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of Polish armies into Eastern Galicia and did little to restrain the Poles in the invasion of the Russian Ukraine which they presently undertook. In the summer of 1920, however, the tide of battle turned, and Soviet armies invading Poland from the north-east seemed to threaten the existence of the new Polish state. It was in this emergency that the United Kingdom Foreign Secretary suggested that the Poles and Russians accept a boundary defined in the north by the line accepted by the Supreme Council as a minimum eastern frontier for Poland and in Galicia by the extension of this line which had been suggested by the Commission and supported by the United Kingdom authorities (line A). The boundary thus suggested is the Curzon line.

The Treaty of Riga

The Soviet Government was unwilling to accept the mediation of the United Kingdom in regard to a boundary settlement, but offered instead to negotiate directly with the Poles for a settlement in some respects more favourable to the Polish claims than the Curzon line. Once more, however, there were sudden changes in the military situation. The Soviet armies fell back from Warsaw, and the Poles were able to come to terms with a greatly weakened Soviet Government. The settlement, embodied in the Treaty of Riga, March 1921, gave Eastern Galicia and a large section of White Russia to Poland. The Poles were also able to make good their claim to Vilna, which they had taken from Lithuania against the wishes of both the Lithuanians and the Soviets and which they held despite the protests of the allied powers. This solution to the problem, enforced by the military strength of the Poles supported by the French was regarded with great misgiving in many quarters, particularly in the United Kingdom. H.W.V. Temperley, for example, writing in 1924 in A History of the Peace Conference, made the following observation: