

THE MEANING OF QUOTATION MARKS

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1. "POLISH CLAIMS" OR "POLISH EXPANSION"

Poland does not claim one square inch of Russian territory and has no desire for expansion east of the frontier established by a bilateral agreement at Riga in 1921. On that occasion the Polish Government of its own free will renounced 120,000 square miles of the territory seized by Catherine the Great of Russia at the end of the Eighteenth Century.

The Soviet Government, never expressed its dissatisfaction with the terms of the Riga Treaty until recently. This is what the GREAT SOVIET ENCYCLOPAEDIA (published by the Soviet State Institute, Moscow, 1940) says in Vol. 46, p. 247:

"On the 18th of March, 1921, the Peace Treaty was signed. In accordance with its provisions Poland kept Galicia and part of White Ruthenia. However, the new Polish-Soviet frontier was far less advantageous for the Poles than the one which was proposed to Poland by the Soviet Government in April, 1920."

"The frontier determined after the Polish-Soviet war runs 50 to 100 kilometres to the west of the line which was suggested at the beginning of the war. This means that Soviet Russia emerged victorious even from this struggle against the forces of counter-revolution."

Prior to this War Poland rejected repeated German proposals to launch a joint attack on the Ukraine in the USSR. She paid a heavy penalty, for Germany (and later the Soviet Union itself) attacked Poland instead.

These are the two outstanding proofs that Poland had no ambition for expansion at the expense of the USSR.

Some say: "In 1919 Poland attacked prostrate Russia and grabbed her land": In 1919 Poland herself was extremely weak - after World War I fought on her territory, following four generations under foreign yoke which disabled her in organizing her own army, administration and finance. As compared to the USSR Poland's population was 6 times smaller, and her territory over 50 times smaller.

2. "THE CURZON LINE WAS THE SUGGESTED BORDER LINE BETWEEN POLAND AND THE USSR".

The Curzon Line was the suggested armistice line. It was recommended as a minimum (not maximum) ethnic eastern border for Poland. East of that line the population is mixed, but the Polish group is the largest, while the Russian - one of the smallest. Statistics are sometimes disputed. But the following fact surely is convincing: The first elections in Czarist Russia to the Duma in St. Petersburg (in 1906) returned - of the 24 members elected in the three Provinces now approximately constituting Eastern Poland - only 3 Russian members, but 17 Polish members!

Galicia was seized by Austria during the Eighteenth Century Partitions and has never in history been a part of Russia.

3. THE POLISH GOVERNMENT IS COMPOSED OF A "GROUP OF LANDOWNERS AND ARISTOCRATS".

Seldom, if ever, has Poland had a more democratic government. Prime Minister Mikolajczyk, the son of a small farmer, took the lead in rural co-operatives. Of the 13 Cabinet Members, 2 are peasants, 2 are labour men, 3 are newspapermen, 1 is a lawyer, 1 a soldier and 1 a career diplomat. Deputy Prime Minister Kwapiński was a farm hand who fought the Czar and was exiled to Siberia. The Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, Stanczyk, was a miner and labour leader. He was acclaimed by labour groups in Toronto. The Minister of the Interior, Banaczyk, was a small

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