

part in the flight from Kiev and therefore must have seen the consequences of faulty Soviet strategy in the Ukraine. On this occasion he met and became attracted to a certain Wanda Wasilewska, a Polish communist. They are now living together as husband and wife.

22. The appointment of Korneichuk as Vice-Commisar for Foreign Affairs is generally regarded by the diplomatic corps here as a rebuff to the Poles, but I think they miss the wider Pan-Slav aims behind this appointment. Andrechin, a Soviet citizen of Bulgarian origin, who is allowed to circulate among the diplomatic corps, told the Swedish Minister that the appointment was made to appeal to Ukrainian sentiment as the Ukrainians are the most nationalistic of all the races composing the Soviet Union. He further stated that Korneichuk probably would be one of the Soviet representatives at the Peace Conference and would deal with Balkan and Central European questions.

23. The publication of Korneichuk's article in Pravda very nearly coincided with the return from London of the Polish Ambassador to resume negotiations with the Soviet Government. Since the article was a signed contribution and since at that time the author had no official connection with the Soviet Government there was really no need for the Polish Government to have paid any official attestation to it. Nevertheless they issued an official statement affirming their position as standing for the frontier which existed prior to September 1st, 1939, and invoking the Atlantic Charter in support of this position. This statement was published on February 25th, 1943. It brought forth an exceedingly provocative answer in the shape of a Tass statement which appeared in the Soviet press on March 2nd, 1943. In view of the interest of these two statements I am attaching as Annex "A" to this despatch a translation of the two statements as they appeared in the Kuibyshev newspaper. I would particularly like to draw your attention to the third paragraph from the end of the Soviet statement which appeals to the Slav peoples not to quarrel among themselves, since I regard this as another indication of the Pan-Slav tendency of Soviet policy which is now commencing to be so manifest. Another interesting feature of the Soviet statement is the reference to Lord Curzon. You will also find in this statement the Soviet attitude on the question of Ukrainian nationalism.

24. In the meantime the Polish Ambassador had returned to Moscow and on the evening of February 26th, 1943, he saw Stalin, who appeared to be conciliatory and to be prepared to reopen the question of Polish refugees without discussing the frontier question. Stalin referred to the statement of the Polish Government which had just been published in London (unknown to the Ambassador) and said that the Soviet Government would publish their reply and then cease public discussion of the subject. On March 9th, 1943, the Ambassador had an interview with Mr. Molotov, the Foreign Commissar. He found him in a friendly mood although stubborn on the subject of the citizenship of people from that part of Poland which had been occupied by the Soviet forces in 1939. Molotov was most anxious to discuss the frontier question rather than the question of Polish citizens in the Soviet Union. Mr. de Romer explained that he had no authority to do this whereupon Molotov reluctantly agreed to discuss modifications of the applications of the citizenship decree and specific cases of Polish refugees but he kept reverting to the view that the proper solution of the difficulties was to settle first of all the frontier question. The Polish Ambassador was in a most difficult position. He had no authority from his government to discuss the frontier question and realised that it would be impossible for the Polish Government to agree now to any diminution of the national territory. He hoped, therefore, that it would be possible for him to bring about a discussion of specific cases particularly those of wives and children of Poles serving with Polish forces in the Middle East and elsewhere.