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federations, which seemed in Moscow to be simply a new variant of the old cordon sanitaire. 'Spartacus' in Reynolds News (London) added that the reason the United States was ready to play ball with papal diplomats who wanted a Europe cut in two by ^{an} anti-Soviet chain of small states with an aggressively Catholic Poland at their head was because the United States itself opposed the spread of Soviet political domination in Europe. An Associated Press despatch of April 30 went so far as to cite the proposal for a confederation of Central European states as a concealed cause of the rupture of Soviet-Polish relations.

Whether or not this was true, it was obvious that relations between the Polish and Czechoslovak governments deteriorated rapidly after April 26, 1943. On May 17th Hubert Ripka announced on behalf of the Czechoslovak government ~~the~~ ^{its} definite ~~suspension of~~ ^{withdrawal from} conversations on the subject of confederation.* As reasons for the interruption he ^{is said to have} mentioned the Polish attitude toward the U.S.S.R., the failure of the Polish government to declare war on Hungary (Czechoslovakia's second-worst enemy), and its failure to denounce the Munich agreement, of which advantage had been taken in order to snatch Teschen from Czechoslovakia in 1938. President Benes, however, in speaking to the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations on May 22, continued to uphold the principle of a post-war confederation to include Poland and Czechoslovakia. It should, however, be arranged after discussion with the United Kingdom and the U.S.S.R., both of which had vital interests on the European continent. Geography and historical developments set limits to the natural regions in which the principle of ethnographic frontiers could be applied on the one hand, or in which neighbouring countries could usefully cooperate in a federal or confederated bloc on the other. The new system, accordingly, should be flexible and take into account geography, national tradition, social and

* On May 25 Foreign Minister Raczynski declared that the Polish Government would continue in spite of this its efforts to organize a Central European confederation.