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course, exists with regard to the attitude of the Yugoslav government towards their partisans. In the case of Poland the attitude of the Polish government is that open encouragement of resistance by the unfortunate inhabitants of occupied Poland would lead only to useless massacres. The broadcasts from London to Poland preaching patience to the Poles, however, come at a time when interference with German lines of communication in Eastern Europe would be of the greatest military value to the Soviet war effort.

18. Overshadowing all these factors in Soviet-Polish relations is the question of the post-war frontier. Certain members of the mixed team surrounding General Sikorski have been said to have made injudicious statements foreshadowing extravagant Polish territorial claims. I am also told that a memorandum has been circulated which has been attributed to sources close to the Polish Government. This memorandum while vague in regard to the East sets forth the arguments for the River Oder as the Western frontier which would give Poland parts of the German cities of Breslau and Stettin. Most Polish references to the Eastern frontier are purposely vague and are based on references to past history. The Counsellor of the Polish Embassy told Mr. Officer of the Australian Legation that all that Poland wants is her pre-1939 frontier with the Soviet Union, certain districts of Upper Silesia inhabited mostly by Poles and a small strip of territory in Pomerania in order to give more hinterland to the Port of Gdynia. He did not mention East Prussia which the Soviet authorities are willing to see go to Poland (see my despatch No.7 of March 26th, 1943).

19. The more immediate causes of friction and those referred to by the principals involved relate to the questions arising out of the execution of the Soviet-Polish Agreement of July 30th, 1941, particularly those relating to the release of Polish citizens and the relief organisation but while these are the most urgent problems from the Polish point of view it is evident that they are very minor in relation to the more fundamental issues involved.

20. The next development of importance in Soviet-Polish relations was the publication in Pravda on February 20th, 1943, of the translation of a signed article by Alexander Korneichuk, a well-known Ukrainian playwright. This article had originally appeared in a Ukrainian newspaper and bore the title "The Reunion of the Ukrainian people within the bosom of their own State." It criticised in no uncertain terms those Polish circles who still dream of and scheme for Polish rights to the Dnieper and the Black Sea, to Volhynia and the Ukraine, who denounce the entry of the U.S.S.R. into Europe as that of "a Eurasian Empire," who describe Poland as "between two usurping states" and who appear to have forgotten the way Polish land owners treated the Ukraine in the past and the way the Polish Government treated Polish Ukraine until 1939.

21. Alexander Korneichuk, the author of this article, was appointed Vice-Commissar for Foreign Affairs at the end of March. He is, therefore, a new force to be reckoned with on the Soviet scene and a brief sketch of his career would seem desirable at this stage. He is a Ukrainian, born near Kiev, and is about 41 years of age. Even before the war he was a well-known playwright and a prominent member of the Ukrainian Society of Authors. A few months ago he came into prominence as the author of a play called "Front", which is now one of the most popular plays being presented on the Soviet stage. I have seen this play and apart from its propaganda aspect it is excellent entertainment although entirely devoid of any love interest. The play is a caricature of a general who was prominent in the Civil war but who refuses to adapt himself to the lessons of modern warfare. It is generally believed that Marshall Budyenny was the inspiration for this character. Korneichuk took