the French Provisional Government, and also from the conviction that the recognition of the Provisional Government of France by the three Allied

Powers will assist in still further unifying the French people and mobilizing its forces for continued struggle against the common enemy, Hitlerite Germany.

The Soviet Government hereby declares its adoption of a decision to recognize the Provisional Government of the French Republic and its desire to appoint A. E. Bogomolov, representative of the Soviet Union, to be its Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary in France."

Simultaneously with this, the Governments of Great Britain and the United States of America also made announcements of their recognition of the Provisional Government of France.

Information Bureau, People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R.

STATEMENT BY DEPUTY PEOPLE'S COMMISSAR FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS KAVTARADZE AT A PRESS CONFERENCE IN TEHRAN

On 24 October, 1944, a press conference for Teheran journalists was held at the Embassy of the U.S.S.R. in Iran. Deputy People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs Kavtaradze made a statement on the course of negotiations with the Iran Government for the granting to the Soviet Union of concessions for prospecting and development of oil deposits in the northern districts of Iran.

He noted with satisfaction that the majority of the Teheran press had correctly understood the importance of the Soviet proposal and had expressed themselves favourably on the subject.

Further S. I. Kavtaradze supplemented information which he had given in conversation with the editor of the *Ettelaat* newspaper on 4 October by giving a number of main points which, in the opinion of the Soviet Government, ought to be included in the concession agreement—making the reservation that the exact conditions proposed by the Soviet Government should be the subject of future negotiations between representatives of the U.S.S.R. and Iran. "On the basis of our information as to the possible oil deposits," said S. I. Kavtaradze, "and also arising out of considerations of the economic expediency of working the oil deposits in north Iran, the Soviet Government has in mind the obtaining of concessions in territory situated in the northern areas of Azerbaidjan, Gilan and Mazanderan, part of the district of Semnan and some districts of the northern part of Khorassan, north of Kuchan. After a certain period sufficient to make the necessary geological prospecting, the territory of the concession will be finally determined and limited to that part where the presence of oil deposits has been established, and where industrial exploitation of them is possible. Naturally the concessionaire will pay the Iranian Government tonnage royalties, contributions from profits and also agreed sums in exchange for exception from taxation. The Soviet Government was also agreeable to guarantee a minimum figure of payments under the concession. The concessionaire will undertake to supply oil products on favourable terms for the needs both of the Iranian Government and of the population of Iran. The Government of Iran will maintain technical supervision of the activity of the concessionaire and over the correct calculation of profits, payments in favour of Iran, and so on. On expiry of the term of the concession all the enterprises of the concessionaire, in perfect condition for further exploitation, will become the property of Iran without compensation.

Organization of the prospecting and exploitation of oil deposits in north Iran will open up the possibility of employing many thousands of Iranian workers and employees, particularly among those engaged at present in transporting war supplies through Iran to the Soviet Union. The concessionaire

will naturally arrange for the training of a large number of skilled engineers, technicians and workmen in the oil industry among Iranian subjects. As the oilfields are organized the building of workers' settlements, workshops, highways, etc., will commence. This in turn will lead to the development of a building materials industry. As a result of geological prospecting for oil there will undoubtedly be discovered other valuable minerals—for example, iron, coal and copper—which later on can be made use of by Iran to develop its natural wealth. The concessionaire will take responsibility for the health and sanitary welfare of the workmen and employees of the concession and of the members of their families, assigning special funds for this purpose. Many representatives of the Iranian intelligentsia will find an application for their knowledge and labour in the districts where the oil is being worked. It should be noted in particular that the development of oil production involves the organization of water supplies in the area of the oilfields, which in its turn will ensure the irrigation and public welfare of these districts.

The creation of an oil industry in the northern districts of Iran, which at present are almost exclusively agricultural, will bring into existence favourable conditions for the further development of agriculture in these districts, assuring an additional market for agricultural produce. The workmen and employees of the concession, being assured of a reliable wage, will exert a considerable demand both for agricultural produce and for manufactured goods, which will lay a firm foundation for the development of trade and keep local transport busy.

The Soviet Union is interested in additional oil resources, and possesses powerful technical equipment for the organization of the oil industry. Iran for its part, as can be seen from what was said earlier, will receive great economic advantages from the exploitation of its oil deposits. The Soviet Government Commission had every reason to anticipate that the proposal of the Soviet Government would be accepted, and that the Government of Iran would appoint its representatives for negotiations on the conclusion of an agreement without postponing the matter. It should be noted that in conversation with me the Prime Minister not only expressed full sympathy with and understanding of the question, but also promised to facilitate a favourable solution. However, as is known, the Government of Iran adopted a decision which amounts to postponing examination of the question of granting a concession to the Soviet Union until the end of the war—which is tantamount to a refusal. I must say plainly and frankly that this decision has been received most unfavourably in Soviet circles. Soviet public opinion is that the Saed Government, by adopting such an attitude towards the proposal of the Soviet Government, is moving towards a worsening of relations between our countries.

The Saed Government has not put forward a single convincing reason in favour of the decision adopted, whereas against that decision there are extremely weighty arguments, bearing on the vitally important economic and political interests of Iran. It is said that the Saed Government counts on receiving better concession terms at the end of the war. But what arguments could it adduce to confirm the correctness of such calculations? I personally am firmly convinced that the friendship existing between the Soviet Union and Iran, a friendship which has so happily withstood the trials and tests of the war years, cannot be shaken. This matter, which is mutually advantageous for both sides and must serve further to strengthen friendly relations between the U.S.S.R. and Iran, will find a favourable solution, and the obstacles and difficulties standing in the way will be eliminated. At the same time I express the hope that Iranian public opinion represented here in the person of the freedom-loving Iranian press will make its contribution to the success of this affair."

After the statement, a number of questions were put to S. I. Kavtaradze, to which he gave exhaustive replies.

Question: "Has not the Government's decision on the question of an oil concession influenced relations between Iran and the U.S.S.R. in the sense of a worsening of those relations?"

Kavtaradze replied that "relations between Iran and the U.S.S.R. remain friendly as before", but that the disloyal and unfriendly attitude taken up by Prime Minister Saed towards the Soviet Union precludes the possibility of further collaboration with him.

Question: "Did negotiations go on between the Allied Governments concerning the granting of a concession for oil to the Soviet Union in the northern districts of Iran?"

Reply: "There were no negotiations on this question. The Soviet Government Commission was sent to Iran for negotiations directly with the Iranian Government."

Question: "Why has the Khevir-Hurian Company not yet begun work? Is this due to the Soviet Government, or were there other obstacles?"

Reply: "During the whole period of the existence of this Company we have encountered difficulties and obstacles proceeding from the Government of Iran, and particularly from the former Shah of Iran. This went on until the beginning of the present war. Naturally, the Soviet Government has been unable to give the necessary attention to this Company in wartime, as it was busy with more important and essential questions connected with the conduct of the war."

Question: "Were there any negotiations regarding the granting of concessions to the Soviet Union before the Government Commission visited the northern districts of Iran, and was the decision of the Iranian Government to postpone consideration of the question until after the war made known to the Soviet Government before that visit?"

Reply: "The negative answer of the Iranian Government was received some time after the Government Commission had returned from the northern districts of Iran. After the return of the Commission, and before meeting with Prime Minister Saed, the Soviet Government Commission reported to its Government on the result of its visit to north Iran, and also on the Khevir-Hurian oil, and was instructed to make a proposal for the granting of a concession to prospect and work oil in the northern districts of Iran.

After my first meeting with the Prime Minister, and after making these proposals, I had several more meetings with Saed. During these meetings and conversations I heard statements from him of a favourable character. Only after reports reached me that the Iranian Government headed by Saed was inclined to decide the question in the negative, I asked Saed to give a definite and clear reply to the Soviet proposals. Only after this did I receive the reply from Saed that the Iranian Government had decided to postpone this question until after the war, i.e. in present circumstances to refuse to grant the concession to the Soviet Union. This was on 11 October, 1944."

Question: "What currency unit was adopted as the basis of calculations for the concession, and what will be the legal and juridical relations in the territory of the concession? When does the Soviet Government propose to begin prospecting and obtaining oil?"

Reply: "The question of the currency unit for calculations and of legal and juridical relations in the territory of the concession must be the subject of discussion in the course of the conclusion of the agreement. As soon as the agreement is signed, work will be started immediately." (TASS.)

ESTABLISHMENT OF FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S.S.R. AND ITALY

On 25 October, 1944, M. A. Kostylev, representative of the Soviet Government to the Government of Italy, informed the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs of the decision of the Soviet Government to establish full diplomatic relations with Italy.

The Soviet Government has asked the Italian Government for its agreement to the appointment of M. A. Kostylev as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the U.S.S.R. in Italy.

Information Bureau, People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R.

ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW OF LIEUTENANT-GENERAL SIR JAMES GAMMELL, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

In connection with the negotiations in progress in Moscow for the conclusion of an Armistice Agreement with Bulgaria, Lieutenant-General Sir James Gammell, representative of the Supreme Allied Commander in the Mediterranean, arrived in Moscow on 27 October, 1944, accompanied by Major-General J. G. Edwards and Captain D. J. Sloan.

They were met at the aerodrome by Major-General M. P. Kutuzov, Chief of the Department of External Relations of the People's Commissariat for Defence, and by M. N. Yatskevich, representing the Protocol Department of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs; and also by Major-General Dean, Chief of the United States Military Mission, and Mr. P. M. Crosthwaite, First Secretary of the British Embassy.

NEGOTIATIONS FOR AN ARMISTICE WITH BULGARIA

Negotiations began in Moscow on 26 October, 1944, between representatives of the Soviet Union, Great Britain and the United States of America on the one hand, and a delegation of the Bulgarian Government on the other, for the conclusion of an Armistice Agreement with Bulgaria. On the part of the Soviet Union there are participating in the negotiations: V. M. Molotov, A. Y. Vyshinsky, V. A. Zorin, K. V. Novikov, A. A. Lavrishchev, Colonel-General A. S. Zheltov and Rear-Admiral N. O. Abramov; on the part of Great Britain the British Ambassador, Sir Archibald Clark Kerr, and Lieutenant-General Sir James Gammell, representative of the Supreme Allied Commander in the Mediterranean; on the part of the U.S.A., the U.S. Chargé d'Affaires, Mr. Kennan.

As representatives of Bulgaria there are participating the plenipotentiaries of the Bulgarian Government—Mr. P. Stainov (Minister of Foreign Affairs), Mr. D. Terpeshev (Minister without Portfolio), Mr. N. Petkov (Minister without Portfolio) and Mr. P. Stoyanov (Minister of Finance).

At the first session of the Armistice Conference, Mr. Stainov, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Chairman of the Bulgarian Delegation, read the following declaration:

“It is with the deepest emotion that the Delegation of the Bulgarian Fatherland Front Government appears before you to ask for an Armistice. It is conscious of the error committed by the former régime, which, in the name

of Bulgaria, carried on an anti-popular policy and committed a great crime, by declaring an entirely unjustified war against the great Western democracies, permitting an attack on neighbouring States through our territory and undertaking a disgraceful occupation. In doing this the former régime pursued its policy in such a way that, breaking the basic obligations imposed on it by neutrality, it forced even our Liberator to declare war on us. The grave crime committed by the Bulgarian Government burdens the conscience of the entire people.

But this people did not remain a passive spectator of the crimes perpetrated by its self-appointed masters and their overlords, the Germans. It began a struggle which, in its numerous sacrifices and in the blood poured out, is in no way less than the sufferings of a number of other peoples and countries oppressed and occupied by the troops of Hitler. Unfortunately this bloody page in the history of our people is too little known abroad, but it has left a deep imprint in the villages and towns of our country, and it was what ultimately gave strength to the Bulgarian people and the Bulgarian army to carry out a national insurrection. And thanks to the successes of the armies of the U.S.S.R. and of its great Allies Great Britain and the United States of America in defeating the Germans, Bulgaria has broken the chains of this sinister and criminal Fascist dictatorship, and has been able to establish truly popular rule, embodied in the Government of the Fatherland Front.

The people united in the Fatherland Front has taken the reins of power into its own hands, and has not only begun purging the personnel of the entire machinery of the State, but has succeeded in bringing it about that in the sphere of foreign and internal policy our country has turned along an entirely new path, which may be viewed with confidence both by our neighbours and by the Great Powers. This radical change in the management of the Bulgarian kingdom has taken place thanks to the fact that this time the people has been able to become the real master of the country.

Our people, democratic in spirit, peaceable and a lover of freedom, is inspired with the desire to live in the best and closest friendship with its neighbours, cherishes the most profound respect for the Western democracies, to whom it owes the most valued acquisitions of its culture, and preserves the warmest affection and deepest gratitude to its Liberator, in the person of the peoples of the Soviet Union.

Only in this way can it be explained why the new Government, the Government of the Fatherland Front, without waiting for you to call us before you in order by your verdict to tell us what we should do, on its own initiative began the punishment of those who thrust our State into a crime against humanity—the declaration of war in alliance with Hitlerite Germany, the toleration of such revolting acts in the neighbouring territories occupied by the Bulgarian authorities and, finally, the display of black ingratitude in relation to our Liberator. And now, when we have been called here by you, for you to judge in our person the deeds of our former rulers and of the scoundrels who disgraced the name of the Bulgarian people and covered it with shame, those criminals, condemned by the entire people, will be judged by the Court of that people. I can assure you that the sword of the people's justice will strike them all down without mercy.

Finally I would like to draw your attention to one more circumstance which can be explained only by the change which has taken place in Bulgaria. The Government of the Fatherland Front, without waiting for your sentence to force it to break with Germany, and continuing the armed struggle against the forces of Hitler in our midst which was long ago begun by the people itself in the person of its heroic partisans, has declared and is already waging bloody

war against Germany to expel the German invaders from the Balkans. Many new graves of young Bulgarian soldiers are already covering the rugged mountains of our long-suffering neighbour Yugoslavia, much new young Bulgarian blood has already been shed in her devastated valleys and has mingled with the fraternal blood now being shed by the brother peoples of the great Marshal Stalin, the valiant Marshal Tito and by the armies of the great Allies. By actually bringing its young sons and its efforts as a sacrifice to restore the honour of our democracy, the Bulgarian people wishes to show the whole world, and above all the great Allies, that it is ready to wash off with its own blood the stain cast upon it by its former criminal rulers.

This is the people whom we, the delegates of the Bulgarian Government, represent before you. We have come here to hear your verdict. Judge us. We believe in the justice of your verdict as we believe in the justice of your cause."

After the reading of the declaration, V. M. Molotov, People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R. and Chairman of the Soviet Delegation, stated that the representative of the Allied Governments had listened with the greatest attention to the Chairman of the Bulgarian Delegation. V. M. Molotov also stated that the declaration of the Bulgarian Delegation would be brought by the Soviet Delegation to the notice of its Government, and expressed his confidence that this would also be done in respect of their Governments by the representatives of Great Britain and the United States of America. The representative of Great Britain—Ambassador Sir Archibald Clark Kerr—and the representative of the United States of America—the Chargé d'Affaires, Mr. Kennan—also stated that they would inform their Governments of the declaration read by the Bulgarian Delegation. (TASS.)

28 October, 1944.

COMMUNIQUÉ ON THE ARMISTICE WITH BULGARIA

Negotiations took place in Moscow from October 26 to October 28, 1944, between representatives of the Soviet Union, Great Britain and the United States of America, on the one hand, and a Delegation of the Bulgarian Government, on the other, for the conclusion of an Armistice Agreement with Bulgaria. There took part in the negotiations, for the Soviet Union, V. M. Molotov, A. Y. Vyshinsky, A. A. Lavrishchev, K. V. Novikov, V. A. Zorin, Colonel-General A. S. Zheltov and Rear-Admiral N. O. Abramov; for Great Britain, the British Ambassador, Sir Archibald Clark Kerr, and Lieutenant-General Sir James Gammell, representative of the Supreme Allied Commander in the Mediterranean; for the United States of America, Mr. D. F. Kennan, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires.

As representatives of Bulgaria there participated in the negotiations the plenipotentiaries of the Bulgarian Government—Mr. P. Stainov (Minister of Foreign Affairs), Mr. D. Terpeshev (Minister without Portfolio), Mr. M. Petkov (Minister without Portfolio), and Mr. P. Stoyanov (Minister of Finance).

At the session of 27 October, before the commencement of the discussion of the draft Armistice Agreement offered by the three Allied Governments to Bulgaria, Mr. P. Stainov, Minister of Foreign Affairs and leader of the Bulgarian Delegation, made the following statement:

"The Bulgarian Delegation for the conclusion of an Armistice declares in the name of the Bulgarian Government that it accepts the conditions of armis-

tice offered to Bulgaria on behalf of the Allied Governments of the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union and the United States of America.

In doing so the Delegation considers its duty to be to inform the representatives of the Allied States that the new Bulgarian Government of the Fatherland Front, in order to give effect to its programme, began energetic activities from the first days of its work, and therefore has already been able to fulfil a considerable portion of the conditions provided in the draft of the Allied States.

The Bulgarian Government considers its main duty to be the straining of every effort to fulfil the conditions of armistice in the most conscientious fashion.

This Armistice will help the Bulgarian Government to bring about relations between Bulgaria and the peoples of the United Nations and will lay foundations for a policy of collaboration with those peoples. The Bulgarian Government aims at developing and deepening collaboration with the peoples of the United Nations so that Bulgaria should be able, even before the signature of the Peace Treaty, to take its place amidst the freedom-loving and democratic peoples, who in their general co-operation and reciprocal observance of one another's interests will ensure the well-being of the whole world.

The Bulgarian Government is in a position to state for the knowledge of all that the entire Bulgarian people stands behind it for the pursuance of this policy, and that the people by its devotion to the principles of peace, liberty and democracy will for its part watch over, as a sacred trust, the exact fulfilment of the obligations undertaken in accordance with the conditions of the Armistice.

The Bulgarian Delegation will be very grateful to the representatives of the Allied Governments if they agree to give it some explanations of the content of certain clauses of the proposed draft, in order still more to facilitate the fulfilment of the obligations already undertaken by the Bulgarian Government and the observance of the terms of this Armistice in the most conscientious fashion."

The session of 22 October was thereafter devoted to a discussion of the Draft Agreement and to the explanation of some clauses of the Draft, as requested by the Bulgarian Delegation.

The negotiations terminated with the signature on 28 October of an Agreement for an Armistice with Bulgaria. On behalf of the Governments of the Soviet Union, Great Britain and the United States of America the Agreement was signed by Marshal of the Soviet Union F. I. Tolbukin, representing the Allied High Command, and by Lieutenant-General Sir James Gammell, representing the Supreme Allied Commander in the Mediterranean. On the Bulgarian side the Agreement was signed by Messrs. P. Stainov, D. Terpeshev, N. Petkov and P. Stoyanov.

The text of the Agreement follows :

Agreement between the Governments of the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, the United States of America on the one hand, and the Government of Bulgaria on the other hand, concerning an Armistice.

The Government of Bulgaria accepts the armistice terms presented by the Governments of the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States of America acting on behalf of all the United Nations at war with Bulgaria.

Accordingly the representative of the Soviet High Command, Marshal of the Soviet Union F. I. Tolbukin, and the representative of the Supreme Allied Commander in the Mediterranean, Lieutenant-General Sir James Gammell, duly authorized thereto by the Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, acting on

behalf of all the United Nations at war with Bulgaria, on the one hand, and the representatives of the Government of Bulgaria—Mr. P. Stainov (Minister of Foreign Affairs), Mr. D. Terpeshev (Minister without Portfolio), Mr. N. Petkov (Minister without Portfolio) and Mr. P. Stoyanov (Minister of Finance) furnished with due powers on the other hand, have signed the following terms :

1. (a) Bulgaria, having ceased hostilities with the U.S.S.R. on 9 September, 1944, and having severed relations with Germany on 6 September, 1944, and with Hungary on 26 September, 1944, has ceased hostilities against all the other United Nations.

(b) The Government of Bulgaria undertakes to disarm the German armed forces in Bulgaria and to hand them over as prisoners of war. The Government of Bulgaria also undertakes to intern nationals of Germany and her satellites.

(c) The Government of Bulgaria undertakes to maintain and make available such land, sea and air forces as may be specified for service under the general direction of the Allied (Soviet) High Command. Such forces must not be used on Allied territory except with the prior consent of the Allied Government concerned.

(d) On the conclusion of hostilities against Germany, the Bulgarian armed forces must be demobilized and put on a peace footing under the supervision of the Allied Control Commission.

2. Bulgarian armed forces and officials must be withdrawn within the specified time-limit from the territory of Greece and Yugoslavia in accordance with the pre-condition accepted by the Government of Bulgaria on 11 October, 1944; the Bulgarian authorities must immediately take steps to withdraw from Greek and Yugoslav territory Bulgarians who were citizens of Bulgaria on 1 January, 1941, and to repeal all legislative and administrative provisions relating to the annexation or incorporation into Bulgaria of Greek or Yugoslav territory.

3. The Government of Bulgaria will afford to Soviet and other Allied forces freedom of movement over Bulgarian territory in any direction if, in the opinion of the Allied (Soviet) High Command, the military situation so requires, the Government of Bulgaria giving to such movements every assistance within its own means of communication, and at its own expense, by land, water and in the air.

4. The Government of Bulgaria will immediately release all Allied prisoners of war and internees. Pending further instructions, the Government of Bulgaria will at its own expense provide all Allied prisoners of war and internees, displaced persons and refugees, including nationals of Greece and Yugoslavia, with adequate food, clothing, medical services, sanitary and hygienic requirements, and also with means of transportation for the return of any such persons to their own country.

5. The Government of Bulgaria will immediately release, regardless of citizenship and nationality, all persons held in detention in Bulgaria in connection with their activities in favour of the United Nations, or because of their sympathies with the United Nations' cause, or for racial or religious reasons, and will repeal all discriminatory legislation and disabilities arising therefrom.

6. The Government of Bulgaria will co-operate in the apprehension and trial of persons accused of war crimes.

7. The Government of Bulgaria undertakes to dissolve immediately all pro-Hitler or other Fascist political, military, para-military and other organizations on Bulgarian territory conducting propaganda hostile to the United Nations, and not to tolerate the existence of such organizations in future.

8. The publication, introduction and distribution in Bulgaria of periodical or non-periodical literature, the presentation of theatrical performances and films, the operation of wireless stations, post, telegraph and telephone services will take place in agreement with the Allied (Soviet) High Command.

9. The Government of Bulgaria will restore all property of the United Nations and their nationals, including Greek and Yugoslav property, and will make such reparation for loss and damage caused by the war to the United Nations, including Greece and Yugoslavia, as may be determined later.

10. The Government of Bulgaria will restore all rights and interests of the United Nations and their nationals in Bulgaria.

11. The Government of Bulgaria undertakes to return to the Soviet Union, to Greece and Yugoslavia and to other United Nations, by the dates specified by the Allied Control Commission, and in a good state of preservation, all valuables and materials removed during the war by Germany or Bulgaria, from United Nations territory and belonging to State, public or co-operative organizations, enterprises, institutions or individual citizens, such as factory and works equipment, locomotives, rolling-stock, tractors, motor vehicles, historic monuments, museum treasures and any other property.

12. The Government of Bulgaria undertakes to hand over as booty to the Allied (Soviet) High Command all war material of Germany and her satellites located on Bulgarian territory, including vessels of the fleets of Germany and her satellites located in Bulgarian waters.

13. The Government of Bulgaria undertakes not to permit the removal or expropriation of any form of property (including valuables and currency) belonging to Germany or Hungary, or to their nationals, or to persons resident in their territories or in territories occupied by them, without the permission of the Allied Control Commission. The Government of Bulgaria will safeguard such property in the manner specified by the Allied Control Commission.

14. The Government of Bulgaria undertakes to hand over to the Allied (Soviet) High Command all vessels belonging to the United Nations which are in Bulgarian waters, no matter at whose disposal these vessels may be, for the use of the Allied (Soviet) High Command during the war against Germany and Hungary in the common interest of the Allies, the vessels to be returned subsequently to their owners. The Government of Bulgaria will bear full material responsibility for any damage to or destruction of the aforesaid property up to the moment of its transfer to the Allied (Soviet) High Command.

15. The Government of Bulgaria must make regular payments in Bulgarian currency and must supply goods (fuel, foodstuffs, etc.), facilities and services as may be required by the Allied (Soviet) High command for the discharge of its functions.

16. Bulgarian merchant vessels, whether in Bulgarian or in foreign waters, shall be subject to the operational control of the Allied (Soviet) High Command for use in the general interests of the Allies.

17. The Government of Bulgaria will arrange, in case of need, for the utilization in Bulgarian territory of industrial and transport enterprises, means of communication, power stations, public utility enterprises and facilities, stocks of fuel and other materials, in accordance with instructions issued during the Armistice by the Allied (Soviet) High Command.

18. For the whole period of the Armistice there will be established in Bulgaria an Allied Control Commission which will regulate and supervise the execution of the armistice terms under the chairmanship of the representative of the Allied (Soviet) High Command and with the participation of representatives of the United Kingdom and the United States. During the period between the coming into force of the Armistice and the conclusion of hostilities

against Germany the Allied Control Commission will be under the general direction of the Allied (Soviet) High Command.

19. The present conditions will come into force on their signing.

Done at Moscow in quadruplicate, in the Russian, English and Bulgarian languages, the Russian and English texts being authentic.

28 October, 1944.

For the Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom and the United States of America:

F. TOLBUKIN,
*Representative of the Soviet High
Command.*

JAMES GAMMELL,
*Representative of the Supreme Allied
Commander in the Mediterranean.*

For the Government of Bulgaria:

P. STAINOV,
D. TERPESHEV.
N. PETKOV.
P. STOYANOV.

Protocol to the Agreement for an Armistice with Bulgaria.

At the time of signing the Armistice Agreement with the Government of Bulgaria, the Allied Governments signatory thereto have agreed to the following:

1. In connection with Article 9 it is understood that the Government of Bulgaria will immediately make available certain foodstuffs for the relief of the population of Greek and Yugoslav territories which have suffered as a result of Bulgarian aggression. The quantity of each product to be delivered will be determined by agreement between the three Governments, and will be considered as part of the reparation by Bulgaria for loss and damage sustained by Greece and Yugoslavia.

2. The term "war material" used in Article 12 shall be deemed to include all material or equipment belonging to, used by, or intended for use by enemy military or para-military formations or members thereof.

3. The use by the Allied (Soviet) High Command of Allied vessels handed over by the Government of Bulgaria in accordance with Article 14 of the Armistice, and the date of their return to their owners, will be the subject of discussion and settlement between the Allied Governments concerned and the Government of the Soviet Union.

4. It is understood that in the application of Article 15 the Allied (Soviet) High Command will also arrange for the provision of Bulgarian currency, supplies, services, etc., to meet the needs of the representatives of the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States in Bulgaria.

Done at Moscow in triplicate, in the Russian and English languages, both Russian and English texts being authentic.

28 October, 1944.

For the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics:

A. VYSHINSKY.

For the Government of the United Kingdom:

ARCHIBALD CLARK KERR.

For the Government of the United States of America:

GEORGE F. KENNAN.

DEPARTURE FROM MOSCOW OF THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT DELEGATION

On 31 October, 1944, the Bulgarian Government delegation, composed of Mr. Petko Stainov (Minister of Foreign Affairs and Chairman of the delegation), Mr. Dobri Terpeshev (Minister without Portfolio), Mr. Nikola Petkov (Minister without Portfolio), Mr. Petko Stoyanov (Minister of Finance), and their advisers, Professor Dimitri Mikhachev, Colonel-General Georgii Popov, Colonel Ivan Antonov, Anna Kamenova and secretaries, took their departure from Moscow, after taking part in negotiations with representatives of the Soviet Union, Great Britain and the U.S.A., for the conclusion of an Armistice, and after the signature of the Armistice Agreement.

The Delegation was seen off at the Moscow aerodrome by A. Y. Vyshinsky (Deputy People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R.), V. A. Zorin (Director of the Fourth European Department of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs), G. I. Fomin (Acting Director of the Protocol Department of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs) and Major-General M. P. Kutuzov (Chief of the Department of External Relations of the People's Commissariat for Defence).

DEPARTURE FROM MOSCOW OF LIEUT.-GENERAL SIR JAMES GAMMELL, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

On 1 November, 1944, Lieut.-General Sir James Gammell, representative of the Supreme Allied Commander in the Mediterranean, left Moscow after taking part in negotiations for the conclusion of an Armistice Agreement with Bulgaria. Lieut.-General Burrows, former Chief of the British Military Mission in the U.S.S.R., left with Lieut.-General Gammell.

They were seen off at the aerodrome by Major-General M. P. Kutuzov (Chief of the Department of External Relations of the People's Commissariat for Defence) and N. N. Yatskevich (representing the Protocol Department of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs); and also by Major-General Deane (Chief of the U.S. Military Mission), Rear-Admiral E. Archer (Acting Chief of the British Military Mission), General of Division E. Petit (Chief of the French Military Mission), Major-General Kuo Teh-Chuan (Military Attaché at the Embassy of the Chinese Republic), members of the British Military Mission and of the staff of the British Embassy.

SOVIET-SWISS RELATIONS

On 10 October M. Paul Ruegger, the Swiss Minister in London, sent a memorandum of the Swiss Government to the Soviet Ambassador in London, containing an application to the Government of the U.S.S.R. for the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between Switzerland and the U.S.S.R. In this memorandum the Swiss Government, referring to the ancient democratic traditions of Switzerland, declares its readiness frankly to discuss problems of the past and expresses the desire to re-establish diplomatic and commercial relations with the Soviet Union. On 1 November the Swiss Minister in London

was presented with the reply of the Government of the U.S.S.R. to the application of the Swiss Government. The reply of the Soviet Government states that it has examined the proposals of the Swiss Government for the restoration of diplomatic relations between Switzerland and the Soviet Union set forth in a memorandum of the Swiss Government. The memorandum referred to, making mention of the ancient democratic traditions of Switzerland and of the readiness of the Swiss Federal Council frankly to discuss problems of the past, passes over in silence the question of the line of policy followed during all these years by the Swiss Government in relation to the Soviet Union. Yet it is a matter of common knowledge that for many years the Swiss Government, in violation of its ancient democratic tradition, has been pursuing a pro-Fascist policy hostile to the Soviet Union, which together with the other democratic countries is waging a consistent struggle against Hitlerite Germany in the interests of the peace-loving peoples.

In view of this the Soviet Government has refused to accept the proposal of the Swiss Government for the restoration of diplomatic and other relations with Switzerland, since the Swiss Government has hitherto not dissociated itself in any form from its former policy hostile to the Soviet Union.

*Information Bureau, People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R.
5 November, 1944.*

ARRIVAL IN THE U.S.S.R. OF MR. TRYGVE LIE, MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF NORWAY

On 7 November, 1944, Mr. Trygve Lie, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Norway, arrived in Moscow, accompanied by Mr. Rolf Andvord, (Ambassador of Norway in the U.S.S.R.), Mr. Terje Wold (Norwegian Minister of Justice), Dr. Carl Evang (Director-General of the Norwegian Ministry of Health) and others. They were met at the aerodrome by I. M. Maisky (Deputy People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R.), M. S. Vetrov (Acting Director of the Fifth European Department of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs), G. I. Fomin (Acting Director of the Protocol Department of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs) and Major-General M. P. Kutuzov (Chief of the Department of External Relations of the People's Commissariat for Defence); and also by Mr. E. Krog-Hansen (Norwegian Chargé d'Affaires).

There were also present at the aerodrome the Czechoslovak Ambassador, Mr. Zd. Fierlinger, Mr. L. D. Wilgress (Canadian Ambassador) and Mr. S. Söderblum (the Swedish Minister). A Guard of Honour was drawn up and the Norwegian and Soviet State anthems were played. The aerodrome was decorated with the flags of Norway and the Soviet Union.

VISIT TO V. M. MOLOTOV OF MR. LIE

On 7 November, 1944, V. M. Molotov, People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., received Mr. Trygve Lie, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Norway. Mr. R. Andvord, Ambassador of Norway in the U.S.S.R., was present at the conversation.

ARRIVAL OF A. Y. VYSHINSKY, DEPUTY PEOPLE'S COMMISSAR FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, IN BUCHAREST

In order to check the fulfilment of the Armistice Agreement with Rumania, A. Y. Vyshinsky, Deputy People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., has arrived today, 8 November, in Bucharest. (TASS.)

LUNCHEON GIVEN BY V. M. MOLOTOV IN HONOUR OF MR. TRYGVE LIE

On 10 November, 1944, V. M. Molotov, People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., gave a luncheon in honour of Mr. Trygve Lie, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Norway.

There were present at the luncheon, in addition to the guest of honour, Mr. R. Andvord (Ambassador of Norway in the U.S.S.R.), the Norwegian Minister of Justice, Mr. T. Wold; Dr. K. Evang (Director-General of the Norwegian Ministry of Health), Mr. E. Krog-Hansen and members of Mr. Lie's suite. On the Soviet side there were present V. G. Dekanozov and I. M. Maisky (Deputies of the People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R.), M. S. Vetrov, G. I. Fomin, Major-General N. V. Slavin and others.

During the luncheon V. M. Molotov and Mr. Trygve Lie made speeches.

Giving the toast of friendship between Norway and the Soviet Union, V. M. Molotov said that the two countries had now become neighbours, having once again acquired a common frontier. This would still further bring together the two countries and their Governments, and they must value still more highly friendly relations between their peoples and see to the reinforcement and development of those relations.

The Soviet Union helped to begin the liberation of Norway from the Hitlerite invaders, and was ready to give all the assistance in its power to the Norwegian people in future. In the Soviet Union the great significance of the struggle which the Norwegian patriots carried on ceaselessly in their territory during these painful years of occupation was well understood.

Expressing the hope that the Norwegian people in the immediate future would secure the complete liberation of Norway from the hateful invaders, V. M. Molotov gave a friendly toast for joint efforts towards this end, for the liberty and prosperity of Norway, for the health of the senior representative of Norway among those present, their honoured guest Mr. Trygve Lie, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Norway, and for his companions who had arrived in Moscow.

In his speech Mr. Trygve Lie said:

"Mr. People's Commissar, gentlemen, allow me to express my warm thanks for the friendly words with which People's Commissar Molotov has just spoken of Norway and of myself. I and my colleague in the Government, Minister Wold, like the other members of our Delegation, have had great satisfaction in coming here to our great neighbour in the east, just at the moment of victory. Today the enemy is no longer in the land which the Russian people loves so well, and for the defence of which it has been ready to sacrifice everything. Today the enemy is on the eve of his final destruction. It will not be an exaggeration to say that the heroic Red Army and Red Navy, under the

leadership of their wise leader Marshal Stalin and in collaboration with Great Britain and the United States of America, have saved the civilized world.

But the victory of which I speak is not only a military victory, it is also a victory over those who might still doubt the welfare, strength and power of the Soviet Union. What has taken place during this war has finally and for ever justified the October Revolution and transformed it into an irrefutable fact, for the benefit not only of the Soviet Union but also of the rest of the world.

From immemorial times, peace and mutual understanding have reigned between Norway and her great eastern neighbour, and this will be the case in the future too. The visit of my colleagues and myself to Moscow has been undertaken, therefore, not in order to settle any difficulties but in order at the moment when Norway has once again acquired a common frontier with the Soviet Union, and when the Red Army in collaboration with Norwegian military units has begun the liberation of our Fatherland, which has suffered so much during the last four years, to give her due to this country and to thank her for what she has done in struggle against our common enemy, and for the spirit of friendliness which we feel in everything that she does for Norway.

In the collaboration between our countries a new page is opening under the most favourable auspices. I am proud and happy that I have the opportunity to be present here today and to raise my glass for that collaboration, for the future, for the country in which we are meeting today, and for People's Commissar Molotov—who has guided her foreign policy with such great wisdom during this most difficult time."

VISIT TO A. Y. VYSHINSKY OF GENERAL SANATESCU

On 10 November, 1944, General Sanatescu, President of the Council of Ministers, paid a visit to A. Y. Vyshinsky, Deputy People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., who is staying in Bucharest, and welcomed him on behalf of the Rumanian Government. (TASS.)

A. Y. VYSHINSKY'S AUDIENCE OF THE KING OF RUMANIA

On 11 November, 1944, A. Y. Vyshinsky, Deputy People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs, was received by King Mihai. A. Y. Vyshinsky was accompanied by Lieutenant-General Vinogradov, Rear-Admiral Bogdenko and senior officials of the Allied Control Commission. On the Rumanian side there were present at the audience Minister of Foreign Affairs Visoianu, Minister of the Court Nejel and others. (TASS.)

ANGLO-SOVIET-AMERICAN COMMUNIQUÉ ON FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN THE EUROPEAN ADVISORY COMMISSION

On 11 November, 1944, the Ambassadors of the Soviet Union, Great Britain and the United States of America—A. E. Bogomolov, Mr. Duff Cooper and Mr. Caffrey—jointly informed the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Provisional Government of the French Republic, M. Bidault, that their Governments had by agreement decided to invite the Provisional Government of the French Republic to take part in the work of the European Advisory Commission in London, in the capacity of the fourth permanent member of that Commission.

The Ambassadors of the U.S.S.R., Great Britain and the U.S.A. expressed to Mr. Bidault their confidence that the collaboration of the representatives of their countries in the European Advisory Commission with their French colleague would have good results, and would contribute to the preparation of a solid and durable peace, in the common interests of democracy, order and justice.

INTERVIEW WITH COLONEL-GENERAL F. I. GOLIKOV, DELEGATE OF THE COUNCIL OF PEOPLE'S COMMISSARS OF THE U.S.S.R. FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE REPATRIATION OF SOVIET CITIZENS FROM GERMANY AND THE COUNTRIES OCCUPIED BY HER

In view of the great interest aroused in wide Soviet circles by reports that many Soviet citizens who had been in German slavery have been discovered in liberated territories in the west, a TASS correspondent asked Colonel-General Golikov, Delegate of the Council of People's Commissars of the U.S.S.R. for matters relating to repatriation, about the plan for the repatriation of these citizens.

In reply to the correspondent's question, Colonel-General Golikov made the following statement:

"As a result of the great victories of the Red Army and of the armies of our Allies, many thousands of Soviet people have escaped from enemy captivity.

Scattered over the territory of France, Belgium, Holland, Italy, Luxembourg, Great Britain, Egypt, French North Africa and even the United States of America, they are awaiting their return to their Soviet Motherland.

The Soviet Government is taking every step to ensure that this ardent desire of our citizens should be satisfied as rapidly as possible. Tens of thousands of them have already returned home from Finland, Rumania and Poland; the first ten thousand have arrived from Britain; extensive preparatory work for the repatriation of Soviet citizens is being conducted in France, Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg.

In the organization of the return of Soviet citizens to their country, we have to begin with the most elementary things—the location, informing and gathering together of our citizens. This work is not as simple as might be supposed at first glance, as many of our people, after finding themselves in territory liberated by the Allied forces, continue to remain in prisoner-of-war camps, sometimes together with German war prisoners. Cases have been recorded when our people in these camps have found themselves, and still find themselves, subordinate to the Germans. The conditions in which they are kept are not infrequently most unsatisfactory; they are poorly clothed, badly fed, receive no medical or sanitary aid, and are subjected to persecution.

I shall give one example. A group of seventy-two Soviet prisoners of war, who escaped from a German camp in Italy, organized a partisan struggle with the Germans in the Prado area, linked up in battle with the Allied forces and handed over to them a large number of German prisoners whom it had captured. Instead of providing proper conditions for the partisan detachment and helping it to return home, the local Military Government locked it up in a concentration camp, together with Germans, and kept it there for 10 days. These men were liberated only after an organized protest.

In a number of cases our people in liberated territory have obstacles thrown in their way to their speedy assembly and despatch to their own country.

All these abnormalities in the treatment of liberated Soviet citizens obviously spring from lack of understanding on the part of some representatives of the Allied authorities of their duty in respect of citizens of an Allied Power. The Soviet Government is taking energetic steps to eliminate these irregularities. There is every reason to suppose that they will cease in the immediate future.

There are also quite a number of cases when people hostile to the Soviet State try by deceit, provocation, etc., to poison the minds of our citizens and make them believe the monstrous falsehood that the Soviet Motherland has forgotten them, repudiated them and no longer considers them its citizens. These people intimidate our countrymen by telling them that if they return home they will allegedly be subject to penalties. It is unnecessary to refute such absurdities.

The Soviet country remembers and takes care of its citizens who fell into German slavery. They will be received at home as sons of the Motherland. In Soviet circles it is considered that even those among Soviet citizens who, submitting to German violence and terror, committed actions contrary to the interests of the U.S.S.R., will not be made to answer for them if, upon their return to the Motherland, they begin honestly doing their duty.

There are many facts showing that thousands of Soviet people while in German captivity heroically fought the enemy. Thus, for example, it is known that in the territory of France a large number of Russians, Georgians, Armenians, Tadzhiks, Tartars, Ukrainians and Byelorussians—former Red soldiers and officers of the Red Army who had been captured by the Germans and deported by them to the territory of France—revolted against the German Command and, arms in hand, rallied in whole groups and units to the French partisans, and actively participated in the liberation of France and Belgium from the Germans. The Motherland may justly be proud of such sons.

All returning Soviet citizens are accorded the full opportunity of immediately taking an active part in the defeat of the enemy and in the achievement of victory—some under arms, others in production, others again in the sphere of culture.

All of them are given the necessary material aid and support in providing living conditions, medical treatment, education, etc.

Children, many thousands of whom were stolen from their mothers by the Germans, will be returned to their parents, while others will be accommodated in children's homes and sanatoria.

Here is one of many examples. The other day, near the town of Mukacevo, in the territory of Transcarpathian Ukraine, troops of the Red Army recaptured from the Germans about 200 Soviet children aged from two-and-a-half to fifteen. For two months the Germans had been dragging them about with them by rail in an effort to carry them off to Germany. Many children had died on the way from sickness and exhaustion, the sick children being killed by the Germans. These survivors have now been saved. They have been provided with clothes, given medical treatment and they are being well fed and returned to their parents.

At the present time representatives of the Delegate of the Council of People's Commissars of the U.S.S.R. for matters relating to the repatriation of Soviet citizens are partly already on the spot in a number of countries, while others are ready to follow.

Our main work is still ahead. The great mass of Soviet people who have fallen into servitude have still not been liberated, and are in the territory of Germany.

The day of the complete and final defeat of the enemy is near. It will be a joyous day of liberation for our Soviet brothers and sisters. All of them will

find their place at home, among the soldiers fighting the enemy at the front, among the builders of our mighty State. Soviet people liberated from German slavery have opening before them great possibilities of returning to their native places and to their families, engaging in their usual occupations and selflessly serving their people and their Fatherland."

11 November, 1944.

DEPARTURE FROM MOSCOW OF MR. TRYGVE LIE, MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF NORWAY

On 12 November, 1944, Mr. Trygve Lie, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Norway, left Moscow, accompanied by Dr. Carl Evang, Director-General of the Ministry of Health of Norway.

They were seen off at the station by I. M. Maisky, Deputy People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., M. S. Vetrov, G. I. Fomin and Major-General M. P. Kutuzov, Chief of the Department of External Relations of the People's Commissariat for Defence, and also by the personnel of the Norwegian Embassy, headed by Mr. R. Andvord, the Norwegian Ambassador.

A Guard of Honour was drawn up and the Norwegian and Soviet State anthems were performed. The station was decorated with the flags of Norway and the Soviet Union.

ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW OF A DELEGATION FROM THE CITY OF WARSAW

On 13 November, 1944, a delegation from the City of Warsaw arrived in Moscow.

The delegation included the President of the City of Warsaw, M. Spychalski and representatives of the People's Council of the City of Warsaw, W. Zudny, W. Malczynski, J. Kowalska.

The delegation was met at the station by M. Yasnov, Vice-Chairman of the Moscow Soviet, Colonel N. Grebenschikov, Deputy Commandant of the City of Moscow, Mr. S. Jedrychowski, Acting Representative of the Polish Committee of National Liberation in the U.S.S.R., and others.

VISIT TO J. V. STALIN OF THE DELEGATION FROM THE PEOPLE OF WARSAW

On 15 November, 1944, J. V. Stalin, Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the U.S.S.R., received the delegation of the City of Warsaw, composed of M. Spychalski, President of Warsaw, and W. Zudny, W. Malczynski and J. Kowalska, representatives of the People's Council of Warsaw.

The Delegation presented J. V. Stalin, as a symbol of gratitude to the Soviet Government from the population of Warsaw for the aid given to the Polish people, with a bronze coat-of-arms of Poland.

Mr. Spychalski and J. V. Stalin made speeches on this occasion.

Speech of M. Spychalski.

"Citizen Marshal:

On the day of the national holiday of our great Ally the Soviet Union—the twenty-seventh anniversary of the great Russian Revolution—the People's

Council of Warsaw, the capital of Poland, its political organizations, trade unions, clergy and social organizations of Warsaw resolved to express their profound gratitude to their liberator the Red Army and to its great leader, Marshal Stalin.

They adopted a resolution to offer you, citizen Marshal, this symbolic gift—the State coat-of-arms, carefully preserved by the workers of Praga-Warsaw during the cruel days of occupation.

This resolution was approved enthusiastically by mass meetings of the people of Warsaw. It is an expression of solidarity of all Warsaw with the policy of the National Council of Poland and the Polish Committee of National Liberation, the policy of close alliance and heartfelt friendship with our mighty Slav neighbour.

Warsaw is a symbol for the Poles of the inflexible struggle of the Polish people with the German invaders. Warsaw never ceased fighting, and the people of Warsaw always awaited its liberation from the east, and joined its own efforts with the heroic struggle of the peoples of the Soviet Union.

Warsaw was not only liberated by the joint efforts of the Red Army and the Polish Army, but immediately after its liberation received generous aid from the brother Soviet Union.

The Polish proverb says: 'You learn your true friends in misfortune.' We learned your sincere friendship, citizen Marshal, both in the help given to us in the struggle and in the help given to the people of Warsaw, famished under the occupation.

We believe profoundly that in the struggle for the final liberation of Warsaw and of all Poland we shall march to victory linked in fraternal alliance. We believe that we shall rebuild our country with the friendly support of our great eastern neighbour.

We shall destroy Hitlerite Germany by our common efforts and will rebuild democratic Poland, friendly to the U.S.S.R., and our splendid city of Warsaw; to be even more beautiful than before."

Speech of J. V. Stali...

In his reply, J. V. Stalin said:

"Respected Mr. Spychalski, respected Delegates:

I accept with gratitude from your hands this gift of Warsaw, capital of Poland, as a sign of the brotherly feelings of the Polish people to the peoples of the Soviet Union and as a symbol of the firm fighting alliance between Poland and the Soviet Union against our common enemy, Hitlerite Germany."

V. M. Molotov, People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R. was present on this occasion.

**PRESENTATION OF A GIFT FROM THE CITY OF WARSAW TO
THE MOSCOW SOVIET**

On 15 November, 1944, the delegation from Warsaw presented V. P. Pronin, Chairman of the Moscow Soviet, with a gift from Warsaw to the capital of the Soviet Union—the bronze arms of Poland—as a sign of gratitude for the help of the Soviet people and its Red Army to the Polish people and to the population of Warsaw.

The delegation, composed of M. Spychalski, President of Warsaw, and the representatives of the People's Council of Warsaw, W. Zudny, J. Kowalska,

W. Malczynski, was met at the presentation of the bronze arms by members of the Executive Committee of the Moscow Soviet—P. V. Maiorov, A. V. Astafiev, P. V. Abramov, M. V. Sarycheva, M. D. Palenykh, T. A. Selivanov, Major-General M. F. Korolev, and the Chief Architect of the City of Moscow, D. N. Chechulin.

M. Spychalski and V. Pronin made speeches on this occasion, followed by a friendly conversation. (TASS.)

VISIT TO A. Y. VYSHINSKY OF THE RUMANIAN VICE-PREMIER GROZA

A. Y. Vyshinsky, Deputy People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., has received the Rumanian Vice-Premier P. Groza, and had a long conversation with him. (TASS.)

15 November, 1944.

RUMANIAN PRIME MINISTER'S RECEPTION IN HONOUR OF A. Y. VYSHINSKY

On 17 November, in Bucharest, General Sanatescu, the Rumanian Prime Minister, gave a reception in honour of A. Y. Vyshinsky, Deputy People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R. In addition to the guest of honour, there were present at the reception the members of the Allied Control Commission, all the members of the Rumanian Government, representatives of Rumanian military circles, public and political figures, foreign and Rumanian journalists—about 250 in all. (TASS.)

FINLAND RETURNS EQUIPMENT CARRIED OFF DURING THE WAR FROM SOVIET TERRITORY

In accordance with Article 14 of the Armistice Agreement with Finland, 75 truck-loads have been delivered at Petrozavodsk, and 20 truck-loads at Kondopoga, of valuables and materials carried off to Finland from Soviet territory during the war. They comprised electrical equipment, derricks, cranes, trucks, museum treasures, etc. All this property will be redistributed among the factories and institutions of the Republic. The Onega Engineering Works will receive 10 truck-loads of equipment. Part of the equipment is being returned to the N. Paper Works, the management of the White Sea-Baltic Canal and the Shuia Timber Dam. (TASS.)

18 November, 1944.

FORTHCOMING VISIT TO MOSCOW OF GENERAL DE GAULLE

In connection with a conversation which took place at the beginning of November between General de Gaulle, head of the Provisional Government of the French Republic, and A. E. Bogomolov, Soviet Ambassador in France, the Soviet Government has conveyed to General de Gaulle an invitation stating:

In view of the desire of the President of the Provisional Government of the French Republic, expressed in conversation with Ambassador A. E. Bogomolov, to visit the U.S.S.R. in order to establish personal contact with the leaders of the Soviet Government, the Government of the U.S.S.R. welcomes this

intention on the part of General de Gaulle and invites him to visit the Soviet Union.

General de Gaulle has accepted the invitation of the Soviet Government. (TASS.)

18 November, 1944.

ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW OF MR. IVAN SUBASIC, PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF YUGOSLAVIA

On 20 November, 1944, Mr. Ivan Subasic, Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Yugoslavia, arrived in Moscow from Belgrade. Together with Mr. Subasic there arrived Mr. Edward Kardelj (Vice-Chairman of the National Liberation Committee of Yugoslavia), Mr. Stanoje Simic (Ambassador of Yugoslavia in the U.S.S.R.), Major-General Vladimir Velebit (representative of the National Liberation Committee of Yugoslavia in London), Lieutenant-General F. E. Mikhin, and also a group of members of the Soviet Military Mission in Yugoslavia headed by Major-General A. N. Melnikov.

They were met at the Kiev station by I. M. Maisky (Deputy People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R.), V. A. Zorin (Director of the Fourth European Department of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs), G. I. Fomin (Acting Director of the Protocol Department of the P.C.F.A.) and Major-General M. P. Kutuzov (Chief of the Department of External Relations of the People's Commissariat for Defence); and also by Lieutenant-General V. Terzic (Chief of the Yugoslav Military Mission in the U.S.S.R.) and by Mr. P. M. Crosthwaite (representing the British Embassy in the U.S.S.R.).

A Guard of Honour was drawn up at the station, and the flags of Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union were displayed.

On 20 November, V. M. Molotov, People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., had a conversation with Mr. I. Subasic.

On 21 November V. M. Molotov gave a luncheon in honour of Mr. Subasic.

Luncheon given by V. M. Molotov in honour of Mr. I. Subasic, Prime Minister of Yugoslavia.

There were present at the luncheon, in addition to the guests of honour, Mr. E. Kardelj (Vice-Chairman of the National Committee of Liberation of Yugoslavia), Mr. S. Simic (Ambassador of Yugoslavia in the U.S.S.R.), Lieutenant-General V. Terzic (Chief of the Yugoslav Military Mission in the U.S.S.R.), Major-General V. Velebit (representative of the National Committee of Liberation of Yugoslavia in London) and others. There were present on the Soviet side V. G. Dekanozov and I. M. Maisky (Deputies of the People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R.), V. A. Zorin (Director of the Fourth European Department of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs), Lieutenant-General I. I. Ilyichev, Major-General A. N. Melnikov, G. I. Fomin (Acting Director of the Protocol Department of the P.C.F.A.) and others.

During the luncheon V. M. Molotov and Mr. Subasic made speeches.

Conversation between J. V. Stalin and Mr. I. Subasic.

On 22 November, 1944, J. V. Stalin, Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the U.S.S.R., received Mr. I. Subasic, Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Yugoslavia.

There were present at the conversation: V. M. Molotov, People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R.; Mr. E. Kardelj, Vice-Chairman of the National Liberation Committee of Yugoslavia; and Mr. S. Simic, Ambassador of Yugoslavia in the U.S.S.R.

PARCELS FOR PRISONERS OF WAR IN THE U.S.A. AND JAPAN

As is known, the Soviet Government has given its consent to the requests of the Governments concerned for the assistance and mediation of the Soviet authorities in arranging the exchange of parcels intended for prisoners of war who are nationals of the United Nations and are captives of Japan, and for Japanese war prisoners held by countries allied to the U.S.S.R.

In order to give practical effect to the exchange of parcels, the Soviet Government has indicated a port in which British, American and Japanese parcels must be delivered for further despatch to their addressees.

The first consignment of parcels for the war prisoners and interned nationals of the Allied countries was loaded on a Japanese steamer in a Soviet port and delivered on 11 November to the port of Kobe. In all 74,051 parcels were despatched to a total weight of 2,005,932 kgs. At the same time a consignment of parcels for Japanese prisoners of war, delivered by the Japanese side, was taken on board and despatched to the U.S.A. (TASS.)

23 November, 1944.

ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW OF A TRADE DELEGATION FROM THE MONGOLIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC

Yesterday, 24 November, 1944, there arrived in Moscow a Trade Delegation of the Mongolian People's Republic headed by Vice-Premier Madjig. The Delegation was accompanied by the Minister Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Mongolian People's Republic in the U.S.S.R., Sambu.

The Delegation was met at the Northern Station by J. M. Kaganovitch (Deputy People's Commissar for Foreign Trade), M. I. Sladkovsky (Director of the Eastern Department of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Trade), V. I. Zaitsev (President of the "Sovmongtvtorg" Corporation), S. G. Arutiunov (President of the "Technoexport" Corporation), V. G. Kirillov (Director of the Protocol Section of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Trade); and also by M. S. Bakhitov, representing the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs, and by Djargal-Saikhan, Counsellor of the Legation of the Mongolian People's Republic in the U.S.S.R.

SOVIET-YUGOSLAV COMMUNIQUÉ ON CONVERSATIONS IN MOSCOW BETWEEN J. V. STALIN, V. M. MOLOTOV AND MR. I. SUBASIC, PRIME MINISTER OF YUGOSLAVIA

In conversations held in Moscow from 20 to 23 November by Dr. I. Subasic (Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Yugoslavia), Mr. E. Kardelj (Vice-Chairman of the National Liberation Committee of Yugoslavia), and Mr. S. Simic (Ambassador of Yugoslavia), on the one hand, and J. V. Stalin (Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the U.S.S.R.) and V. M. Molotov (People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R.), on

the other, a friendly discussion took place on fundamental Yugoslav problems arising out of the position of Yugoslavia among the United Nations.

In the course of this there was recognized the necessity for the formation of a united Yugoslav Government on the basis of the agreements concluded between Marshal Joseph Broz-Tito, Chairman of the National Committee of Liberation of Yugoslavia, and Dr. I. Subasic, Prime Minister of the Royal Government. The Soviet Government welcomes the efforts of Marshal Tito and Premier Subasic to unify all the truly democratic forces of the people in the struggle against the common enemy and in the creation of a democratic federative Yugoslavia, as a positive and constructive factor in the achievement of victory and the organization of peace in Europe.

25 November, 1944.

ARRIVAL IN THE U.S.S.R. OF GENERAL DE GAULLE, HEAD OF THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC

General de Gaulle, head of the Provisional Government of the French Republic, and the members of his suite arrived at Baku at 2 p.m. on 27 November, 1944. General de Gaulle was met at the aerodrome by representatives of the Government of the Azerbaidjan Soviet Socialist Republic, and by representatives of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs and the People's Commissariat for Defence, who had arrived from Moscow to meet him.

A Guard of Honour was drawn up at the aerodrome, which was decorated with the French and Soviet national flags. A band played the French and Soviet anthems. In the evening General de Gaulle went to a performance of *Ker Oglu* at the Azerbaidjan Opera House.

In view of bad weather conditions, General de Gaulle and the members of his staff left Baku for Moscow the next day by special train.

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General de Gaulle, head of the Provisional Government of the French Republic, who is on his way to Moscow, arrived by special train at Stalingrad with the members of his staff on 30 November. General de Gaulle was met at the station by representatives of the local authorities. From the station General de Gaulle proceeded to the Regional Executive Committee, where on behalf of the French people he presented a plaque to Stalingrad. When making this presentation, General de Gaulle said:

"Mr. Chairman of the City Soviet! I thank you and the whole city of Stalingrad for your cordial words and for the reception which I have had here. I wish to give its due to Stalingrad and to record the lesson which it teaches us. I convey the ardent greetings of the fighting French people to heroic Stalingrad, the symbol of our common victories over the enemy. Stalingrad is not only a symbol of victories: it is a splendid lesson of what the Allies can do when they have united against hateful Germany. Never again in the future will Germany be able to take up arms against the democratic countries. I desire to hand to heroic Stalingrad the modest but sincere gift of the French people.

Long live heroic Stalingrad!

Long live our victory over the common foe!"

Chairman of the City Soviet Pigalev in his speech of reply thanked General de Gaulle for his gift. General de Gaulle then visited the sights of the city and the Stalingrad Tractor Works. Later he saw the film *Stalingrad*.

On the same day General de Gaulle with his suite left the city on their way to Moscow. (TASS.)

ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW OF GENERAL DE GAULLE, HEAD OF THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC

On 2 December, 1944, General de Gaulle, head of the Provisional Government of the French Republic, arrived in Moscow by special train, accompanied by M. Georges Bidault (Minister of Foreign Affairs), General Juin (Chief of Staff of National Defence), M. Maurice Dejean (Director of the Political Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and others; together with F. F. Molochkov and A. G. Kulazhenkov (representatives of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs), and Major-General Kutuzov (representative of the People's Commissariat for Defence), who had met him at Baku. A. E. Bogomolov, Ambassador of the U.S.S.R. in France, arrived together with General de Gaulle.

General de Gaulle was met at the station by V. M. Molotov (Deputy Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars and People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R.), V. G. Dekanozov (Deputy People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs), A. F. Gorkin (Secretary of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.), Army General A. I. Antonov (Deputy Chief of the General Staff), Colonel-General F. I. Golikov, A. V. Astafiev (Vice-Chairman of the Moscow Soviet), Lieutenant-General K. R. Sinilov (Commandant of the City of Moscow) and senior representatives of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs and the People's Commissariat for Defence of the U.S.S.R.

There were present at the station also the entire Legation of the Provisional Government of the French Republic, headed by M. Garreau, and the heads and members of the other Embassies and Legations accredited in Moscow.

A Guard of Honour was drawn up to greet General de Gaulle, and the State anthems of France and the Soviet Union were performed. The station was decorated with the French and Soviet flags.

Statement by General de Gaulle.

At the station on his arrival in Moscow the head of the Provisional Government of the French Republic made the following statement before the microphone of the News Reel Studio :

"I am happy and flattered to find myself in the capital of the Soviet Union, bringing here the tribute of respect of France, the Ally of the Soviet Union, in the ensuring of victory and thereafter in the assuring of peace, which must become a blessing for humanity."

Conversation between J. V. Stalin and General de Gaulle

On 2 December, 1944, J. V. Stalin, Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the U.S.S.R., had a conversation with General de Gaulle, President of the Provisional Government of the French Republic.

There were present at the conversation: V. M. Molotov (People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs), A. E. Bogomolov (Ambassador of the U.S.S.R. in France), and M. R. Garreau (representative of the Provisional Government of the French Republic in the U.S.S.R.).

Conversation between V. M. Molotov and M. Bidault.

On 2 December V. M. Molotov, People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., had a conversation with M. Georges Bidault, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the French Republic.

A. E. Bogomolov, Ambassador of the U.S.S.R. in France, was present at the conversation.

LUNCHEON GIVEN BY J. V. STALIN IN HONOUR OF GENERAL DE GAULLE AND M. GEORGES BIDAULT

On 3 December, 1944, J. V. Stalin, Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the U.S.S.R., gave a luncheon in honour of General de Gaulle, head of the Provisional Government of the French Republic, and of M. Georges Bidault, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

In addition to the guests of honour there were present at the luncheon M. R. Garreau (representative of the Provisional Government of the French Republic to the Government of the U.S.S.R.), General Juin (Chief of Staff of National Defence of the French Republic), M. Maurice Dejean (Director of the Political Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs), General of Brigade Petit (Chief of the French Military Mission in the U.S.S.R.), the staff of the Legation of the French Republic and the suite of General de Gaulle and M. Bidault. On the Soviet side there were present V. M. Molotov, A. I. Mikoyan; A. E. Bogomolov, Admiral of the Fleet N. G. Kuznetsov, V. G. Dekanozov, S. A. Lozovsky, M. M. Litvinov, Army General A. I. Antonov, Colonel-General F. I. Golikov, Colonel-General F. F. Kuznetsov and senior members of the staff of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs and the People's Commissariat for Defence.

RECEPTION GIVEN BY V. M. MOLOTOV

On 4 December, 1944, V. M. Molotov, Deputy Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the U.S.S.R. and People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs, gave a reception to the Diplomatic Corps in honour of General de Gaulle, head of the Provisional Government of the French Republic, and M. Georges Bidault, Minister of Foreign Affairs. There were present the heads and senior diplomatic staff of the Embassies and Legations of Allied and neutral Powers, their military, naval and air attachés, and the chiefs and members of the Military Missions.

There were also present at the reception: O. W. Kuusinen (Vice-President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.); the following People's Commissars of the U.S.S.R.: Admiral of the Fleet N. G. Kuznetsov, A. I. Shakhurin, B. L. Vannikov, I. T. Tevosian, P. I. Parshin, G. A. Miterov; the following Deputies of the People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R.: V. G. Dekanozov, S. A. Lozovsky, M. M. Litvinov; A. E. Bogomolov, Ambassador of the U.S.S.R. in France; Marshal of Armoured Troops Y. N.

Fedorenko, Marshal of the Air Force F. A. Astakhov, Marshal of Signals Troops I. T. Peresyppkin, Admiral L. M. Galler, Army General A. I. Antonov, Colonel-General F. I. Golikov, Colonel-General F. F. Kuznetsov, V. V. Kuznetsov (Chairman of the Central Council of Trade Unions), A. F. Gorkin (Secretary of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.), senior officials of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs, the People's Commissariat for Foreign Trade, the People's Commissariat for Defence and the People's Commissariat for the Navy; together with scientists, writers, artists and representatives of the Soviet and foreign press.

CONVERSATION BETWEEN J. V. STALIN AND GENERAL DE GAULLE

On 6 December, 1944, J. V. Stalin, Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the U.S.S.R., had a conversation with General de Gaulle, President of the Provisional Government of the French Republic.

There were present at the conversation: V. M. Molotov (People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R.), A. E. Bogomolov (Ambassador of the U.S.S.R. in France), M. Georges Bidault (Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Provisional Government of the French Republic), M. R. Garreau (Representative of the Provisional Government of the French Republic in the U.S.S.R.) and M. Maurice Dejean (Director of the Political Department of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs).

ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE POLISH COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION

On 6 December Mr. Bierut (President of the National Council of Poland), Mr. Osobka-Morawski (Chairman of the Polish Committee of National Liberation) and Colonel-General Rola-Zymierski, arrived in Moscow. They were met at the station by V. G. Dekanozov (Deputy People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs), with senior members of the staff of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs and the People's Commissariat for Defence; and also by Mr. Jedrychowski (Acting Representative of the Polish Committee of National Liberation to the Soviet Government).

CONVERSATION BETWEEN J. V. STALIN AND GENERAL DE GAULLE

On 8 December, J. V. Stalin, Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the U.S.S.R., had a conversation with General de Gaulle, President of the Provisional Government of the French Republic.

There were present at the conversation: V. M. Molotov (People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs), A. E. Bogomolov (Ambassador of the U.S.S.R. in France), M. Georges Bidault (Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Provisional Government of the French Republic) and M. R. Garreau (Representative of the Provisional Government of the French Republic in the U.S.S.R.).

DINNER GIVEN BY J. V. STALIN IN HONOUR OF GENERAL DE GAULLE AND M. BIDAULT

On 9 December, 1944, J. V. Stalin, Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the U.S.S.R., gave a dinner at the Kremlin in honour of General de Gaulle, head of the Provisional Government of the French Republic, and M. Georges Bidault, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

There were present at the dinner, in addition to the guests of honour: Mr. W. A. Harriman (United States Ambassador), Mr. J. Balfour (Chargé d'Affaires of Great Britain), General Juin (Chief of Staff of National Defence of the French Republic), M. Maurice Dejean (Director of the Political Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs), General of Brigade Petit (Chief of the French Military Mission in the U.S.S.R.), Major-General J. Deane (Chief of the United States Military Mission), Admiral Archer (Chief of the British Military Mission), the staff of the Legation of the French Republic and the suite of General de Gaulle and M. Bidault. On the Soviet side there were present V. M. Molotov, Marshal K. E. Voroshilov, A. I. Mikoyan, L. P. Beria, G. M. Malenkov, L. M. Kaganovitch, N. S. Khrushchev, N. A. Voznesensky, A. E. Bogomolov (Ambassador of the U.S.S.R. in France), N. A. Bulganin, Admiral of the Fleet N. G. Kuznetsov, A. I. Shakhurin, V. A. Malyshev, B. L. Vannikov, I. T. Tevosian, V. G. Dekanozov, S. A. Lozovsky, M. M. Litvinov, I. M. Maisky, A. F. Gorkin (Secretary of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.), Air Chief Marshal A. A. Novikov, Artillery Chief Marshal N. N. Voronov, Marshal of Armoured Troops Y. N. Fedorenko, Marshal of Engineering Troops M. P. Vorobyov, Army General A. I. Antonov, Army General A. V. Khrulev, Colonel-General F. I. Golikov, and responsible officials of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R. and the People's Commissariat for Defence.

DEPARTURE FROM MOSCOW OF GENERAL DE GAULLE AND M. BIDAULT

On 10 December, 1944, General de Gaulle, head of the Provisional Government of the French Republic, and M. Georges Bidault, Minister of Foreign Affairs, left Moscow accompanied by General Juin, Chief of Staff of National Defence, M. Maurice Dejean, Director of the Political Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and others.

They were seen off at the station by V. M. Molotov (Deputy Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the U.S.S.R. and People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs), V. G. Dekanozov (Deputy People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs), A. F. Gorkin (Secretary of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.), Army General A. I. Antonov (Deputy Chief of the General Staff), Colonel-General F. I. Golikov, A. V. Astafiev (Vice-Chairman of the Moscow Soviet), Lieutenant-General K. R. Sinilov (Commandant of the City of Moscow), and senior officials of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs and the People's Commissariat for Defence.

At the station there were present: the representative of the Provisional Government of the French Republic in the U.S.S.R. M. Garreau, the heads and members of the Embassies and Legations in Moscow, General Petit, Chief of the French Military Mission in the U.S.S.R., the diplomatic personnel of the Legation of the Provisional Government of the French Republic and

members of the Military Mission, and also representatives of the Soviet and foreign press.

A Guard of Honour was drawn up and the State anthems of France and the Soviet Union were performed. The station was decorated with French and Soviet flags.

Statement by General de Gaulle.

When leaving Moscow, General de Gaulle made the following statement at the station before the microphone of the News Reels Studios:

"The few days we have spent in Soviet Russia will, I believe, be notable in the history of this war, and, I think, also in the deeds which will be performed, side by side, by the United Nations in conditions of peace for the welfare of all mankind.

Long live Soviet Russia!"

SOVIET-FRENCH COMMUNIQUÉ ON THE SOJOURN OF GENERAL DE GAULLE AND M. BIDAULT IN MOSCOW

The sojourn in Moscow of General de Gaulle, President of the Provisional Government of the French Republic, and of M. Bidault, Minister of Foreign Affairs, was marked by numerous expressions of the sympathy which unites the peoples of France and the Soviet Union and which has been strengthened by the trials undergone during the war.

Conversations were held with J. V. Stalin, Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the U.S.S.R., and V. M. Molotov, People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs. These conversations touched upon the totality of questions relating to the continuation of the war and to the organization of peace, and in particular to the German problem. These conversations showed the existence of a broad agreement of viewpoints between the two Governments, and likewise the most sincere desire for close collaboration.

Both Governments confirmed once more their resolution to carry on hostilities until complete victory over Germany, and their will to take together all appropriate measures to preserve Europe from new aggression.

In the spirit of these decisions the two Governments on 10 December, 1944, effected the signature of a Treaty of Alliance and Mutual Assistance, the text of which will be published separately.

11 December, 1944.

ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND THE REPUBLIC OF CHILE

The Soviet Government has accepted a proposal of the Government of the Republic of Chile for the establishment of diplomatic relations and for an exchange of diplomatic representatives between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Republic of Chile. The agreement between the two Governments on this question was made effective in an exchange of Notes between A. A. Gromyko, Soviet Ambassador in the U.S.A., and Sr. Mora, Chilean Ambassador in the U.S.A. The exchange of Notes took place on 11 December, 1944, in Washington.

Sr. Mora handed A. A. Gromyko the following Note:

"The Republic of Chile desires to preserve and strengthen the ties of friendship which bind it to all the United Nations without exception.

In view of this, and knowing of the favourable disposition of Your Excellency's Government, my Government considers it a matter of great satisfaction to establish normal diplomatic and consular relations between the Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Republic of Chile, with an exchange of Ambassadors Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

Being duly authorized by my Government in accordance with the instructions given me, I have the satisfaction of giving effect by means of this Note to the establishment of the above-mentioned diplomatic and consular relations between the Government of Chile and the Government of the Soviet Union. This Note will have legal effect as from today's date."

A. A. Gromyko handed Sr. Mora the following Note in reply:

"I confirm with satisfaction receipt of your Note of this date, in which you inform me that the Government of the Republic of Chile desires to establish normal diplomatic and consular relations with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. I am authorized to inform you that my Government, inspired by the same motives as the Government of the Republic of Chile, agrees to establish normal diplomatic and consular relations with the Republic of Chile and to exchange Ambassadors Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary."

ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND THE REPUBLIC OF NICARAGUA

The Soviet Government has accepted a proposal of the Government of the Republic of Nicaragua for the establishment of diplomatic and consular relations between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Republic of Nicaragua, and for a reciprocal exchange of Envoys Extraordinary and Ministers Plenipotentiary.

The agreement between the two Governments on this question was effected in an exchange of Notes which took place in Mexico City on 12 December, 1944, between K. A. Umansky, Ambassador of the U.S.S.R. in Mexico, and Sr. Lorenzo Guerrero, Ambassador of the Republic of Nicaragua in Mexico.

DEPARTURE OF GENERAL DE GAULLE FROM BAKU

On 13 December, 1944, General de Gaulle, head of the Provisional Government of the French Republic, and M. Georges Bidault, Minister of Foreign Affairs, arrived with their suite at Baku by special train, on their way back to France from the U.S.S.R. They were met at the station by representatives of the Government of the Azerbaidjan S.S.R. and of the local authorities of Baku.

At 12.30 p.m. General de Gaulle and M. Bidault with their suite left on a Soviet plane for Teheran. A. E. Bogomolov, Ambassador of the U.S.S.R. in France, left with General de Gaulle.

They were seen off at the aerodrome by representatives of the Government of the Azerbaidjan S.S.R. and the local authorities of Baku. A guard of honour was drawn up and the French and Soviet anthems were performed. The aerodrome was decorated with French and Soviet flags.

From Moscow to Baku General de Gaulle and M. Bidault were accompanied by F. F. Molochkov and A. G. Kulazhenkov, representatives of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., and by Major-General M. P. Kutuzov, representative of the People's Commissariat for Defence. (TASS.)

VISIT TO J. V. STALIN OF MR. W. A. HARRIMAN, AMBASSADOR OF THE U.S.A.

On 14 December J. V. Stalin, Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the U.S.S.R., received Mr. W. A. Harriman, Ambassador of the United States of America. V. G. Dekanozov, Deputy People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs, was present at the conversation.

DEPARTURE OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE POLISH COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION

On 14 December 1944, M. Bierut (President of the National Council of Poland), M. Osobka-Morawski (Chairman of the Polish Committee of National Liberation) and Colonel-General Rola-Zymierski left Moscow for Lublin.

MESSAGE TO J. V. STALIN FROM GENERAL DE GAULLE

To J. V. Stalin, Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars, Moscow.

When leaving the territory of the Soviet Union, where its war efforts and the dimensions of the sacrifices which it is making for the sake of victory are visible, I wish to express to you, Mr. Marshal, my sincere gratitude for the reception given me by the Soviet Government, and the most lively satisfaction which I experienced, together with the French Government and people, at the Pact of Mutual Assistance which we have just concluded.

Our Alliance is intended to co-ordinate still better the war efforts of Russia and France with the efforts of the other United Nations, in order to secure both peoples against a similar catastrophe in the future.

GENERAL DE GAULLE.

15 December, 1944.

To V. M. Molotov, People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs, Moscow.

Before crossing the Soviet frontier I am happy to send you the expression of my gratitude for your friendly reception, and of my admiration for the energy in the conduct of the war of which we have seen the evidence everywhere.

The Alliance, establishing between our two countries a close and constant community of interests, will strengthen our will to victory and the guarantee of peace in the future.

GEORGES BIDAULT.

15 December, 1944.

SIGNATURE OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE U.S.S.R. AND FINLAND FOR DELIVERY BY FINLAND OF GOODS IN COMPENSATION FOR LOSSES CAUSED BY FINLAND TO THE SOVIET UNION BY MILITARY OPERATIONS AND OCCUPATION OF SOVIET TERRITORY

As a result of negotiations between the Governments of the Soviet Union and Finland to give effect to Article 11 of the Armistice Agreement of 19 September, 1944, an agreement was signed at Helsinki on 17 December, 1944,

for the delivery by Finland of goods in compensation for losses caused by Finland to the Soviet Union by military operations and by the occupation of Soviet territory.

The deliveries to the amount of 300 million American dollars which are provided under Article 11 of the Armistice Agreement will be covered to the value of 175 million dollars by delivery of machinery and sea-going and river craft, and to the value of 125 million dollars by delivery of timber products, paper, cellulose and cables. Deliveries will be effected during the period from 19 September, 1944, to 19 September, 1950, i.e. over six years, in equal parts, to the value of 50 million dollars annually.

The calculation of the value of deliveries will be made on the basis of world prices in 1938 in American dollars, with an increase in these prices of 15 per cent. for machinery and ships and of 10 per cent. for finished goods. The Agreement defines the precise nomenclature and varieties of commodities to be delivered, and also the dates of delivery.

Negotiations on the Agreement proceeded in a spirit of complete mutual understanding.

It was signed on behalf of the Soviet Government by Colonel-General A. A. Zhdanov, and on behalf of the Government of Finland by Prime Minister Paasikivi, Minister for Foreign Affairs Enckell, and Minister for Trade and Industry Hartz.

COMMUNIQUÉ ON THE SIGNATURE OF A TREATY OF ALLIANCE AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE BETWEEN THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS AND THE FRENCH REPUBLIC

As was already reported in the Soviet-French communiqué on the sojourn of General de Gaulle and M. Bidault in Moscow, a Treaty of Alliance and Mutual Assistance between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the French Republic was signed on 10 December this year.

The Treaty was signed in the Kremlin by V. M. Molotov, People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., on the authorization of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R., and by M. Georges Bidault, Minister of Foreign Affairs, on the authorization of the Provisional Government of the French Republic.

At the signature of the Treaty there were present for the U.S.S.R.: J. V. Stalin, V. G. Dekanozov (Deputy People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs), A. E. Bogomolov (Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the U.S.S.R. in France), M. G. Sergejev (Director of the First European Department of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R.), and S. T. Bazarov (Assistant Director of the Legal Department of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R.).

For the French Republic there were present at the signature of the Treaty: General de Gaulle (President of the Provisional Government of the French Republic), General Juin (Chief of Staff of National Defence), M. R. Garreau (Representative of the Provisional Government of the French Republic in the U.S.S.R.), M. Gaston Palewski (Chief of the Civil Cabinet of the President of the Provisional Government of the French Republic), and M. Maurice Dejean (Director of the Political Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs).

The text of the Treaty follows.

18 December, 1944.

Treaty of Alliance and Mutual Assistance between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the French Republic.

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Provisional Government of the French Republic,

Determined to prosecute jointly and to the end the war against Germany,

Convinced that once victory is achieved, the re-establishment of peace on a stable basis and its maintenance for a prolonged period in the future require as a condition the existence of close collaboration between them and with all the United Nations,

Being resolved to collaborate in the cause of creating an international system of security for the effective maintenance of general peace and for guaranteeing the harmonious development of relations between the nations,

Desiring to confirm the mutual obligations resulting from the exchange of letters of 20 September, 1941, concerning joint action in the war against Germany,

Convinced that the conclusion of an alliance between the U.S.S.R. and France corresponds to the sentiments and the interests of both peoples, to the requirements of the war and the needs of peace and economic reconstruction, in full conformity with the aims set before themselves by the United Nations,

Have decided to conclude a Treaty to this effect, and have appointed as their Plenipotentiaries:

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Vyacheslav Mikhailovich Molotov, People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R.,

The Provisional Government of the French Republic, Georges Bidault, Minister of Foreign Affairs;

Who, after the exchange of their full powers, found in due form and good order, have agreed on the following:

Article I

Each of the High Contracting Parties shall continue the struggle on the side of the other Party and on the side of the United Nations until final victory over Germany. Each of the High Contracting Parties undertakes to render to the other Party aid and support in this struggle with all the means at its disposal.

Article II

The High Contracting Parties shall not agree to enter into separate negotiations with Germany or to conclude without mutual consent any armistice or peace treaty either with the Hitler Government or with any other Government or authority set up in Germany for the purpose of continuing or maintaining the policy of German aggression.

Article III

The High Contracting Parties undertake also after the termination of the present war with Germany jointly to take all the necessary measures for the elimination of any new threat coming from Germany and to prevent such actions as would make possible any new attempt at aggression on her part.

Article IV

In the event of either of the High Contracting Parties finding itself involved in military operations against Germany, whether as a result of aggression committed by the latter or as a result of the operation of Article III above, the other Party shall at once render it every aid and support within its power.

Article V

The High Contracting Parties undertake not to conclude any alliance and not to take part in any coalition directed against either of the High Contracting Parties.

Article VI

The High Contracting Parties agree to render each other every possible economic assistance after the war with a view to facilitating and accelerating the reconstruction of both countries, and in order to contribute to the cause of world prosperity.

Article VII

The present Treaty does not in any way affect obligations undertaken previously by the High Contracting Parties in regard to third States in virtue of published Treaties.

Article VIII

The present Treaty, the Russian and French texts of which are equally authentic, shall be ratified and ratification instruments shall be exchanged in Paris as soon as possible.

It enters into force from the moment of the exchange of instruments of ratification, and shall remain in force for twenty years. If the Treaty is not denounced by either of the High Contracting Parties at least one year before the expiration of this term, it shall remain in force for an unlimited period, each of the High Contracting Parties being able to terminate its validity by giving notice to that effect one year in advance.

In confirmation of which the Plenipotentiaries aforesaid have signed the present Treaty and affixed to it their seals.

Done in Moscow in two copies, on 10 December, 1944.

*By authorization of the Presidium
of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.*
V. MOLOTOV.

*By authorization of the Provisional
Government of the French Republic.*
BIDAULT.

**RATIFICATION OF THE FRANCO-SOVIET TREATY BY THE
FRENCH GOVERNMENT**

The French Government at a meeting on 22 December ratified the Franco-Soviet Treaty. (TASS.)

RATIFICATION BY THE PRESIDIUM OF THE SUPREME SOVIET OF THE U.S.S.R. OF THE TREATY OF ALLIANCE AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE BETWEEN THE U.S.S.R. AND THE FRENCH REPUBLIC

On 25 December, 1944, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. ratified the Treaty of Alliance and Mutual Assistance between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the French Republic, signed in Moscow on 10 December, 1944.

PROGRESS OF FULFILMENT BY RUMANIA OF THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT

The following is a summary of some information as to the fulfilment by Rumania of the Armistice Agreement during November and December of this year.

Article II of the Agreement (internment of officers, soldiers and civilians who are German and Hungarian subjects) has in the main been fulfilled by the Rumanian Government. According to the data of the Rumanian War Ministry, about 10,000 Germans and Hungarians had been interned in Rumania by the beginning of December. However, up to the present day the Soviet military authorities continue to discover in various parts of Rumania individual under-cover Hitlerites, many of whom have been specially left there for purposes of espionage or diversion.

The fulfilment of Article V of the Agreement (repatriation to the U.S.S.R. of forcibly deported Soviet citizens) is also nearing completion. By 13 December the Allied Control Commission had ascertained and registered throughout Rumania the presence of over 55,000 Soviet citizens. More than 36,000 of these have already been sent home, and the remainder will leave in the immediate future.

The Allied Control Commission is very actively engaged in ascertaining the booty and property left behind by the Germans in Rumania. This work is, however, being complicated by the fact that individual persons and institutions in Rumania have been trying to conceal this property by passing it off as "Rumanian". The staff of the Allied Control Commission are successfully exposing these efforts. Trainloads and shiploads of this German booty are daily being despatched to the Soviet Union. The Allied Control Commission has discovered several tens of thousands of German railway trucks, much armament and war material of various descriptions, hundreds of German planes. In the neighbourhood of the Danubian ports of Giurgiu, Turnu-Severin, Calafat, and other places many German ships have been discovered. All this property is gradually being despatched to the Soviet Union.

The despatch to the Soviet Union of property plundered by the Rumanian occupying forces in Ukraine and in Moldavia is in full progress. By 21 November 684 truckloads of Soviet property had been unloaded at Constanza, and 196 truckloads were waiting to be unloaded. Much of the property has already been delivered to the U.S.S.R.

For example, on 12 December, 9 truckloads of beehives carried off by the Rumanians from Ukraine were despatched to the U.S.S.R. from Balsh Station. From the station of Arad there was despatched the equipment of an electric-

bulb factory, 4 truckloads of various industrial equipment, 6 trucks containing the equipment of the Odessa Spinning Factory, 16 trucks containing the equipment of railway workshops, 14 truckloads of sundry machinery, etc. In December the Rumanian authorities returned to the U.S.S.R. 1,090 head of large-horned cattle, 1,053 sheep and 359 horses. The Rumanian Government recently published an instruction concerning the return of cows carried off from the U.S.S.R., stating that if these cows have died or have been killed for meat, the persons who possessed them must buy new cows and deliver them to the Allied Control Commission. The work of discovering and despatching to the U.S.S.R. this stolen Soviet property continues.

During the fourth quarter, up to 21 December, 386,000 tons of oil products were despatched to the U.S.S.R. from Rumania.

The fulfilment of some Articles of the Agreement continues to remain unsatisfactory, however. This refers in particular to Article VIII, which speaks of the property of Germany and Hungary and their nationals which has remained in the territory of Rumania. In Rumania there are many enterprises in which German and Hungarian capital is invested. After the conclusion of the Armistice, the Rumanian Government appointed special administrators for these enterprises; but owing to insufficiently strict supervision by the Government some of them used their position for their personal enrichment, assigning salaries to themselves at will, squandering the output and concealing the flight of capital from these enterprises abroad, or into the pockets of various business men. These facts were exposed in a letter of the Trade Union of Private Employees, recently published in the *Romania Libera* newspaper. The Trade Union demanded the establishment of control over the work of these administrators and the dismissal of persons discovered to have been engaged in illegal activity; but the Minister of National Economy Leucuzia opposed this, and assumed the defence of the administrators.

Things are no better with the cleansing of the State machinery. The Ministry of the Interior recently published a circular in the newspapers pointing out that a number of responsible officials working in the institutions of this Ministry have taken bribes and have left well-known Legionaries at liberty.

The Rumanian newspapers mention dozens of cases in which war criminals have been found in most important posts in the machinery of the State. Thus, for example, according to the Rumanian press, Giurgiuvianu, representative of the Government for expenses connected with the fulfilment of the Armistice Agreement, held the post of Director of the Department of Rumanization in Bessarabia during the three years' occupation by the Rumanians, and bears responsibility for the persecution of the Jews in Bessarabia.

The newspapers express indignation that Vasiliu Ionescu, who held the post of head of the Broadcasting Company during the period of the Antonescu dictatorship and carried on active Fascist propaganda, continues to hold this post up to the present day.

On 13 December, *Ardialul*, the organ of the Association of Transylvanian Patriots, pointed out that the Cleansing Commissions themselves are frequently contaminated. Thus, for example, a certain Polidor, formerly an assistant to the General Secretary of the Rumanian-German Society and organizer of anti-Soviet exhibitions at Bucharest, works in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and is a member of the Cleansing Commission of this Ministry. In the sphere of cleansing the Rumanian machinery of State of pro-Fascists and doubtful elements there are still serious problems, and considerable work has still to be done. (TASS.)

25 December, 1944.

VISIT TO V. M. MOLOTOV OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC

On 27 December, 1944, V. M. Molotov (People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R.) received Minister F. Nemeč (Plenipotentiary of the Czechoslovak Government for liberated territory), Messrs J. Valo and I. Petruschak (members of the Government delegation) and Messrs. J. Ursini, M. Vesel and L. Novomesky (members of the Slovak National Council).

A. Y. Vyshinsky, Deputy People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Z. Fierlinger, Ambassador of Czechoslovakia in the U.S.S.R., were present.

VISIT TO V. M. MOLOTOV OF MR. D. MIKHALCHEV, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT

On 29 December, 1944, V. M. Molotov, People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., received Mr. D. Mikhalchev, representative of the Bulgarian Government in the U.S.S.R.

HANDING OVER OF THE CHIEF BULGARIAN WAR CRIMINALS TO THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT FOR TRIAL

In connection with the beginning of the trials of war criminals in Bulgaria, the Bulgarian Government addressed a request to the Soviet Government to hand over to it for the purposes of justice the persons, arrested by the Command of the Soviet forces in Bulgaria, who were the principal culprits in dragging Bulgaria into the war against the United Nations.

With the consent of the Governments of Great Britain and the United States of America, the Soviet Government granted the request of the Bulgarian Government and has delivered to it:

1. Prince Cyril of Preslav Saxe-Coburg-Gotha;
2. Professor Bogdan Filov;
3. General Nikola Mikhov;
former Regents of Bulgaria; and
4. Dobri Bozhilov;
5. Peter Gabrovsky;
6. Dimitr Vassiliev;
7. Dimitr Shishmanov;
8. Parvan Draganov;
9. Konstantin Muraviev;
10. General Nikola Hadji-Petkov;
11. General Konstantin Lukash;
former Bulgarian Ministers. (TASS.)

30 December, 1944.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX I

TASS DENIALS AND STATEMENTS

During the last few days the Fascist wireless stations in Rome, Berlin and Helsinki have been surpassing themselves in the circulation of nonsensical and malicious assertions to the effect that an alleged (but in reality non-existent) "British Control Commission for Italian Affairs" has supposedly "agreed to Moscow's proposal that Italian children between the ages of four and fifteen should be sent to Russia". The Hitlerite radio, seizing upon the inventions from Rome, was asserting on 20 December that a Soviet Commission had already allegedly arrived in southern Italy, in order to "make preparations for the despatch of Italian boys between the ages of four and fifteen to the Soviet Union". Some days later the same Hitlerite radio asserted that the seventh steamer had already left a Sicilian harbour taking Italian children to the Soviet Union.

TASS is authorized to state that all these reports of the Fascist radio stations at Rome, Berlin and Helsinki are lying and slanderous from beginning to end, and consequently fall under the category of malicious inventions by the German-Italian-Finnish scoundrels.

*1 January, 1944.**

* * * * *

With regard to a declaration by the Polish Government in London on 15 January, TASS is authorized to state the following:

1. The declaration of the Polish Government, in which the main question of recognizing the Curzon Line as the Soviet-Polish frontier is completely evaded and ignored, cannot be considered otherwise than as a rejection of the Curzon Line.

2. As to the proposal of the Polish Government for the opening of official negotiations between it and the Soviet Government, the Soviet Government believes that this proposal is intended to mislead public opinion, since it is not difficult to understand that the Soviet Government cannot enter into official negotiations with a Government with which diplomatic relations are interrupted. Soviet circles draw attention to the fact that diplomatic relations with the Polish Government were interrupted through the fault of that Government, because of its active part in the hostile anti-Soviet campaign of slander launched by the German invaders over the "Katyn" murders.

3. In the opinion of Soviet circles the above circumstances demonstrate once more that the present Polish Government does not wish to establish good neighbourly relations with the Soviet Union.

17 January, 1944.

* The dates indicated in these Appendices are those of publication.

Declaration of the Polish Government.

On the morning of 15 January, says Reuter, the Polish Government published the following statement:

"The Polish Government have taken cognizance of the declaration of the Soviet Government contained in the TASS communiqué of 11 January, 1944, which was issued as a reply to the declaration of the Polish Government of 5 January. The Soviet communiqué contains a number of statements to which a complete answer is afforded by the ceaseless struggle against the Germans waged at the heaviest cost by the Polish nation under the direction of the Polish Government. In their earnest anxiety to safeguard the complete solidarity of the United Nations, especially at a decisive stage of their struggle against the common enemy, the Polish Government consider it to be preferable now to refrain from further public discussions.

While the Polish Government cannot recognize unilateral decisions or accomplished facts which have taken place or might take place on the territory of the Polish Republic, they have repeatedly expressed their sincere desire for a Polish-Soviet agreement on terms which would be just and acceptable to both sides. To this end the Polish Government are approaching the British and United States Governments with a view to securing through their intermediary the discussion by the Polish and Soviet Governments with the participation of the British and American Governments of all outstanding questions, the settlement of which should lead to a friendly and permanent co-operation between Poland and the Soviet Union. The Polish Government believes this to be desirable in the interests of the victory of the United Nations and harmonious relations in post-war Europe."

* * * * *

In recent weeks the foreign press continues to assert that the Soviet Government is carrying on negotiations for a separate peace with Finland and that the Soviet Union has presented Finland with an ultimatum.

TASS is authorized to state that these reports do not in the least correspond with facts.

7 February, 1944.

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The foreign press has reported that on the evening of 7 or 8 February the Soviet Air Force bombed the city of Tallin in Estonia.

TASS is authorized to state that this report does not correspond to the facts.

9 February, 1944.

* * * * *

The Swedish newspaper, *Dagens Nyheter*, has published a cable from its Zürich correspondent containing the assertion that there have arrived in Sofia "several Russian officers to collaborate with the Russian Military Attaché Colonel Sogorov", that there are symptoms of a change in Soviet-Bulgarian relations, etc.

TASS is authorized to state that the assertions contained in the telegram quoted from the *Dagens Nyheter* are a tissue of inventions. Equally invented is the person of the "Soviet Military Attaché Colonel Sogorov".

10 February, 1944.

* * * * *

The Swedish newspaper *Dagens Nyheter* reproduces rumours according to which the signature is expected in the immediate future of a trade agreement between the U.S.S.R. and Bulgaria.

TASS is authorized to state that these rumours are devoid of foundation.
13 February, 1944.

* * * * *

The Swedish newspaper *Göteborgs Posten*, referring to foreign political circles in London, asserts that in the Soviet conditions for an armistice offered to Finland there is a secret paragraph concerning special terms for the internment of two Austrian divisions which are in Finland as part of the German forces.

TASS is authorized to state that the report in the newspaper *Göteborgs Posten* as to the existence of a secret paragraph in the proposals of the Soviet Government is an invention devoid of foundation.

5 March, 1944.

* * * * *

Lately, in the British newspaper *Sunday Express*, a certain Mr. George Slocombe wrote an article setting forth Stalin's views on Soviet terms of peace with Germany, as reported by persons who had allegedly "recently talked with Stalin".

On the basis of irrefutable facts, TASS is able to state that the article by Mr. Slocombe, both as regards the part dealing with the "conversation" between Stalin and some persons unknown, and consequently as regards the part concerning the substance of Soviet terms of peace for Germany, is a tissue of inventions.

15 March, 1944.

* * * * *

According to the Swedish press, the Swiss newspaper *Journal de Genève* is spreading rumours that a Rumanian representative, Prince Stirbey, had handed to him in Ankara "the Russian terms for an armistice approved by the Anglo-Saxons". These terms allegedly consist of seven clauses, and contain clauses concerning the Soviet-Rumanian frontier, the return of Transylvania to Rumania, renunciation of indemnities by the Soviet Union and so forth.

TASS is authorized to deny this statement as an invention and to declare that no Soviet terms whatsoever have been handed to Stirbey or to any other Rumanian representative.

22 March, 1944.

* * * * *

According to the report of the Washington Correspondent of the American "International News Service", the Finnish Minister in the U.S.A., Procope, in conversation with their correspondent, was asked whether Finland bears responsibility for the cessation of Soviet-Finnish negotiations, and replied that the U.S.S.R. interrupted negotiations on 22 April, that the U.S.S.R. had allegedly rejected a proposal to examine any changes and that Finland had allegedly twice proposed the continuation of negotiations, but that the U.S.S.R. had refused.

TASS is authorized to state that this report is completely at variance with reality. After receipt by the Soviet Government of the Finnish reply of 19 April the Finns did not approach the Soviet Government either for a continuation of negotiations or for their renewal.

29 April, 1944.

* * * * *

1. The foreign press, and particularly the London newspapers *News Chronicle* and *Daily Telegraph and Morning Post*, have published reports according to which the Government of the U.S.S.R. is supposed to have approached the Vatican with a proposal to co-ordinate their activities in the solution of post-war social and religious problems.

TASS is authorized to state that all these reports are devoid of foundation.

2. During the last few days reports have appeared in the foreign press, with references to the newspapers and wireless station of the Polish émigré Government, concerning the risings and battles begun in Warsaw on 1 August by order of the Polish emigrants in London and continuing up to the present day. The newspapers and radio of the Polish émigré Government in London insinuate that the insurgents in Warsaw allegedly were in contact with the Soviet Command, and that the latter did not afford them the aid to which they were entitled.

TASS is authorized to state that these assertions and insinuations of the foreign press are either due to a misunderstanding or an example of slander against the Soviet Command. TASS is informed that on the part of the Polish circles in London responsible for what is going on in Warsaw no attempts were made beforehand to inform the Soviet Military Command and to co-ordinate with it any actions in Warsaw. In view of this the responsibility for what is going on in Warsaw falls exclusively on the Polish emigrant circles in London.

13 August, 1944.

* * * * *

As can be seen from the communiqué of the Information Bureau of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs, published today (see page 106), the speech of the Finnish Prime Minister Mr. Hackzell, printed below, contains a number of essential distortions of the facts.

In the first place, Hackzell did not give an exact account of the contents of the Soviet reply of 29 August to the Finnish proposal of 25 August. Hackzell said nothing of the demand of the Soviet Government that the German forces should be disarmed and handed over to the Allies as prisoners of war if the German forces do not leave Finland by 15 September.

Secondly, the proposal of the Soviet Government that the Finnish Government should announce a rupture of relations with Germany and that the above measures will be taken in respect of German troops in Finland is a preliminary condition. Hackzell did not even mention this. He did not say that the Soviet proposal of 29 August was a preliminary condition, and that the Finnish delegation could come to Moscow for negotiations on an armistice and on peace only after fulfilment of this preliminary condition.

The following circumstance is also striking. Hackzell said a great deal about the fact that the Finns for three years "honourably bore the burden of brotherhood in arms with Germany", and found not a few words to excuse and explain the present attitude of the Finnish Government in relation to Germany. Hackzell, however, did not say that Finland is breaking off relations with

Germany; whereas a rupture of relations between Finland and Germany is an integral part of the preliminary condition laid down by the Soviet Government, and only after this can Soviet-Finnish negotiations begin for an armistice and for peace.

4 September, 1944.

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The following is the text of a statement made by the Finnish Premier Hackzell by radio on the evening of 2 September:

“Respected citizens! This evening the Finnish Diet at a secret session has examined the question of an armistice between Finland and Soviet Russia. This question has preoccupied the Finnish Government incessantly during the whole of the last half-year. The political and military situation has become sharply more acute during recent days and has required that the Government should again put this question before the Diet. Since the time when the Diet last examined a Government proposal for an armistice the military and political circumstances of Finland have changed sharply for the worse.

As late as April of this year our front line was far beyond the old State frontiers. In June, as a result of military events in the Karelian Isthmus unfavourable for us, our defence lines proved ruptured. A little later in Eastern Karelia we were driven back to the pre-war boundary. Since the landing of the Allied forces in northern and southern France, Germany has suffered a number of important defeats, and is now being obliged to leave one occupied district of France after another. The same unfavourable military situation has arisen for Germany in Italy also, where the German forces have been pushed back far into the north of the country. In the Balkans Germany has already lost two of her allies.

The Soviet Union, on the other hand, as a result of continuous military successes, has in the main reoccupied its former State frontiers. Germany, as a result of the exceptionally painful military situation in which she now finds herself, is no longer in a position to afford us military assistance on the necessary scale. Today she herself is greatly in need of troops to defend her own territory. The Germans, as you know, have already recalled a considerable part of their troops from our territory who were previously sent to help Finland. In the army many have already lost their faith in the victory of Germany.

The present unfavourable situation in the Baltic countries is evidence of the fact that Germany is on the eve of losing the entire southern shore of the Gulf of Finland, which is of great strategic importance both for Germany and for Finland. From the German point of view the Finnish front does not present a great interest at the present moment. For Finland, however, this means that she has been left single-handed against an enemy many times superior in strength.

For three years we honourably bore the burden of brotherhood in arms with Germany, since joint military struggle answered, up to a definite point, the interests of the defence of our country. Our agreement with Germany in 1941 bore solely and exclusively a military character.

The new President of the Republic, who took up his duties of government of the country about a month ago, refused to recognize the military agreement concluded this year between Finland and Germany. As you know, this agreement, signed by the former President of the Republic, was not examined and approved by the Diet. Thus in fact it was only a personal undertaking to Germany by the former President. Today, when our country has another

President and a new Government, the agreement referred to has become invalid, and the Government has informed the German Government of this.

In view of this, and in consequence of the worsening position of Finland, the President of the Republic and the Government have decided again to lay before the Diet the question of Finland withdrawing from the war. The Diet has examined a proposal by the Government to break off relations with Germany and to establish contact with Soviet Russia with the object of concluding an armistice. Having taken the decision as to the necessity of concluding an armistice, the Diet has instructed the Government to begin the practical settlement of this question. Through a special delegation we have informed Germany of all the unfavourable conditions which have arisen in present circumstances for Finland. It is clear that both sides must draw the appropriate conclusions from this for themselves.

In view of the alteration in the military and political situation for our country, and the great striving of our people for peace, the Government considered its duty to be the establishment of contact in the shortest possible time with the Soviet Union. Accordingly the Government on 25 August sent a letter to our Minister at Stockholm for transmission to the Soviet Ambassador in Sweden. In this letter we stated that Finland asks the Soviet Union to resume negotiations for the conclusion of an armistice, and thereafter of peace between Finland and the U.S.S.R.

On 29 August the Soviet Embassy conveyed the reply of the Soviet Government, in which it was stated:

Finland must break off relations with Germany.

German troops must be withdrawn from Finland within a fortnight, not later than 15 September.

The Soviet Government permitted the despatch of a Finnish peace delegation to Moscow.

I must observe that these demands of the Soviet Government have been agreed with Great Britain and approved by the U.S.A.

Having received these conditions, the Finnish Government immediately brought them before the Diet for discussion. In accordance with a decision of the Diet, the Government of Finland approached the German Government with a demand that its forces should be withdrawn within a fortnight from the territory of Finland. At the same time Finland drew the attention of Germany to the fact that the further use of our territory by German troops could not be tolerated.

Respected and dear citizens, such in general outline are the preliminaries on the basis of which we have once again resolutely taken the path leading out of the war. In this way we have already taken the first step with the object of achieving peace between our country and its great eastern neighbour. We do not know as yet what conditions of armistice the Soviet Union will present to us. In these conditions, probably, the previous Soviet peace proposals will find their reflection. I cannot but note that we have not been presented with a demand for unconditional surrender.

I know that there will be not a few people amongst us who are not ripe as yet fully to understand the importance and necessity of the steps to peace which have been taken by the Government. At the same time there will prove not a few people who will not be disinclined to display excessive optimism in this respect. I must warn both groups of citizens that inevitably we shall find on our path to peace a number of further considerable difficulties, but with a reciprocal striving to end the war these difficulties must be overcome. Now, when the first step to peace has been taken, our duty lies in the necessity to show the maximum of confidence in the President of the Republic and in the

Government. Marshal of Finland Mannerheim has devoted himself at this moment completely to the cause of attaining peace. Our task consists in the necessity of maintaining complete unity amongst ourselves. We must rally firmly around our President and the movement for peace, with the object of safeguarding the future of the Finnish people."

3 September, 1944.

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It must be recognized that the formal statement of the Bulgarian Government on problems of internal policy represents a certain degree of progress. Of course, nothing but promises have been given so far, and it is unknown when these promises will be fulfilled. But even these promises of an improvement in internal policy represent progress. However, in war conditions foreign policy always prevails over internal policy. Unfortunately, it has to be placed on record that in the sphere of foreign policy the declaration of Premier Muraviev does not represent any progress in comparison with the attitude of the Bagryanov Government.

The Muraviev Government wishes to preserve strict neutrality between two camps which are waging a battle to the death. But, as practice has shown, the Bulgarian policy of neutrality has so far brought advantages only to Germany. This neutral policy serves to shelter hundreds of German ships and thousands of German soldiers from the pursuit of the Red Army. This policy of Bulgarian neutrality makes it possible for the Germans to have bases for their submarines in Bulgarian Black Sea ports and to threaten Soviet shipping throughout the Black Sea. If this Bulgarian policy of neutrality cannot produce anything better than a refuge for the German armed forces in the territory of Bulgaria it would have been better for it not to have been born. In order to save Bulgaria it is necessary to abandon a policy of neutrality and to adopt a policy of a complete rupture of relations with Germany and sincerely to join the camp of the anti-German coalition. According to available information, the Muraviev Government is incapable of taking this one step which might extricate Bulgaria from the morass into which it has been driven by the pro-German rulers of Bulgaria.

Either renunciation of the policy of neutrality and adherence to the camp of the democratic countries against Germany, or the neutrality of Bulgaria—and then let the present Bulgarian rulers bear responsibility for the fate of Bulgaria. That is the question today.

6 September, 1944.

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The following is the text of the Declaration of the new Bulgarian Government.

On the night of 4 September the Bulgarian Premier Kosta Muraviev broadcast over the Sofia radio the following Government declaration:

"Citizens! The Government has come to power at a responsible moment in the life of the country. The Government has decided to put an end to a policy which the Bulgarian people never approved. In order to fulfil this task the Government has resolved:

(1) To restore all the democratic liberties and rights of the Bulgarian people, worthy of a free people.

(2) The Government declares that it will restore the equality of all Bulgarian citizens without distinction of nationality and creed.

(3) The Government has decided to restore all the constitutional liberties and rights of the Bulgarian people.

(4) The Government has decided to proclaim a full and unconditional amnesty for all persons who carried on a struggle against the dictatorial régime in Bulgaria and against the authorities who pursued a policy of alliance with Germany.

(5) The Government has decided to dissolve all Fascist organizations which are supported from outside and are alien to the interests and traditions of the Bulgarian people.

(6) The Government dissolves the 25th National Assembly which bears the historical responsibility for the situation created in Bulgaria.

(7) In the sphere of financial policy the Government will carry out strict measures to economize the resources of the State and will put an end to the plundering of the property of the people.

(8) In the economic sphere the Government will devote its maximum efforts and care to supplying the population with food and primary necessities, and will ensure their proper distribution.

In the sphere of foreign policy :

(1) Bulgaria undertakes to apply a strict, unconditional neutrality deserving of confidence. With the object of sincerely applying this neutrality Bulgaria will take steps to disarm all German troops who cross the frontier of Bulgaria, and also the German troops in Bulgarian territory. If Germany creates any obstacles to the application of these measures, the Bulgarian Government will be obliged to break off diplomatic relations with Germany.

(2) The Bulgarian Government considers the Tripartite Pact henceforth invalid. The Government also denounces the Anti-Comintern Pact.

(3) The Government approves the work already done to withdraw Bulgaria from a state of war with Britain and America, against whom the Bulgarian people never wished to fight. The Government is taking steps to hasten negotiations for the conclusion of peace.

(4) The Government is effecting the evacuation of the Bulgarian Expeditionary Corps, and this will be completed in the next few days.

(5) The Government will take steps for the restoration of normal diplomatic relations with all freedom-loving peoples.

(6) The Government will continue to strengthen friendly relations with our neighbour Turkey.

(7) The Government has decided to enter into contact, and establish normal relations, with the People's Governments of neighbouring countries.

One of the chief aims of the Government is to continue to develop the most sincere relations, founded on confidence, with fraternal Russia. These relations must develop more and more in the direction of a constant and sincere friendship, as befits relations between liberator and liberated.

In the fulfilment of this programme the Government calls upon the entire Bulgarian people, without distinction of political convictions, to rally round and support the Government in giving effect to this programme, which answers to the interests of Bulgaria."

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In the report published below, of the statement by Mr. Hebert regarding the "Mikolajczyk proposals", the latter refers to a document which the Polish émigré Government has lately addressed to the Soviet Government and to the Polish Committee of National Liberation, setting forth in it its views con-

cerning the reorganization of the Polish Government and retaining, as a basis for the proposed reorganization, the anti-democratic Polish Constitution of 1935. The Soviet Government has forwarded this document to the Polish Committee of National Liberation, as the questions touched upon in the document can be settled only by the Poles themselves.

6 September, 1944.

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The following is the report of the statement by Mr. Hebert regarding the "Mikolajczyk Proposals":

Mr. Hebert, President of the Polish section of the International Workers' Order, condemns the proposals of Mikolajczyk as unrealistic and directed against the unity of Poland and of the United Nations. Hebert prophesies that the Polish Committee of National Liberation will not accept these proposals. In Hebert's opinion, Mikolajczyk's proposals ought to have been sent to Lublin, not to Moscow, since "this problem is not so much a Polish-Soviet problem as one affecting the Poles themselves". Moreover, writes Hebert, these proposals are unrealistic, as they are made on the basis of relations which existed before the war, and do not reflect the character of the new Poland arising as a result of struggle against Germany. The new Poland unites all patriotic forces around the Polish Committee of National Liberation, which enjoys the assistance of those groups to the support of which the emigrants in London aspire.

Hebert ridicules the suggestion that 20 per cent. of the Government posts should be given to those who are fighting in Poland while the emigrants would retain 80 per cent. "The majority of Government posts," says Hebert, "must be filled by those who have been living and fighting in Poland itself. The proposal of Mikolajczyk to retain the semi-Fascist Constitution of 1935 is naturally unacceptable."

Hebert condemns Mikolajczyk for his support of the premature rising in Warsaw. Hebert quotes the statement of the Polish Air Vice-Marshal Isycki, transmitted by Reuters, which describes the rising as premature. He also refers to the article of the underground fighter Dolot in the anti-Soviet newspaper *Nowy Swiat*. The author of this article accuses the émigré Government of having made a mistake in giving orders to start the rising for cheap considerations of policy. Hebert declares that the rising was not only a mistake but even a crime, because it led to the useless deaths of tens of thousands of people who heroically fought the Germans.

"In reality," writes Hebert, "the emigrants are not interested in driving the Germans out of Warsaw, but only want to create a situation which would give them the opportunity to scream that the Red Army is not helping in the liberation of Warsaw. We pay tribute to the heroism of the people of Warsaw. But Warsaw can be liberated only by the forces of the Red Army together with a Polish army. . . . Undoubtedly the Polish nation will demand an account from those who are responsible for this premature rising."

Further, Hebert writes that the appeal of Mikolajczyk to the U.S.A. and Britain for support "is the old political game of the émigré group in London to try and drive a wedge between the Allies. Such a policy is suicidal for Poland. The future security and independence of Poland depend on a policy of collaboration with the Soviet Union and of friendship with the U.S.A. and Great Britain. Mikolajczyk is having recourse to manœuvres of this kind because he cannot reckon any longer on support for his position in Poland. He will not have any success in the U.S.A. and Great Britain."

Hebert praises the Committee of National Liberation for having generously offered the post of Premier to Mikolajczyk, for placing another three Government posts at the disposal of the London Poles and for its condemnation of the 1935 Constitution. "This is evidence that the Committee of Liberation is pursuing a policy of national unity, and abides by the principle of self-determination contained in the Atlantic Charter. The proposals of Mikolajczyk do not promote the realization of what is necessary for the national unity of Poland and the unity of the United Nations. His proposals are clearly adverse to such objects." TASS.

6 September, 1944.

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The American *Chicago Sun* has published a report from its London correspondent asserting that the Soviet Union allegedly maintains the attitude that France should not be permitted to take part in the military occupation of Germany. According to the correspondent, the Soviet Union allegedly maintains a similar attitude towards small countries whose forces are fighting Germany. In addition, the same correspondent asserts that the U.S.S.R. is allegedly proposing that France should not be regarded as a Great Power until she has proved that she is one, by restoring order inside the country.

TASS is authorized to state that all these assertions of the *Chicago Sun* correspondent are mendacious, and do not in the least correspond with the attitude of the Soviet Government.

21 October, 1944.

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Reports have appeared in the foreign press concerning participation by representatives of the U.S.S.R. in the International Conference on Civil Aviation which opens on 1 November at Chicago.

TASS is authorized to state that these reports do not correspond to the facts. In view of the fact that, as has become known in the last few days, Switzerland, Portugal and Spain have been invited to the Conference—countries with which the Soviet Union has no diplomatic relations and which for many years have been conducting a pro-Fascist policy hostile to the Soviet Union—the Soviet Union will not take part in this Conference.

30 October, 1944.

APPENDIX II

EXCHANGES OF CONGRATULATIONS AND GREETINGS BETWEEN SOVIET AND FOREIGN STATESMEN

GREETINGS ON THE OCCASION OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RED ARMY

TELEGRAM FROM MARSHAL TITO, SUPREME COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY AND PARTISAN DETACHMENTS OF YUGOSLAVIA, TO MARSHAL OF THE SOVIET UNION J. V. STALIN, SUPREME COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE U.S.S.R.

To Marshal Stalin, Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Red Army.

On behalf of the soldiers, commanders and political commissars of the valiant People's Liberation Army and Partisan Detachments of Yugoslavia, I congratulate the glorious fraternal Red Army on its twenty-sixth anniversary, and I wish it a celebration with still greater victories in battle, to the glory and happiness of the great Soviet Motherland, to the glory and happiness of the freedom-loving peoples of the whole world. Our soldiers—fighters for the liberty and brotherhood of the Yugoslav peoples—have always clearly understood that the Patriotic War of the Soviet Union is at the same time a struggle for the liberation of all enslaved countries. They have realized that their sacred duty to their own country required them to fight shoulder to shoulder with the Red Army. They have felt all the greatness of the honour and responsibility of paladins who are fighting together with the army which is under the generalship of the great Stalin. They hurled themselves with all their strength at the German bandits when the latter were moving towards the eastern front or returning from it. The recognition by the Soviet people and its army of our struggle against the German Fascists was dearest of all to us. In these great days of decisive battles for final victory over our common enemy, we assure you that we shall still more stubbornly and resolutely do our duty as Allies, inflicting ever stronger blows on the German robbers and the traitors to the people of Yugoslavia.

Long live the glorious and invincible Red Army, hail to the twenty-sixth anniversary of the Red Army!

Long live Marshal of the Soviet Union Stalin, Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Red Army!

MARSHAL TITO,
*Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the
People's Liberation Army and Partisan
Detachments of Yugoslavia.*

23 February, 1944.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

To His Excellency Joseph V. Stalin, Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

On the occasion of the twenty-sixth anniversary of the Red Army I want to convey to you as Supreme Commander-in-Chief my sincere congratulations on the great and most significant victories won by the armed forces of the Soviet Union during the past year. The magnificent achievements which the Red Army secured under your leadership were an inspiration to all. The heroic defence of Leningrad was crowned and rewarded by the recent crushing defeat of the enemy at the gates of that city. As a result of the victorious offensive of the Red Army millions of Soviet citizens have been freed from slavery and oppression. These achievements together with the collaboration on which agreement was reached at Moscow and Teheran ensure our final victory over the Nazi aggressors.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

24 February, 1944.

MESSAGE FROM THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER, MR. CHURCHILL, TO MARSHAL STALIN

On this twenty-sixth anniversary of the Red Army I send you and all ranks the expression of my profound admiration at their glorious deeds. Inspired and guided by you and by their love for the Russian land, with faith in the skill and resolution of their commanders, they will go forward to victory and through victory to an honourable peace.

24 February, 1944.

MESSAGE FROM GENERAL DE GAULLE

To His Excellency Marshal Stalin, Moscow.

On the twenty-sixth anniversary of the Red Army, the victorious struggle of which under your supreme command France is following with enthusiasm, my country speaks to the Soviet Union, its comrade in the common struggle, of its unshakeable determination to assist by all the means at its disposal in the defeat of Germany, our common enemy.

GENERAL DE GAULLE.

24 February, 1944.

MESSAGE TO MARSHAL J. V. STALIN FROM MR. W. L. MACKENZIE KING, PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA

On the occasion of the twenty-sixth anniversary of the foundation of the Red Army I want on behalf of the Government and people of Canada to convey to you as Supreme Commander-in-Chief the congratulations of Canada and

the expression of our high appreciation of the remarkable military successes of the armed forces and people of the Soviet Union.

During the twenty-sixth year of its history, the Red Army has added to the list of its glorious battles a striking number of achievements on various battle fronts from Leningrad to the Black Sea. The invading Axis countries were finally expelled from many thousands of square miles of Russian land. The German armies were broken and routed. The courage, skill and resolution of the Red Army and the entire Soviet people helped immeasurably in promoting the cause of the United Nations on the road to final and complete victory.

24 February, 1944.

TELEGRAM FROM MR. H. L. STIMSON, SECRETARY FOR WAR
OF THE U.S.A., TO MARSHAL STALIN

On behalf of the War Department of the United States I convey to you on the day of the anniversary of the Red Army my best wishes and congratulations on the fighting successes of your tenacious and courageous army. The courage and fortitude of the Russian soldiers aroused the admiration of the whole world and once again demonstrate the greatness of spirit of the unconquerable Russian people.

FROM MR. OSCAR TORP, MINISTER OF DEFENCE OF NORWAY

To His Excellency Marshal Joseph Stalin, People's Commissar for Defence.

On the occasion of the twenty-sixth anniversary of the Red Army I send Your Excellency on behalf of all the Norwegian Armed Forces the very warmest congratulations. The personnel of the Norwegian Armed Forces watches with the most profound admiration the victories won thanks to the valour of the Red Army.

OSCAR TORP.

Minister of Defence of Norway.

24 February, 1944.

FROM THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC

To His Excellency Marshal Joseph Stalin, Moscow.

On the occasion of Red Army Day, I express to you on behalf of the Czechoslovak Government sincere wishes and sentiments of profound admiration. Under your leadership the Red Army, embodying the aspirations of the peoples of the Soviet Union tirelessly fighting as one man against the German invaders, is marching from victory to victory, which is the best reward for all those great sacrifices which it has made, serving its own country and all humanity.

DR. JAN SRAMEK.

25 February, 1944.

EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES BETWEEN MARSHAL OF THE SOVIET UNION J. V. STALIN, SUPREME COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE U.S.S.R., AND DR. EDOUARD BENES, PRESIDENT OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC, ON THE OCCASION OF THE SOVIET FORCES REACHING THE FRONTIERS OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

To Marshal Joseph Stalin.

At the moment when the victorious Red Army, and with it the Czechoslovak Brigade, have reached the frontiers of our Republic, I send you, as the Supreme Commander-in-Chief and representative of the peoples of the Soviet Union, the most hearty congratulations on behalf of our people, of the Czechoslovak Government and of myself personally.

The Red Army entering today the land of our country is winning a new great victory over our common foe and is bringing our people liberty and hope of happiness and security in the future. At this historic moment I not only remember all our mutual friendship in the past, confirmed once again by my last visit to Moscow and the signature of our new Treaty, but I also experience a feeling of joy at the anticipation of our future collaboration in the cause of assuring European peace together with the other Allies and for the welfare of both our States. Our joint trials and now our joint struggle guarantee the constancy of our Alliance, both today and for all our future.

Warmly and with gratitude we greet the units of the Red Army who are entering together with Czechoslovak soldiers the territory of our dear country.

DR. EDOUARD BENES.

11 April, 1944.

To Mr. Edouard Benes, President of the Czechoslovak Republic, London.

I thank you for your friendly congratulations on the occasion of the successes of the Red Army and the attainment of the frontiers of Czechoslovakia by the Soviet forces. I do not doubt that the joint struggles of our peoples against the common enemy will lead in a short time to the restoration of the freedom and independence of the Czechoslovak Republic.

J. STALIN.

11 April, 1944.

To Marshal Joseph Stalin.

Mr. Marshal, at the moment of the victorious entry of the Red Army into Czechoslovak territory permit me to express to you, in the name of the Czechoslovak Government and the Czechoslovak people, our profound gratitude. The Czechoslovak people and its Government will never forget this historic act of liberation of the Allied brother peoples of the U.S.S.R. I personally, the Czechoslovak Government and all the Czechoslovak people send our greetings to you personally, to all the officers and soldiers of the Red Army on your great victories. We are following with profound attention the further development of events in which the Czechoslovak people and the Czechoslovak Brigade are waging a struggle for the full liberation of their State from the common hateful enemy, together with the victorious Red Army. The sacrifices made in this struggle will still further strengthen the old and firm friendship of the peoples of both States.

JAN SRAMEK.

11 April, 1944.

To Mgr. Jan Sramek, Prime Minister of the Czechoslovak Republic, London.

Accept my thanks for your congratulations in connection with the attainment by the Red Army of the frontiers of the Czechoslovak Republic.

I share your confidence that the alliance and friendship of our peoples will grow stronger in the historic battles against the common enemy for the welfare of our peoples.

J. STALIN.

11 April, 1944.

TELEGRAM TO J. V. STALIN FROM CHIANG KAI-SHEK, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT OF CHINA, ON THE OCCASION OF THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE WAR BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND HITLERITE GERMANY

To Marshal of the Soviet Union J. V. Stalin, Supreme Commander-in-Chief.

On the third anniversary of the war in which the Soviet Union is repelling the aggression of Nazi Germany, your heroic army is already not only driving the Nazi invaders beyond the boundaries of the Soviet Union, but is inflicting in combination with the Allied Anglo-American armies growing and crushing blows on the enemy. This gives confidence that the hour is near both of the annihilating defeat of the Hitlerite war machine and of final victory in this war against aggressors. On this anniversary I have the honour, on behalf of the people and army of fighting China, to express to Your Excellency, and also to the people and army of the Soviet Union, our feeling of admiration together with sincere greetings.

CHANG CHUNG-CHENG.

Chungking. 20 June, 1944.

EXCHANGE OF TELEGRAMS BETWEEN M. I. KALININ AND F. D. ROOSEVELT ON THE OCCASION OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

To Mr. Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States of America, Washington.

On the occasion of the celebration of Independence Day in the United States of America I beg you, Mr. President, to accept from the Soviet people and from me personally sincere congratulations and best wishes to the friendly American people and to you personally.

This year the American people celebrates its National Day in circumstances of great successes of the American and British troops in the west and of the Soviet troops in the east, inflicting mighty blows at Hitlerite Germany. I express the conviction that the ever-increasing force of these blows and the further consolidation of the fighting brotherhood of our coalition—the United States of America, the Soviet Union and Great Britain—will be crowned with complete victory over our common enemy and will serve as a foundation for the further development of friendly relations in the post-war period.

M. KALININ.

4 July, 1944.

To His Excellency M. I. Kalinin, President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R., Moscow.

On behalf of the people and Government of the United States I thank you for your cordial telegram on the occasion of our National Day. I fully share your confidence that the joint and co-ordinated efforts of the armed forces of the United Nations, which are now winning such encouraging victories on all fronts, will lead to the final and complete defeat of our common enemy. I know also that the alliance between our countries, forged in great battles which lie behind us and which are still ahead, will continue and grow stronger in the performance of the noble task of restoring a tranquil peace.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

11 July, 1944.

EXCHANGE OF TÉLEGRAMS BETWEEN J. V. STALIN AND GENERAL DE GAULLE ON THE OCCASION OF THE FRENCH NATIONAL DAY

To General de Gaulle, President of the French Committee of National Liberation, Algiers.

On the occasion of the National Day of France, accept, General, in the name of the Soviet Government and from me personally, my friendly congratulations and wishes of success to you and to the French people in the speediest liberation of France from the German-Fascist invaders.

J. STALIN.

14 July, 1944.

To His Excellency Marshal Stalin, Moscow.

The French people, like myself, will be very touched, Marshal, by your wishes and congratulations. France knows what she owes to the heroic armies of the Soviet Union and to their renowned leader, whose magnificent activity allows us to see the approach of the hour of liberation.

GENERAL DE GAULLE.

19 July, 1944.

TELEGRAM OF CONGRATULATION FROM J. V. STALIN TO GENERAL DE GAULLE ON THE OCCASION OF THE LIBERATION OF PARIS, CAPITAL OF FRANCE

To General de Gaulle, President of the French Committee of National Liberation, Paris.

In connection with the liberation of Paris, capital of France, accept, General, in the name of the peoples of the Soviet Union and from me personally, our friendly congratulations to the French people and our wishes for the speediest liberation of France from the German yoke.

J. STALIN.

30 August, 1944.

GREETINGS TO J. V. STALIN FROM THE "FINLAND-SOVIET UNION" SOCIETY

On 18 October, 1944, the initial meeting of the "Finland-Soviet Union" Society was held at Helsinki. The organizers and members of the society sent the following greetings to J. V. Stalin, Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the U.S.S.R.:

"The initial meeting of the 'Finland-Soviet Union' Society cordially greets you, Mr. Marshal, and all the peoples of the Soviet Union, and expresses the hope that between our neighbouring countries the closest and friendliest relations will come into being. We follow with great sympathy and enthusiasm the heroic struggle of the great Soviet Union for the principles leading to universal peace and security among all States."

The greetings are signed by the members of the Presidium of the "Finland-Soviet Union" Society—the Honorary President, Mr. J. K. Paasikivi, the Chairman I. Helo, Vice-Chairman M. Sergelius, J. Ruutu, M. Rjuemia and the Secretary A. Rikk.

The greetings to J. V. Stalin were published in the Finnish press.

MESSAGE TO MARSHAL STALIN FROM MARSHAL JOSEPH BROZ-TITO ON THE OCCASION OF THE LIBERATION OF BELGRADE, CAPITAL OF YUGOSLAVIA

To Marshal of the Soviet Union Joseph Vissarionovich Stalin, Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Red Army.

In connection with the liberation of Belgrade, capital of Yugoslavia, allow me on behalf of the People's Liberation Army and peoples of Yugoslavia to express our gratitude to you, as the Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the great army of liberation which, together with the People's Liberation Army, with amazing heroism has set free Belgrade. The freeing of Belgrade is of historic significance for our peoples particularly, because the country of these tortured nations is the arena in which the sons of the great Soviet Union shed their blood together with the worthy sons of Yugoslavia. Thereby has once again been firmly marked the blood-brotherhood of the peoples of Yugoslavia with the peoples of the Soviet Union.

Long live the heroic Red Army!

Long live the great Soviet Union!

Long live the Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Red Army, the great Stalin!

Death to Fascism, freedom to the people!

MARSHAL JOSEPH BROZ-TITO,

*Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the
People's Liberation Army of Yugoslavia.*

20 October, 1944.

REPLY FROM J. V. STALIN TO THE GREETINGS FROM THE
"FINLAND-SOVIET UNION" SOCIETY

To the Honorary President of the "Finland-Soviet Union" Society, Mr. Paasikivi, and to the Chairman of the Society, Mr. Helo, Helsinki.

I heartily thank you for your greetings. I do not doubt that friendly relations on the basis of mutual respect and collaboration will establish themselves between the Soviet Union and Finland.

J. STALIN.

24 October, 1944.

MESSAGE OF THE ROYAL YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT TO
MARSHAL STALIN ON THE OCCASION OF THE LIBERATION
OF BELGRADE

To His Excellency Marshal Joseph Stalin, Moscow.

In the hour when the victorious Soviet armies in brotherly union with the People's Liberation Army of Marshal Tito have freed from the German yoke our capital of Belgrade, and thereby have opened the door for the liberation of our Motherland which never surrendered to the foe, I, on behalf of the Royal Government, wish with all my heart to express to you and to the peoples of the Soviet Union our most profound gratitude for the brotherly help, beyond all price, which the Red Army under your far-sighted supreme leadership is giving to the cause of the restoration of Yugoslav freedom and State independence.

At the most difficult periods of this war, the peoples of Yugoslavia, following the example of the peoples of the Soviet Union, never lost faith in the sacred character of their struggle and in the final victory of the United Nations.

The age-old ties of brotherhood between the peoples of the Soviet Union and the peoples of Yugoslavia, in whose hearts by tradition there lives the ideal of a better, peaceable humanity, are now hallowed by blood shed together in the territory of our country and will remain a treasured political commandment for our peoples and the firm pledge of its happy and secure future.

For the Royal Yugoslav Government:
DR. DRAGO MARUSIC,
Vice-Premier.

24 October, 1944.

GREETINGS ON THE OCCASION OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREAT OCTOBER SOCIALIST REVOLU-
TION

FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF POLAND
AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE POLISH COMMITTEE OF
NATIONAL LIBERATION TO J. V. STALIN

To Marshal of the Soviet Union Joseph Vissarionovich Stalin, Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the U.S.S.R.

In connection with the 27th Anniversary of the creation of the great Soviet State, which by the mighty blows of the heroic Red Army is now crushing the

most malignant enemy of all humanity, Hitlerite Fascism, the National Council of Poland and the Polish Committee of National Liberation send you, leader of the Soviet Union and Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the great army of liberation, the warmest and most cordial greetings.

The National Council of Poland and the Polish Committee of National Liberation send their best wishes to the entire Soviet people, to whom are indebted for their liberation the oppressed nations of Europe, and in the first place our long-suffering Polish people.

The blood we are jointly shedding on the fields of battle with the common enemy, and the manifold brotherly help accorded by the Soviet Union to the regenerated Polish State, will for ever consolidate the unshakeable friendship between the peoples of the U.S.S.R. and Poland.

BIERUT,
*President of the National Council of
Poland.*

MORAWSKI,
*Chairman of the Polish Committee of
National Liberation.*

Lublin. 5 November, 1944.

MESSAGE FROM MR. JAN MASARYK TO J. V. STALIN

To Marshal of the Soviet Union Joseph Vissarionovich Stalin, Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Red Army.

On the anniversary of the Soviet Revolution I greet you from a full heart and in the name of the Czechoslovak army abroad, and congratulate you and the glorious Red Army on the great successes which in these days are bringing freedom also to the regions and people of our country, punishing and routing the German occupants.

I and all true Czechoslovaks are happy and proud that in these battles there is likewise participating, side by side with the Red Army, the first Czechoslovak Army Corps, and in the measure of its strength is assisting in the achievement of final victory.

To the Red Army and equally to its bulwark in the present gigantic struggle—the entire brave and self-sacrificing Soviet people—my wish is that in the shortest possible time they may see the victorious ending of that struggle, and can soon rejoice in a stable peace and continue the peaceful construction of their happy future.

JAN MASARYK,
Minister of National Defence.

London. 5 November, 1944.

FROM GENERALISSIMO CHIANG KAI-SHEK TO M. I. KALININ

To His Excellency Mr. Kalinin, President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.

On the day of the 27th Anniversary of the great October Revolution, on behalf of the Government and people of China, I send you, and in your person to the Government and people of your country, the warmest congratulations

together with the most sincere wish for the happiness and prosperity of the whole Soviet Union, and to the heroic armies of your country my wish for the speediest achievement of victory.

CHANG CHUNG-CHENG.

7 November, 1944.

MESSAGE FROM MR. CHURCHILL TO J. V. STALIN

From Mr. Churchill, Prime Minister of Great Britain, to Marshal Stalin.

With great satisfaction I send you my congratulations on the occasion of the anniversary of the foundation of the Soviet State. I wish your country and you personally all success both in peace and in wartime; and I pray that the Anglo-Soviet Alliance may be the source of many blessings for our two countries, for the United Nations and for the whole world.

7 November, 1944.

MESSAGE FROM MR. ANTHONY EDEN, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF GREAT BRITAIN, TO V. M. MOLOTOV, PEOPLE'S COMMISSAR FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE U.S.S.R.

This year I experience particular satisfaction, Mr. Molotov, in conveying to you on behalf of His Majesty's Government a message of good will on the occasion of the Soviet National Day. This year is the most memorable year in the allied relations between our two countries. To the victories of the Red Army in the east were added the victories of the Allied armies in the west. These events have brought our common foe to the threshold of final defeat, and one last intensive effort will be sufficient for his overthrow. In the meantime the meeting in Moscow has strengthened and deepened the friendship between the Soviet Union, Great Britain and the United States of America, on whom to such a great extent depends the future happiness of humanity. I know that the people of Great Britain are unanimous with His Majesty's Government in wishing success and prosperity in the future to the Soviet people and to the armed forces of the Soviet Union.

7 November, 1944.

FROM PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT TO M. I. KALININ

To His Excellency Mikhail Kalinin, President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Moscow.

On this national anniversary of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics it is with great satisfaction that I send greetings to you and to the people of the Soviet Union. At this decisive moment, when the Red Army and the armies of the United States and the other United Nations are battling on German soil, we can with still greater confidence await the speedy defeat of the Nazi aggressors and the achievement of our common aim—a durable and just peace and a continuation of close collaboration between all the United Nations.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

8 November, 1944.

MESSAGE FROM DR. EDOUARD BENES, PRESIDENT OF THE
CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC, TO M. I. KALININ

To His Excellency Mikhail Ivanovich Kalinin, President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R., Moscow.

Your national holiday presents me again with the pleasant opportunity to express to you in my own name and in the name of the Czechoslovak people our cordial and deeply-felt congratulations. Everywhere in our country, and particularly in that part of our territory which has already been liberated and returned to us, thanks to the victorious advance of the Soviet armies, the National Day of the Soviet Republics will be celebrated joyfully and with gratitude. We wish from our hearts that final victory may permit your country and ours to return as speedily as possible to normal conditions and to a new peaceful and happy collaboration.

DR. EDOUARD BENES.

8 November, 1944.

FROM ISMET INÖNÜ, PRESIDENT OF THE TURKISH REPUBLIC,
TO M. I. KALININ

To His Excellency Mr. Kalinin, President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Moscow.

On the occasion of the 27th Anniversary of the October Revolution I am happy to send Your Excellency my warm congratulations and cordial wishes for the happiness and prosperity of the peoples of the friendly Union.

INÖNÜ.

8 November, 1944.

FROM KING FAROUK OF EGYPT TO M. I. KALININ

To His Excellency Mr. Kalinin, President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Moscow.

On the occasion of the Russian National Day I send Your Excellency together with my cordial congratulations the sincere expression of my best wishes for your personal happiness and for the prosperity of the courageous Russian people.

FAROUK.

8 November, 1944.

MESSAGE FROM MR. BIERUT, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL
COUNCIL OF POLAND, TO M. I. KALININ

To M. I. Kalinin, President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.

On this glorious anniversary I send ardent greetings to the peoples of the great Soviet State on behalf of the Polish people and the National Council of Poland.

The Polish people believes profoundly that unbroken Polish-Soviet friendship, grown stronger in joint struggle against Hitlerism, is the pledge of its rapid and complete liberation and of a better future.

BIERUT.

President of the National Council of Poland.

8 November, 1944.

MESSAGE OF BARON MANNERHEIM, PRESIDENT OF THE FINNISH REPUBLIC, TO M. I. KALININ

To Mikhail Ivanovich Kalinin, President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Moscow.

On the occasion of the National Day of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics I ask you, Mr. President, to accept my congratulations and best wishes for your happiness. I express at the same time the sincere wishes of the Finnish people for the strengthening of durable, friendly and good neighbourly relations, founded on mutual confidence, between Finland and its great neighbour.

BARON MANNERHEIM,
Marshal of Finland, President of the Finnish Republic.

FROM MR. PETER FRASER, PRIME MINISTER OF NEW ZEALAND, TO MARSHAL J. V. STALIN, CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF PEOPLE'S COMMISSARS OF THE U.S.S.R.

On your National Day all New Zealanders remember that colossal contribution which has been made by the Soviet people in this war against aggression and tyranny. As a small country, we know that freedom must be world-wide, and that it can be upheld or lost in places thousands of miles away from our shores. It was just for this reason that we sent our people to fight in areas thousands of miles from our shores. Apart from all else, it is just for this reason that we recognize our great debt to the heroic Red Army and to the workers of the Soviet Union, whose unceasing efforts have so greatly promoted the victory of human liberty. The basis of this debt is human lives, and it can be paid as we think only by means of sincere collaboration in the building of a secure peace and by full confidence in our mutual good intentions. And today on your National Day we once again reaffirm our sincere good will towards the Soviet people, and send our congratulations and best wishes.

8 November, 1944.

MESSAGE FROM MARSHAL TITO TO MARSHAL STALIN

To Marshal of the Soviet Union J. V. Stalin, Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Red Army.

Allow me to express in connection with the 27th Anniversary of the great October Revolution, and on behalf of the People's Liberation

Army and peoples of Yugoslavia, our hearty congratulations and ardent fraternal greetings.

The peoples of Yugoslavia and the People's Liberation Army on this great day are filled with a sentiment of joy and gratitude to the brother peoples of the Soviet Union.

Twenty-seven years ago your peoples, with countless sacrifices and under the leadership of the great Communist Party of the Soviet Union (Bolsheviks) headed by the great Lenin, created the mighty Soviet Union.

Under your inspired leadership today, the Soviet peoples and the glorious Red Army are with superhuman efforts saving the peoples of Europe from German-Fascist slavery.

We hail the 27th Anniversary of the great Socialist Revolution!

J. B. TITO,
*Marshal of Yugoslavia, Supreme Com-
mander-in-Chief of the People's Libera-
tion Army of Yugoslavia.*

8 November, 1944.

MESSAGE FROM MR. SUBASIC, CHAIRMAN OF THE ROYAL YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT, TO J. V. STALIN

To His Excellency Joseph Stalin, Marshal of the Soviet Union.

Permit me as Chairman of the Royal Yugoslav Government to send you from Belgrade, capital of Yugoslavia, liberated with the blood of the warriors of the Red Army and the People's Liberation Army, my sincere and hearty congratulations on the anniversary of the great October Revolution, so essential to all humanity.

The help which the Soviet Union is sincerely and self-sacrificingly affording the peoples of Yugoslavia in their struggle against the bloodthirsty invaders will never be forgotten, and the blood shed jointly in the struggle against the common foe will be, by the side of Slav brotherhood, the fundamental pledge of ties between the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia.

Long live the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics!

Long live the victorious Red Army!

Long live the great Marshal Joseph Stalin!

SUBASIC.

8 November, 1944.

TELEGRAM FROM MR. SARAJOGLU, PRIME MINISTER OF TURKEY, TO J. V. STALIN

To His Excellency Marshal Stalin, Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars, Moscow.

On the occasion of the 27th Anniversary of the October Revolution I experience very great satisfaction in sending Your Excellency on behalf of the Government of the Republic our warm congratulations, and also our cordial wishes for the happiness and prosperity of the peoples of the friendly Union.

SARAJOGLU.

8 November, 1944.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE STRON-
NICTWO LUDOWE PARTY TO J. V. STALIN

To Marshal of the Soviet Union J. V. Stalin.

MR. MARSHAL,

On the occasion of the 27th Anniversary of the October Revolution, which created firm foundations for the development of the mighty Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Stronnictwo Ludowe in Poland sends you its cordial wishes for the further development of the ideas and strength of the eastern neighbour of Poland, and congratulates you in connection with the freeing from occupation of the whole territory of the U.S.S.R. under your inspired leadership.

We express our gratitude for the liberation from the Hitlerite yoke of a considerable part of Poland, and we hope that with the help of the heroic Red Army all Poland will be free in the immediate future, and that a final and lasting victory of democracy and brotherhood of the peoples will be won over Fascist barbarism.

The Polish people believes that in a firm alliance of the Polish people with the peoples of the Soviet Union and all Slav peoples lies the guarantee of their happy and just future.

The Stronnictwo Ludowe, for its part, will participate in the creation of that future and in struggle for it.

*On behalf of the Executive Board of
Stronnictwo Ludowe,*

STANISLAW KOTEK-AGROSZEWSKI,
Chairman.

JAN HRUBECKI,
General Secretary.

8 November, 1944.

FROM MR. E. R. STETTINIUS TO V. M. MOLOTOV

To His Excellency V. M. Molotov, People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs, Moscow.

Permit me to express to you, on behalf of Secretary Hull and myself personally, sincere congratulations on the occasion of the 27th anniversary of the foundation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. We can all with full confidence anticipate speedy victory over the Nazi barbarians and the establishment of a lasting and just peace, built on the unshakeable foundations of collaboration and mutual understanding, which were so durably forged in the smithy of war.

E. R. STETTINIUS,
Acting Secretary of State.

8 November, 1944.

MESSAGE FROM MR. OSOBKA-MORAWSKI TO V. M. MOLOTOV

To V. M. Molotov, People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R.

On the 27th Anniversary of the creation of the Soviet State I send you, in the name of the Polish Committee of National Liberation and of all the Polish

people, hearty congratulations and wishes for the speediest defeat of the common enemy for the welfare of all freedom-loving peoples.

OSOŃKA-MORAWSKI,
*Chairman of the Polish Committee of
 National Liberation.*

8 November, 1944.

FROM MR. HASSAN SAKA, MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
 OF TURKEY, TO V. M. MOLOTOV

*To His Excellency Mr. Molotov, Deputy Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars
 and People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs, Moscow.*

On the occasion of the 27th anniversary of the October Revolution I consider it my particular duty to send to Your Excellency my ardent congratulations and cordial wishes for the happiness and prosperity of the peoples of the friendly Union.

HASSAN SAKA.

8 November, 1944.

FROM THE PRESIDENT OF MEXICO TO M. I. KALININ

*To His Excellency Mr. Mikhail Ivanovich Kalinin, President of the Presidium of the
 Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.*

On behalf of the Mexican people and Government who have constantly followed with admiration the heroic efforts of the Red Army and the unsurpassed patriotism of the civil population, directed to hastening victory over the Nazi forces, it is extremely pleasing for me to transmit to you my cordial wishes for the prosperity of the U.S.S.R. and my best wishes to Your Excellency.

MANUEL AVILA CAMACHO,
*President of the United States of
 Mexico.*

9 November, 1944.

TELEGRAM FROM KING HAAKON VII OF NORWAY TO
 M. I. KALININ

*To His Excellency M. I. Kalinin, President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of
 the U.S.S.R., Moscow.*

With great satisfaction I send warm greetings to Your Excellency, to the Government of the Soviet Union and to its armed forces, whose valiant struggle is so important for the liberation of Norway. In this common struggle I see the firm foundation for permanent cordial relations between our peoples.

HAAKON.

9 November, 1944.

TELEGRAM FROM KING GEORGE II OF GREECE TO M. I. KALININ
*To His Excellency Mr. Mikhail Ivanovich Kalinin, President of the Presidium of the
 Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.*

On the day of the great anniversary which so happily coincides with the systematic and resounding victories won by the glorious armies of the U.S.S.R.

I beg you to accept my warmest congratulations. I send my wishes that the courageous Soviet people, under the far-sighted guidance of its great leaders, should soon achieve final victory, in order once again to find in a peaceful existence the happiness and prosperity which it has so deserved.

GEORGE II.

9 November, 1944.

TELEGRAM FROM KING PETER II OF YUGOSLAVIA TO
M. I. KALININ

To His Excellency Mikhail Ivanovich Kalinin, President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, Moscow.

I beg you, Mr. President, on the occasion of the renowned Soviet National Day, to accept my warmest congratulations and best wishes to the great brother and allied Soviet Union and to the heroic Red Army crowned with glory, which under the inspired leadership of Marshal Stalin has won historic victories over the Germans, the traditional enslavers and foes of the Slavs.

PETER II.

9 November, 1944.

TELEGRAM FROM THE GRAND DUCHESS OF LUXEMBOURG
TO M. I. KALININ

To His Excellency Kalinin, President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R., Moscow.

On the occasion of the 27th Anniversary of the October Revolution I send you my most hearty wishes for the victory and greatness of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

I am happy to take advantage of the occasion in connection with this anniversary to express the feelings of friendship and gratitude of the liberated Luxembourg people to the people of the U.S.S.R., to its glorious army and its leader, whose victories have to such a vast extent facilitated the liberation of my country from a hateful yoke.

CHARLOTTE OF LUXEMBOURG.

9 November, 1944.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER OF NORWAY TO
J. V. STALIN

To His Excellency Marshal J. V. Stalin, Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the U.S.S.R., Moscow.

I am happy to send my sincere congratulations to Your Excellency, to the Government and people of the Soviet Union on the anniversary of the Revolution. The Norwegian people first of all greets the brave troops of the Red Army who, under the leadership of Marshal Meretzkov, have driven the German barbarians from the northernmost part of Norway. The Norwegian Government is glad of the sincere collaboration which exists between our two

countries. The rôle which the Soviet Union is playing in the destruction of Nazism will never be forgotten in Norway.

JOHAN NYGARDSVOLD,
Prime Minister.

9 November, 1944.

MESSAGE OF MR. W. L. MACKENZIE KING, PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA, TO MARSHAL J. V. STALIN, CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF PEOPLE'S COMMISSARS OF THE U.S.S.R.

On this twenty-seventh anniversary of the foundation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, I wish to send, on behalf of the Government and people of Canada, a message of warm greetings to the Government and people of the Soviet Union. The amazing successes won by the Red Army during the past year, and the way in which the remarkable efforts of the Soviet armed forces were widely supported by the civil population of the Soviet Union, have aroused the profound admiration and appreciation of all Canadians. On this anniversary our thoughts more than ever before are turned to the heroic men and women of our two countries who with their lives have consolidated, and continue to consolidate, the cause of justice and liberty so firmly binding together the fighting comradeship of the United Nations. Our sincere desire is that in the rapidly approaching days when the task of annihilating the Nazi tyranny shall have been completed, the present comradeship in war will become comradeship in peace.

9 November, 1944.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER OF BELGIUM TO
J. V. STALIN

To His Excellency Marshal Stalin, Moscow.

The day of this remarkable anniversary affords me the pleasant opportunity to send Your Excellency the warm congratulations of the Government and people of Belgium, who renew their sentiments of admiration and appreciation towards the glorious Red Army, the brilliant deeds of which will facilitate the victory of the United Nations.

PIERLOT,
Prime Minister of Belgium.

9 November, 1944.

MESSAGE FROM GENERAL SANATESCU, PRESIDENT OF THE RUMANIAN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, TO J. V. STALIN

To His Excellency Marshal Joseph Stalin, Moscow.

On the occasion of the Anniversary of the Revolution, I beg Your Excellency to be good enough to accept in the name of the Rumanian Government and from me personally the most sincere wishes for the happiness of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and of its glorious army, which under your supreme command is uninterruptedly winning successes on the road to victory.

Inspired by the desire to strengthen good relations with our great neighbour, the Rumanian Government is happy to have the opportunity of joining its efforts to the efforts of the United Nations in the struggle against the common enemy.

GENERAL SANATESCU,
President of the Council of Ministers.

9 November, 1944.

**MESSAGE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE
OF THE POLISH WORKERS' PARTY TO J. V. STALIN, CHAIRMAN
OF THE COUNCIL OF PEOPLE'S COMMISSARS**

To Marshal of the Soviet Union Comrade Stalin.

The Central Committee of the Polish Workers' Party sends you, great leader of the Soviet peoples, its ardent greetings on the 27th Anniversary of the great November Revolution.

For the Polish people the heroic struggle of the Soviet Union against Fascism has been an unsurpassed example, and a testimony to the inexhaustible strength of a people which 27 years ago won its complete liberty.

At the moment when the Polish land, stained with blood by the German invaders, is being liberated by the forces of the heroic Red Army, and when a democratic Polish State is being created, we remember that it was Soviet Russia which first proclaimed the independence of Poland.

The Polish people, freeing itself from the German yoke with the help of the Red Army, is filled with the unswerving resolution to strengthen an unbreakable friendship with the Soviet Union and completely to root out the handfuls of reactionaries, worst enemies of the Polish people, who are attempting to undermine Polish-Soviet friendship.

The Central Committee of the Polish Workers' Party sends to the peoples of the Soviet Union and to you personally, comrade Stalin, its best and heartiest wishes.

WESLAW,
*Secretary of the Central Committee of
the Polish Workers' Party.*

9 November, 1944.

**MESSAGE OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE POLISH
DEMOCRATIC PARTY TO J. V. STALIN**

To Marshal of the Soviet Union Joseph Vissarionovich Stalin.

On the 27th Anniversary of the creation of the great Soviet State we send you, Mr. Premier, and in your person to all the peoples of the victorious Soviet Union, our warm greetings and sincere wishes for final victory in the struggle against hateful Hitlerism.

The democratic freedom-loving peoples will never forget that it was thanks to the self-sacrifice and fortitude of the peoples of the Soviet Union and its heroic Red Army that the world was able to escape the frightful tyranny of barbarism, obscurantism and servitude which would have thrown back the development of humanity for many centuries.

Polish democracy with profound joy welcomes the liberation of the territory

of the Soviet Union from the German Hitlerite filth. It allows us to cherish the hope that in the now not-distant future the common struggle of the Red Army and the Polish forces, regenerated thanks to Soviet assistance, will lead to the complete liberation of our country also from Hitlerite occupation. Polish democracy believes that the blood shed on the common battlefields by the peoples of the Soviet Union and the Polish people in the struggle against the German robbers will be a pledge of unbreakable friendship of our peoples, and the foundation of their bright future in peace and collaboration.

*For the Executive of Stronnictwo
Demokratyczne (Democratic Party).*

VINCENTY RZYMOWSKI.

JOSEF WASSOWSKI.

JAN WENDE.

9 November, 1944.

FROM THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF MEXICO TO
V. M. MOLOTOV

*To His Excellency Viacheslav Mikhailovich Molotov, People's Commissar for Foreign
Affairs.*

Be kind enough, Your Excellency, to accept my hearty congratulations in connection with the 27th Anniversary of the October Socialist Revolution, and also the expression of my admiration for the greatness of the U.S.S.R. and my wishes of personal happiness to yourself.

EZEQUIEL PADILLA,

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mexico.

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF
THE CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC TO V. M. MOLOTOV

*To His Excellency Viacheslav Mikhailovich Molotov, People's Commissar for Foreign
Affairs, Moscow.*

Sincerely and with joy and gratitude we shall celebrate today's great holiday of the peoples of the Soviet Union, whose astounding struggle and constant victories will leave an eternal memory in the history of this terrible war. At the hands of German barbarism might have perished the freedom of the world and everything beautiful and good that humanity had created. I firmly believe in the victory of our cause and also in the necessity of our close post-war collaboration, which would ensure to all of us the blessings of peace and would return to our peoples tranquillity, security and a new prosperity. In connection with this I send you my very best wishes.

JAN MASARYK.

9 November, 1944.

MESSAGE FROM MOHAMMED ZAHIR, KING OF AFGHANISTAN,
TO M. I. KALININ

*To His Excellency Mr. Kalinin, President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the
U.S.S.R., Moscow.*

On the occasion of the 27th Anniversary of the October Revolution I am

happy to send Your Excellency my most warm congratulations and sincere wishes for the greatness and prosperity of your country.

MOHAMMED ZAHIR,
King of Afghanistan.

11 November, 1944.

TELEGRAM FROM QUEEN WILHELMINA OF THE NETHERLANDS
TO M. I. KALININ

To the President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.

On the occasion of this anniversary I send you, Mr. President, my most sincere congratulations and also my wishes for the happiness and prosperity of the U.S.S.R. I express to you my profound admiration at the firmness with which the peoples of the Union are performing their warlike mission and the great victories of their heroic armies.

WILHELMINA R.

11 November, 1944.

MESSAGE OF GENERAL DE GAULLE TO M. I. KALININ

To His Excellency Mr. Kalinin, President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, Moscow.

On the anniversary of the October Revolution I beg you, Mr. President, to accept my most ardent congratulations together with the congratulations of the Government of the Republic. In close and profound communion of thought and action with the peoples of the U.S.S.R., triumphantly liberated thanks to their courage, their patriotism and their spirit of self-sacrifice under the guidance of a leader of genius, the French people is also fighting with all its strength for our common victory. It will be the victory of liberty.

GENERAL DE GAULLE.

11 November, 1944.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA
TO M. I. KALININ

To His Excellency Mr. Kalinin, President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Moscow.

I beg Your Excellency to do me the honour of accepting my warmest congratulations on the National Day of your great people, and also my best wishes for the growing happiness of the Russian people and of yourself personally.

RAMON GRAU SAN MARTIN,
President of the Republic of Cuba.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF COSTA RICA TO
M. I. KALININ

To His Excellency Mikhail Ivanovich Kalinin, President of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Moscow, Russia.

On the National Day of your country I send Your Excellency on behalf of the Government and people of Costa Rica hearty greetings and wishes for the victory of your heroic people in the struggle against Nazism in which we are united to win freedom and justice throughout the world.

TEODORO PICADO,
President of Costa Rica.

11 November, 1944.

MESSAGE OF THE REGENTS OF BULGARIA TO M. I. KALININ

To Mikhail Ivanovich Kalinin, President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R., Moscow.

On the 27th anniversary of the great October Socialist Revolution, thanks to which backward Tzarist Russia was able in the shortest period in history to be transformed into a mighty industrial advanced country and to create its great Red Army, which together with the armies of the Allies is annihilating the Hitlerite Fascist hordes and in a victorious march is liberating one nation after another which has been enslaved by Germany—including the Bulgarian people—the Regency Council of Bulgaria considers it a particularly pleasant duty and honour to bring to you personally, Mr. President, to the Government of the U.S.S.R. and to the free peoples moving from victory to victory under the leadership of Marshal Stalin, the most cordial greetings and wishes in our own name and in the name of the Bulgarian people, that the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and its people may flourish, and that an early and complete victory may be achieved over the enemy of liberty, democracy and civilization.

The Regents { PROFESSOR VENELIN GANEV.
ZVETKO BOBOSHEVSKI.
TODOR PAVLOV.

11 November, 1944.

TELEGRAM FROM THE PRESIDENT OF ECUADOR TO
M. I. KALININ

To President Kalinin, Moscow.

On the anniversary of the great and outstanding Russian Revolution, I congratulate Your Excellency on the brilliant victories of the Russian army over the armed forces which strove to enslave the peoples and to proclaim the absurd rights of a conqueror and the principles of the superiority of one race over another.

The victories of the Motherland of Your Excellency, forged in long years of privation and discipline redeemed by the profound understanding of the Russian man, Russian in his traditions and existence, inspire all the other peoples to

contribute their own mite also to the cause of ennobling future mankind by means of honest labour, following the path indicated in keeping with its own gifts, inherent in every people.

PRESIDENT VELAŞCO IBARRA.

11 November, 1944.

TELEGRAM OF KING MIHAI OF RUMANIA TO M. I. KALININ

To His Excellency Mr. Mikhail Ivanovich Kalinin, President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Moscow.

On the occasion of the holiday of 7 November, I beg Your Excellency to be good enough to accept my most sincere congratulations, together with my warmest greetings to the hero Marshal Stalin, and my wishes for the prosperity and happiness of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and for victory over the common enemy for its heroic army.

MIHAI R.

MESSAGE OF THE BELGIAN CHAMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES TO M. I. KALININ

To His Excellency Mr. Kalinin, President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Moscow.

On the occasion of the National Day of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics the Belgian Chamber of Representatives sends to the Soviet people and to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. the expression of its admiration and gratitude for the deeds of the valiant Russian army and for the glorious part which it is playing in the liberation of the peoples.

SPAAK.

11 November, 1944.

MESSAGE OF THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ECUADOR TO M. I. KALININ

To President Kalinin, Moscow.

In conformity with the resolution of the National Constitutional Assembly I have the honour to convey to Your Excellency the expression of the greetings of the people of Ecuador to the heroic Soviet army, to the people of the U.S.S.R. and to the Government of Your Excellency on this day of the triumph of a great people, which at the price of its generous blood is bringing liberty and peace to the peoples oppressed by Nazi Fascism.

I beg Your Excellency to accept the congratulations which the National Constitutional Assembly is expressing today in the name of the people of Ecuador, and in connection with the continuous heroic victories of your army and the Soviet people.

ARISAGA LUQUE,

President.

PEDRO JORJE VERA,

General Secretary.

11 November, 1944.

TELEGRAM FROM MR. H. L. STIMSON, SECRETARY FOR WAR OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, TO MARSHAL OF THE SOVIET UNION J. V. STALIN, SUPREME COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE U.S.S.R.

The present 27th Anniversary of the foundation of the U.S.S.R., after more than three long and painful years of struggle against a cruel enemy, finds the defenders of your country at the culminating phase of their glorious victory. Your armies, navy, air force and people with their great achievements were for us a source of admiration and inspiration. Victory over the common enemy is beyond doubt, and on this occasion I send you and your people my warmest congratulations, and I await the moment when our armies will link up on the battlefield in conquered Nazi Germany.

11 November, 1944.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC TO J. V. STALIN

To His Excellency Marshal Joseph V. Stalin, Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars and People's Commissar for Defence, Moscow.

The peoples of the Soviet Union celebrate their National Day this year amidst the unbroken victories which their valiant armies are winning over the worst enemy of all humanity. Your countless sacrifices in men and material will ensure final victory to the world, and are bringing all of us nearer to the long-awaited moment when once again peace and quiet are restored to the earth. I express to you, Mr. Marshal, and to the peoples of the allied and friendly U.S.S.R., in my own name and on behalf of the Czechoslovak Government, the most sincere congratulations. All our people at home will gratefully celebrate your National Day in the territory which has already been liberated thanks to your armies. It will be able to do this openly and freely. In the territory which is still occupied by the Germans, it will do so, albeit in secret, with no less fraternal sincerity. I am convinced that in close and happy collaboration with you we shall overcome all the difficulties which will arise as a result of the war, and will bring our countries and peoples to prosperity and lasting welfare.

DR. JAN SRAMEK.

11 November, 1944.

MESSAGE OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF BULGARIA TO J. V. STALIN

To His Excellency Marshal Stalin, Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the U.S.S.R., Kremlin, Moscow.

On the anniversary of the great October Revolution I have the honour, on behalf of the Council of Ministers and in my own name, to send to Your Excellency, to the Council of People's Commissars and to the glorious Red Army the most cordial greetings and wishes for an early and complete victory over the enemy.

The Bulgarian people is happy that, thanks to the support of the Red Army

and thanks to the establishment on 9 September of the People's Government of the Fatherland Front, it is able freely to take part in honouring the National Day of the Soviet Union.

We are filled with boundless admiration for the great achievements of the Soviet Revolution, which are so highly valued by the peoples of the Soviet Union and which arouse the eternal gratitude of all humanity.

May near and final victory bring a prosperous peace and happiness to the peoples of the Soviet Union and to all progressive peoples who love liberty.

KIMON GEORGIEV,
Prime Minister.

11 November, 1944.

MESSAGE OF THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ECUADOR TO J. V. STALIN

To Marshal Stalin, Moscow.

On the motion of Deputies Manuel Augustin Aguirre, Pedro Antonio Saad, Miguel Angel, Guzman Alejandro, Idrobo Carlos, Sambrano Juan, Isaac Lovato, Jose Maria, Plas Carlos, Cueva Tamaris, Gustavo Besera, Armando Espinel Mendoza, Colonel Gomez Gonzales and Enrique Gil Gilbert, the Constitutional National Assembly today adopted the following resolution:

"Whereas the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics is today celebrating the 27th Anniversary of its foundation; whereas the U.S.S.R. is one of the firmest fortresses of the United Nations against which has broken the strength of the national-Fascist forces; and whereas the U.S.S.R. has defended the independence of weak peoples as was the case with Abyssinia; the people of Ecuador expresses its profound admiration at the heroic struggle of the people and armed forces of the U.S.S.R.

The Constitutional National Assembly resolves also to express to the Soviet people and to its Government its feelings of solidarity and admiration, and on the day of the 27th Anniversary of the U.S.S.R. sends greetings to the head of the State Marshal Stalin, with the assurance that Ecuador is contributing and will continue to contribute its part to the cause of the victory of the United Nations." (Adopted at Quito, 7 November, 1944.)

ARISAGA LUQUE,
President.
PEDRO JORJE VERA,
General Secretary.

11 November, 1944.

MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF ITALY TO J. V. STALIN

To Marshal J. V. Stalin.

On the occasion of the Anniversary which today is being celebrated throughout the Soviet Union, the Italian Government which is participating together with the Soviet Government in the war against Nazism and Fascism sends its

greetings and its warmest good wishes to you, to the Soviet peoples and to the victorious Red Army, which is marching forward to the destruction of our common enemy. Cordial greetings.

BONOMI.

11 November, 1944.

MESSAGE OF DR. JUAN NEGRIN TO J. V. STALIN

To Marshal Joseph Stalin, Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars, Moscow.

After unbroken military successes, the greatest ever known in history, the anniversary of the great Socialist Revolution and of the foundation of the Soviet State is now being celebrated at the moment when the liberation of the territory of the homeland is completely fulfilled. This coincidence moves Spaniards who passionately desire the liberation of the territory of their country more than ever to share the emotions of this day with the great people their friend. Spain, which is proud that it was first to enter the struggle against reactionary totalitarianism of the Axis powers, knows that the destruction of the common enemy will involve the collapse of his satellites and lackeys. After eight years of unending and unexampled struggle, full of heroic sacrifices which cost the lives of more than a million of her best sons, Spain is sure that soon, under the protection of the Constitution and of the legality which served as our motto in the struggle, liberty will shine over our motherland, regenerating the work of social and civil justice, the flowering of culture and the development of economy begun by the Republic, and doing everything possible to promote fraternal collaboration between our two peoples for the welfare and progress of humanity. I address my best wishes to the Soviet Union and to you, dear Marshal, the recognized friend of Spain and great builder of victory. Expressing my personal feelings of friendship and respect, I greet you.

JUAN NEGRIN.

11 November, 1944.

MESSAGE OF THE PEOPLE'S COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WARSAW TO J. V. STALIN

Warsaw to the Red Army and to its leader J. V. Stalin: resolution of the People's Council of the City of Warsaw.

On the day of the 27th anniversary of the great October Revolution, on the State holiday of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the already liberated but still front-line part of our capital Warsaw, its People's Council, political parties, trade unions, civilian committees and public organizations have resolved at a special session on 4 November, 1944, to present a symbolic gift to the heroic Red Army and to its leader Marshal J. V. Stalin.

Warsaw salutes the heroic Red Army which brings liberation to Poland. Warsaw gives thanks for the aid which it has received and continues to receive at the most difficult moments of the struggle with the German hordes. Warsaw feels the particular and daily care of Marshal Stalin for her fate.

The common struggle of the Red Army and the Polish army under the walls of our capital, heroically stained with blood, has strengthened the eternal friendship of the Polish people with the peoples of the Soviet Union.

Thus, after a mighty blow, today our armies defeating the enemy with their common strength are building the foundations of a new peaceful era.

We believe unshakeably and profoundly that the peoples of the Soviet

Union and the Polish people will strengthen their neighbourly relations, and will create such a mighty force that the enemy will never again be a menace and will never dare again to violate our frontiers, won back with the blood of sacrifice.

ZUDNY,
*Representative of the People's Council
of the City of Warsaw.*
MARJAN SPYCHALSKI,
President of the City of Warsaw.

11 November, 1944.

TELEGRAM FROM THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF ITALY TO J. V. STALIN

On behalf of the working class and of the whole people of Italy fighting for its liberty, we send to the glorious Red Army and to the peoples of the Soviet Union our greetings and our warm wishes on the 27th anniversary of the great October Socialist Revolution. To you personally, comrade Stalin, we express feelings of admiration, gratitude and love of the whole Italian people for the gigantic activity which you have carried on to liberate all humanity from the horrors of Hitlerite and Fascist tyranny. The best part of the Italian people always condemned with hatred the shameful Fascist aggression against the Soviet people. We shall wash off this disgrace by destroying in our country every relic of Fascist tyranny. We are deeply grateful to the country which has broken the Hitlerite armies and made possible the commencement of our liberation. We are fighting today and will always fight for the closest ties of brotherhood and collaboration between the Italian people and the peoples of the great Soviet Union, and for the creation of an order in which freedom and peace will rule and in which all the aspirations of the working masses can be achieved.

PALMIRO TOGLIATTI.

11 November, 1944.

TELEGRAM FROM THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE BULGARIAN WORKERS' PARTY (COMMUNISTS) TO J. V. STALIN

To comrade Stalin.

The Central Committee of the Bulgarian Workers' Party (Communists) on the 27th anniversary of the great October Socialist Revolution sends to the Central Committee of the C.P.S.U. (Bolsheviks) the warmest and most enthusiastic greetings. After twenty-one years of Fascist dictatorship and after three years' participation of the country in the brigand Hitlerite bloc, the Bulgarian people under the leadership of the Fatherland Front is for the first time celebrating the day of the great October Revolution in the free conditions of a popular democratic régime. The whole people with great joy celebrates the National Day of the Soviet peoples, with the great Russian people at their head, whose valiant Red Army has given us such invaluable aid in driving the German conquerors from our country and in saving our motherland from the terrible national catastrophe which hung over it. The Bulgarian people will never forget this rôle of saviour which the U.S.S.R. has played for Bulgaria, just as it did not forget and never will forget that it received its emancipation from five centuries of alien slavery at the hands, and by the blood, of the great Russian people. The decisive rôle which our brother Russian people has twice

played in saving the future and the very existence of the Bulgarian people, as a free and independent nation, has for all eternity sealed the sincere friendship between the two fraternal peoples. The participation of the Bulgarian army, shoulder to shoulder with the Red Army under the supreme guidance of the Soviet High Command, in the war of liberation of all freedom-loving peoples against Hitlerite Germany, still further reinforces the unbreakable ties between the Bulgarian people and its elder brother—the Russian people.

Long live free, independent, democratic and strong Bulgaria!

Long live the great Soviet Union and its valiant Red Army!

Long live the wise leader, genius and teacher, Marshal of the Soviet Union, comrade Stalin!

**CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE BULGARIAN WORKERS' PARTY
(COMMUNISTS).**

11 November, 1944.

**TELEGRAM OF THE CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
POLISH SOCIALIST PARTY TO J. V. STALIN**

To Marshal J. V. Stalin, Kremlin, Moscow.

The October Revolution not only brought liberty to the enslaved peoples of Russia, but also facilitated in every possible way the regeneration of the Polish State, whose right to an independent existence it immediately recognized. The October Revolution not only brought victory to the proletariat of the towns and villages of Russia in struggle against their class enemy, but strengthened the position of the international proletariat in the struggle against capitalism and reaction.

The Red Army, glorious achievement of the October Revolution, not only has driven the German invaders from Soviet soil, but is also freeing the Polish land and the lands of other peoples, and together with the Polish army in bloody struggle is routing the Germans to the point of their complete expulsion beyond the boundaries of Poland.

All these historic factors oblige the working class of Poland to consider the celebration of the October Revolution as a holiday also of the Polish proletariat.

On the 27th anniversary of the Revolution the Polish Socialist Party conveys to you, comrade Marshal, as the magnificent organizer of victory over Fascist Germany and as the builder of a new order, words of joy at the military and political successes which the proletariat of the Soviet Union has won in struggle under your leadership and our wishes for the further successful development of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

EDWARD OSOBKA-MORAWSKI,

*Chairman of the Central Executive
Committee of the P.P.S.*

STEFAN MATUSZEWSKI,

*Secretary of the Central Executive
Committee of the P.P.S.*

11 November, 1944.

**TELEGRAM OF THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF COSTA
RICA TO V. M. MOLOTOV**

On this day I send to Your Excellency, in my own name and on behalf of the Government and people of Costa Rica, the most cordial greetings to the

Russian people and congratulations in connection with the continued advance of its armies, covered with glory, for the welfare of democracy and humanity. I bring Your Excellency the expression of my highest and special esteem.

J. ACOSTA.

11 November, 1944.

TELEGRAM FROM MR. K. VISOIANU, MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF RUMANIA, TO V. M. MOLOTOV

Entering today upon my duties as Minister for Foreign Affairs of Rumania, I consider it my particular obligation to assure Your Excellency that I will bend all my efforts to develop friendly relations between Rumania and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, on the basis of close and sincere collaboration and joint struggle against our common enemy. I trust that in the fulfilment of this task I may reckon on the understanding and valuable support of Your Excellency and on the Soviet Government. I wish to express the great admiration of all the Rumanian nation for the glorious Red Army, which has played such a great part in the liberation of Northern Transylvania.

I beg you at the same time to accept my congratulations to the Soviet Union on the occasion of the anniversary of the Revolution.

11 November, 1944.

MESSAGE OF THE GREEK PRIME MINISTER TO J. V. STALIN

To His Excellency Marshal of the Soviet Union Joseph Vissarionovich Stalin, Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the U.S.S.R.

On the occasion of the anniversary of the foundation of the Soviet State I beg you to accept, and to transmit from the Greek Government and from me personally to the Government, people and armed forces of your heroic country, the warmest wishes for the might and greatness of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, whose glorious victories under your gifted leadership are playing a decisive part in liberating Europe from the hateful German tyranny.

The Greek people, now liberated from long and torturing slavery, is following with passion and admiration the victorious onset of your army and, believing in your great personality and in the generosity of the Russian people, it hopes to see soon the defeat of our common enemy and the establishment of a just and lasting peace.

GEORGE PAPANDREOU.

President of the Council of Ministers of Greece.

12 November, 1944.

TELEGRAMS FROM M. I. KALININ, J. V. STALIN AND V. M. MOLOTOV ON THE OCCASION OF THE NATIONAL DAY OF POLAND

In connection with the Polish National Day—the day of Poland's independence—celebrated on 11 November, M. I. Kalinin, J. V. Stalin and V. M. Molotov sent the following telegrams:

To Mr. B. Bierut, President of the National Council of Poland.

Sending you my friendly congratulations on the occasion of the National Day of Poland, I express my confidence that Soviet-Polish friendship, forged in this war and already bearing fruit, will hasten the common victory over Hitlerism and will be the foundation for the prosperity and happiness of our brother peoples.

M. KALININ.

To Mr. B. Bierut, President of the National Council of Poland,

To Mr. E. Osobka-Morawski, Chairman of the Polish Committee of National Liberation.

On the National Day of Poland I send you warm congratulations and wishes for further success in the cause of the restoration of a strong and independent democratic Poland.

I do not doubt that the fraternal alliance of our peoples and their joint struggle against the German oppressors, reinforced by the blood of Polish and Soviet warriors, will lead in the not distant future to the complete liberation of Poland from the German yoke.

J. STALIN.

To M. E. Osobka-Morawski, Chief of the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Polish Committee of National Liberation.

In connection with the National Day of Poland, I send you and all the Polish people cordial congratulations and wishes for the speediest cleansing of the entire Polish land from the German enslavers.

I am sure that the friendship of our peoples born in cruel battles against the common enemy, Hitlerite Germany, will grow stronger with every day that passes, to the greater welfare of Poland and the Soviet Union.

V. MOLOTOV.

THANKS OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT TO FOREIGN ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS WHO SENT GREETINGS ON THE OCCASION OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION

The Soviet Government, and also J. V. Stalin, M. I. Kalinin, and V. M. Molotov, as well as Soviet public organizations, have received a great number of greetings and congratulations from foreign political and public personalities, organizations and individuals in connection with the 27th anniversary of the great October Socialist Revolution and also in connection with the successes of the Red Army in the struggle against the German-Fascist invaders.

Apart from those already published in the Press, greetings were received also from the following foreign political and public organizations and individual persons:

The National Congress of Anglo-Soviet Friendship, Great Britain; the Cardiff Anglo-Soviet Friendship Council, Great Britain; the employees at an engineering works in Bristol, England; citizens of Braintree and Bocking, England; the Indian community in Great Britain; the National Council of Canadian-Soviet Friendship; members of the Czechoslovak National Council at Port Arthur, Canada; the League of Canadian Serbs and the newspaper *Serbian Herald*, Toronto; citizens of Adelaide, South Australia; 4,000 service men at the city of Sydney; the Russian Society at Melbourne, Australia;

Greeks living in Queensland, Australia; people of the town of Bendigo, Australia; the Chamber of Deputies of Chile; a mass people's meeting at Santiago, Chile; the South American Congress of Yugoslav National Defence, Chile; a mass meeting of citizens of Montevideo; miners of the western coast of New Zealand; the local Slav Committee at Oruro, Bolivia; the Central Secretariat of the European League at Tel Aviv, Palestine; the Socialist League of Palestine; the citizens of Kaimakli, Nicosia (Cyprus); 2,000 Swedish, Norwegian, Finnish and Danish citizens at Stockholm; meetings of workers of Göteborg, Sweden; Association of Anglo-American Correspondents in the U.S.S.R., Moscow; a group of Italians living in Colombia; a meeting organized by the Society of Friends of the U.S.S.R. at Tabriz, Iran; the Armenian colony at Meshed, Iran; navvies on the Astar-Kazvin motor-road, Iran; Committee of the Workers' Party and the League of Workers' Youth at Bratchigovo, Bulgaria; the League of Bulgarian Agricultural Co-Operatives; a meeting organized by the Committee of the Fatherland Front at Peshchery, Bulgaria; the county committee of the League of Workers' Youth at Novye Zagory, Bulgaria; the citizens and soldiers at Kardjali, Bulgaria; the Committee of the Fatherland Front, the Workers' Party and the League of Workers' Youth at Pleven, Bulgaria; the Bulgarian Social Democratic Party; working people of Plovdiv, Bulgaria; the mayor, municipal council and citizens of Varna; a mass meeting at Lovech, Bulgaria; working men and women of the "Kaliovski" factory at Burgas; the Bulgarian-Soviet Society, Sofia; a ceremonial meeting of workers of Rushchuk, Bulgaria; the Slav Committee in Bulgaria; a youth meeting at Burgas; working people of the second and fifth districts of the city of Sofia; the Nevrokop County Committee for celebrating the 27th Anniversary of the October Revolution, Bulgaria; the Bulgarian Agrarian League; People's Guards of the 1st Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Kazanlyk, Bulgaria; the Amalgamation of Bulgarian Handicraft Workers, Sofia; a meeting of workmen and peasants at the village of Krivaya Bara, Lomsk County, Bulgaria; ceremonial meeting of citizens of Sliven, Bulgaria; committee of the Fatherland Front at Troyan, Bulgaria; citizens of Tekuc county, Rumania; the Czechoslovak Committee at Bucharest; the Czechoslovak colony at Bucharest; workers of Constanza; the Union of Armenian patriots at Constanza; the Chief Jewish Council in Rumania; a ceremonial meeting of the National Democratic Front, Bucharest; a ceremonial meeting of citizens of Timisoara, Rumania; N. Markov, publisher of the Bulgarian paper *Narodna Volia* at Detroit, U.S.A.; and others.

The Government of the Soviet Union, the institutions and persons to whom the congratulations were addressed, express their sincere thanks to all organizations and individuals who have sent greetings on the occasion of the 27th Anniversary of the Soviet State.

25 November, 1944.

Important Hutchinson Books of Russian Interest

A Writer Remembers

N. TELESHOV

Reminiscences of Russian literary life during the last two decades of the 19th century. 18s.

My Family

N. A. PFLAUMER

An informal autobiography of a Soviet woman who became foster-mother to six children. 7s. 6d.

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KORNEI CHUKOVSKY

A new study of Chekhov by a well-known Soviet poet and literary critic. 5s.

Great Russians

Essays on sixteen Russian men of genius, including LENIN, PUSHKIN, TOLSTOY, CHEKHOV, GORKY, CHAIKOVSKY, PAVLOV and others. 12s. 6d.

Partisans of the Kuban

P. K. IGNATOV

Extracts from the day-to-day diary of the famous partisan Batya. 8s. 6d.

Important Hutchinson Books of Russian Interest

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The complete text of speeches and Orders of the Day, as well as answers to foreign press correspondents. 7s. 6d.

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ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET I. S. ISAKOV

An account of the part played by the ships and men of the Red Navy in winning the war. 10s. 6d.

The Russian Glory

N. N. MIKHAILOV

A history of the war on the Soviet-German Front, interspersed with a commentary on the historic past of Russia. 7s. 6d.

Alexander Radishchev

BORIS EVGENIEV

A short biography of the Russian humanist and revolutionary democrat of the 18th century. 6s.

Crimes of the German Fascists in the Leningrad Region

M. N. NIKITIN and P. I. VAGIN

Materials and documents on crimes against peaceful Soviet civilians committed by the German Fascists during their occupation of the Leningrad region. 21s.

Moscow: Sketches on the Russian Capital

This very interesting collection of sketches on Moscow presents the capital of the Soviet Union through the eyes of Muscovites. 15s.

Hitlerite Responsibility Under Criminal Law

PROFESSOR I. N. TRAININ

Edited by A. Y. VISHINSKY

Nazi war crimes and atrocities discussed in relation to International Law and the ultimate terms of the Peace Treaty. 8s. 6d.