

the British high command needed reinforcements in the Middle East, and that the evacuation was effected in agreement with Soviet authorities. It seemed to the latter, however, that the Poles were over-anxious to leave, that heavy recruitment simply meant that the <sup>Poles</sup> wished to get as many of their number as possible out of the Soviet Union, and that the refusal of General Anders to let even one division fight on the Russian front was a direct violation of the 1941 military agreement. The Polish Patriots, soon after the departure of General Anders' forces, asked and received authorization to raise new Polish units to go into action beside their Russian brothers at the earliest possible moment, and Czechoslovaks who had escaped to the Soviet Union were already fighting against the Germans in a special battalion under the Soviet high command. The Polish government, by contrast, asked on April 28, 1943 for the release of all fighting Polish males still on Soviet soil, on the plea that they would be required as reinforcements for Polish troops in the Middle East.

In the United States the Herald Tribune once more came to the defence of the Poles. It observed that Russian pretensions to portions of Eastern Poland had played a large part in the tangle over the Polish army and its withdrawal from the U.S.S.R. - the implication being that it was too much to expect any Polish divisions to aid Russia in establishing domination over any part of their own homeland.

c. Status and relief of Polish civilians in the U.S.S.R. -  
On November 29, 1939 a decree was issued in Moscow conferring Soviet citizenship on all inhabitants of occupied Poland up to the Ribbentrop-Molotov line. From July 30, 1941 onward the Polish government naturally made strenuous efforts to locate and to care for such of these persons as had been deported to the Soviet Union and those who had reached it as refugees from German-occupied territory. The Polish government was seriously hampered in its efforts, however, by the Soviet contention that only those Poles who had come to the U.S.S.R. from points west of the