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CANADIAN LEGATION

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SECRET

Kuibyshev,
April 13th, 1943.

No.11

Sir,

The question of Soviet-Polish relations has been the foremost of the political questions receiving the attention of the Soviet Government during recent months. Since my arrival in the Soviet Union, I have been gathering material regarding this question which I propose to embody in this despatch with a view to giving you a review of Soviet-Polish relations since the outbreak of the Soviet-German war. A definitive despatch on this subject will help you to follow subsequent developments which I shall be reporting upon from time to time. It will also serve to throw some light on the Soviet attitude of mind towards the prosecution of the war and the settlement of post-war frontier questions. Furthermore this despatch will deal with certain aspects of the question of Ukrainian nationalism which is of interest to Canada.

2. The latest developments in Soviet-Polish relations indicate clearly that the Soviet Government is anxious to arrive at an early agreement with the Polish Government regarding the future Soviet-Polish frontier and in order to achieve this end they are taking advantage of the Polish anxiety about the welfare of the large number of Polish citizens in the Soviet Union.

3. Since returning at the end of February, from a visit to London, the Polish Ambassador has been endeavouring to deal with the two most urgent problems confronting the Polish Government in their relations with the Soviet Union, viz: (a) the Soviet declaration that the residents of the Polish territories occupied by the Soviet forces in 1939 are citizens of the Soviet Union; and (b) the question of relief for Polish citizens in the Soviet Union. The Ambassador has found an unwillingness on the part of the Soviet Government to discuss these questions unless the frontier question is dealt with at the same time. The Polish Government has not been prepared to enter into a discussion of future boundaries and matters have reached an impasse. The Ambassador is remaining in Moscow awaiting new instructions from his government.

4. Shortly after the German attack on the Soviet Union a Soviet-Polish agreement was signed in London on July 30th, 1941. This agreement provided for the re-establishment of diplomatic relations, the formation of a Polish army on Soviet soil, and the release of all Polish citizens detained on Soviet territory as prisoners of war or for other sufficient reasons. On the question of the future frontier the agreement contained a declaration to the effect that the "Soviet Government recognises the Soviet-German Treaties of 1939 as to territorial changes in Poland as having lost their validity."

5. The Soviet-Polish Agreement was acclaimed with approbation throughout the United Nations, but its execution has given

The Right Honourable
the Secretary of State for External Affairs,
Ottawa, Canada.