

Stalin gave Ralph Parker, New York Times correspondent, a letter asserting that the U.S.S.R. undeniably desires a strong and independent Poland after the defeat of Hitlerism, the relations of the new Poland with the Soviet Union to be based on solid good neighbourliness and mutual respect - or, if so desired, upon an alliance providing for mutual assistance against Germany. Even the long Vishinsky statement of May 7 reviewing Polish-Soviet difficulties over the Polish army, the legal status of Polish refugees and the organization of Polish relief, though it naturally angered the Polish government, did not quite erase the effects of Stalin's briefer, more friendly and more easily quotable declaration. It was expected that as soon as the Allies landed in Europe the Russian attitude would undergo a further change and the existing tension be considerably relieved. The dissolution of the Comintern, announced on May 23, was taken as an indication that such a trend had already set in.

There has, meanwhile, been a good deal of private comment in the United Kingdom on the extent to which Poles seem to rely on the British and Americans to guarantee their frontiers and maintain their security if trouble arises with the U.S.S.R. It is true that both the United States and United Kingdom governments prefer to make no definite territorial commitments during the war. But the fact that this fits in with Sikorski's desire to let the boundary issue stand over until the peace conference is no guarantee that at the peace conference either British or American representatives will insist on a re-establishment of the Riga frontier. Walter Lippmann on May 8 expressed a commonly held view when he stated that it would be dangerous for the United States to promise the Poles a support which in practice it could not keep up. Such an undertaking would fix in Russian minds the idea that western nations were their inveterate opponents. Poland must not be encouraged to think itself strong enough to have two great enemies. If it wished to be independent it must make an