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The Russians, meanwhile, were anxious to establish claims of their own to part of the territory formerly belonging to Poland. Mrs. McCormick states that Molotov, during the course of his negotiations with Mr. Eden in May 1942, tried to have a clause inserted in the Anglo-Soviet treaty specifying the boundaries which the Soviet government hoped to establish. He was persuaded to drop this demand, however, on the ground that publication of Russian claims at this juncture might alienate sympathy in the United States.

In the United Kingdom expressions of sympathy for the Russian position had already been published. Early in March the London Times had declared its opinion as follows:

Moscow, like London and Washington, had a right to judge for itself what was necessary to its own security. Russian claims nowhere went beyond the territories embodied in the Soviet Union when Hitler attacked it, nor were they incompatible with the security of Europe which the Atlantic Charter sought to ensure. They were, indeed, conditions of European security, since security for Europe was unattainable unless Russia itself felt secure.

Sir Stafford Cripps in the Daily Mail at the same time wrote in a similar vein, but more precisely:

It was essential for the protection of Leningrad that Russia should control the Gulf of Finland and the Baltic coast, and that small states on which hostile powers might base an attack should not be allowed to exist close to vital points of Soviet industry. The Soviet Government should ask for restoration of the provisional boundary of 1940-1941, whose final configuration should be worked out by negotiation between Poland and the U.S.S.R.

Editorial pronouncements of this sort naturally inflamed those émigré Poles both in the United Kingdom and in the United States who had already denounced Sikorski for signing two agreements with the U.S.S.R. without getting in return any territorial guarantees whatsoever. When Sikorski visited the United States in March and December 1942 he was subjected to bitter attacks by an opposition nationalist group headed by Col. Matuszewski, which was if anything more impatient than Sikorski's critics in London for a public announcement of Polish territorial demands. During Sikorski's second absence the National Council