







# English Section

## Finland a Symbol of Moral Default

Betrayal to Russia Has Been Too Long Ignored, Writer Believes

By THE OBSERVER

A symbol of the strange course international relations have assumed ever since Moscow was permitted to take leadership in world affairs is Finland. Proverbial for her honesty and once considered the most reliable friend the United States possessed in Europe, this small Nordic democracy is downtrodden and forgotten.

Since the principal Soviet push in Europe is now in another direction, Finland is accordingly in a more remote place on the Soviet time table than, let us say, Germany or France. Nevertheless she is completely at the mercy of Moscow.

Whenever the Soviet policy decides to tighten its grip on the Finnish people and accomplish their final sovietization, no means are left to the people for self-defense. Thus it is only the matter of Russian whim when Finland will fully share the fate of Hungary, Poland, Romania, and Bulgaria.

The moral tenacity of the Finnish people is really amazing. Not only do they continue paying their installments of the old loan in the United States, but they are already now preparing themselves psychologically to fulfill with the same exactitude the heavy peace treaty terms imposed on Finland by the Soviets and the Allies.

This writer had the opportunity to talk quite recently with an outstanding representative of the Finnish people now in the United States. His opinion is that the terms of the Finnish treaty deliver the country mercilessly to Soviet domination. Especially the economic conditions make Finland a slave of Russia.

### Reparations Extravagant

Finland was never a Fascist state nor was she an ally of Germany. She was twice the victim of Soviet aggression. This is something the peace treaty does not recognize, treating her as though she were the most dangerous Axis partner. Finland, a nation of seven million population, has to pay 300 million dollars in reparations, an equal sum to that imposed on Italy, a nation with 30 million people. Although Finland was attacked by Russia, she had to waive all her claims to compensation for the damage and destruction caused by indiscriminate Soviet bombing.

"But we shall pay everything on the dot," he said, "even though we have to reduce our standard of living to the barest necessities of life." Finland is now working almost exclusively for the Soviets. Before the war her volume of trade with Russia was negligible, 1/2% of the total export. The bulk of the 125 million dollars Finnish export was going to the West.

One effect of this unequalled burdensome reparation on Finland is that her trade with Western Europe and the United States has dwindled to a mere trickle. What little non-Soviet trade remains, must go for raw material imports used in the manufacture of goods destined for Russia. The whole Finnish economy has had to be reorganized in order to meet the Soviet demands for reparations in industrial goods.

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From a moral aspect the Finnish case is especially revolting. Finland's heroic resistance to Russian aggression in 1939 won her the admiration of the world. On February 11, 1940, President Roosevelt praised the Finnish people "in their effort to stave off invasion," while Winston Churchill said: "Only Finland—superb, nay sublime—in the jaws of peril. Finland shows what free men can do. The service rendered by Finland to mankind is magnificent."

Yet, a few years later, to please Russia, Great Britain with Finland, while the United States brutally expelled the Finnish minister in Washington one week before his wife bore a child. This was ironically called in the capital: the Department of State's war on expectant mothers.

### Refuse Alliance with Nazis

There is widespread misconception even now about Finland's alleged siding with the Axis. After the experience of 1939, her only objective was to stay neutral and avoid another destructive war. Since Finland was forced by Russia to grant the right of transit to Soviet troops across Finnish territory, in order to avoid Nazi attack, she had to give similar rights to the German troops. Despite Nazi pressure, the Finnish government stubbornly refused to sign an alliance. However, afraid that the Soviets and Germans might join hands for her destruction, in self-defense she had to remain armed. This was given as an excuse by Russia for launching a new attack on Finland in 1941.

The day Hitler attacked the Soviet Union the Department of State announced: "Germany attacks Russia, the latter bombs Finland." Molotov himself admitted Russia was the aggressor. This is the Finnish "war guilt" for which she is being punished by the present peace treaty.

Although the Soviet system has not been fully introduced to Finland yet, Communists control the key ministries of Justice, Interior, Defense and Police. The Communists obtained only 25% of the votes in the elections, but in reality they rule the country. When, this Spring, the rise of anti-Communist feelings induced the Parliament to suggest a change in the government with the ouster of Communist ministers, Gen. Zhdanov personally intervened, announcing that any change in the government would be considered a hostile act by Russia. The plans of reform had to be abandoned.

Thousands of people are in prison, many have been deported to Russia, and the Parliament was forced to surrender 2,000 army officers to the Soviet Union. With the appearance of independence, Finland lives in constant fear of Russia and must accord every step of her policy with Moscow. Honest little Finland pays her debts, but what about the American moral debt to the Finns? Will it continue to be forgotten?

## IN DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS

(Reprinted from "Current News on the Lithuanian Situation," compiled by Lithuanian Legation, Washington, D. C. Vol. V, No. 5-6, Dec., 1946)

(Continued from last week)

### 3. SYMPATHIES TO "LIBERATED" LITHUANIA

#### President Truman Expresses Sympathy to Lithuanians

A delegation of Lithuanian American democratic leaders and representatives of various patriotic organizations was received by President Truman at the White House on October 29, 1946. A memorandum for Lithuania's liberation from the Soviet yoke was submitted. According to "Lithuanian Bulletin," New York, N. Y., Vol. IV, No. 3, of October, 1946:

... The President discussed the plight of refugees and displaced persons. . . (He) expressed his great sympathy for the refugees and mentioned his plan to ask Congress to take responsibility for our share of the numbers of refugees. . .

President Truman reaffirmed his Administration's attachment to the principles of justice for all nations, large and small. . . The president reassured the delegates that his Administration's policy regarding the Baltic States did not change, cannot change, and will not change. . . He expressed his hope that eventually this country will be able to appeal on the problem brought before him by the delegation.

... On parting, the President authorized the delegates to state that he discussed the problem of refugees and displaced persons, that he heard the delegation's appeal for the Baltic States, and that he was very sympathetic.

#### Statement of Republican National Committee

Lithuanian American Republican leaders, on the invitation of the Republican National Committee, had conferences with the leaders of the American Republican Party in Washington, D. C., on October 12, 1946. On that occasion the Republican National Committee issued a special statement calling for the restoration of the independence of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia.

We quote from the news release of the Republican National Committee, dated October 12, 1946:

(To be continued)

## Letter Recalls Fate of Baltics

Britain Urged Not to Recognize Aggression in New Treaty

LONDON, June 30.—Bishop Edward Myers, Auxiliary of Westminster, is one of the signatories of a letter which appeared in the London "Times" expressing the hope that any negotiations that may take place in Moscow in regard to amendments of the British treaty of alliance with Soviet Russia may not result in de jure recognition of Russia's annexations of the Baltic States, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia.

The treaty, which was signed in the desperate days of the German onslaught on Russia, is at present being revised by British and Soviet delegates in Moscow.

The signatories stated that "in view of the fact that the annexations were a flagrant violation of treaties in which Russia 'unreservedly recognized' the independence and sovereignty of these States and renounced 'voluntarily and for ever all sovereign rights' over them, we feel strongly that, though it has not been possible to withhold de facto recognition, to take the further step would mean a definite and serious lowering of our standards of international morality.

"Unless nations observe treaties solemnly entered into, what hope is there of future peace? And once Germany was defeated, what had Russia to fear from these countries?"

The other signatories are all well-known British thinkers, including Sir Ernest Barker, Professor Gilbert Murray and the Anglican Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral, London.

### Americans Attend Film Congress in Brussels

BRUSSELS, June 30.—A four-day Catholic Film Congress, held in conjunction with the World Festival of Films and Fine Arts, came to a close here June 22 with a Pontifical Mass celebrated by Cardinal Van Roey.

The Congress was addressed by Paul van Zeeland, former Prime Minister of Belgium, who spoke on "The Cinema and Its Place in the World." Among those attending the Congress were Msgr. John J. McClafferty, of New York, and William H. Mooring, editor of the column "Hollywood in Focus."

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