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0 Ribbentrop-Molotov line could be classed as Polish citizens, and that it was only they who qualified for Polish relief under the last article of the Polish-Soviet pact of July 30, 1941.

General Sikorski's visit to Moscow in December of that year was undertaken chiefly on behalf of the hundreds of thousands of Polish deportees and refugees whom the Soviet government claimed as citizens of the Union. He made little progress, however. The Soviet government as a special concession offered to grant exemption from Soviet citizenship to persons of Polish descent who had come from east of the Ribbentrop-Molotov line, but it refused to make a similar concession in favour of persons of Jewish, Lithuanian, White Russian or Ukrainian descent. Sikorski refused the offer.

After more than a year of delay, in which several notes were exchanged on the subject, the Soviet government on January 16, 1943 withdrew its offer of December 1941 on the ground that the Polish National Council had made ^{territorial} demands incompatible with the sovereignty of the U.S.S.R. (see p. 4-5 above). The U.S.S.R. thus seemed to be settling unilaterally the question of where the Soviet-Polish frontier lay. The Polish opposition began to press for rupture of diplomatic relations with Moscow, but did not succeed in their efforts before the Russians themselves broke with Sikorski over the Katyn forest charges. Two days after Ambassador Romer was asked to leave Russia, the Polish government broadcast a plea in the name of United Nations solidarity and elementary humanity for the release from the U.S.S.R. of thousands of families of Polish armed forces in the Middle East and the United Kingdom and tens of thousands of Polish orphans and other children, for whose education the Polish Government wished to take full responsibility. The plea was merely for the record, however; Sikorski had little hope that it would receive attention in Moscow, ^{for} from January 1943 forward Molotov had refused to discuss the citizenship question with Ambassador Romer unless the latter would enter into negotiations concerning the