

# KERENSKY ASSAILS STALIN'S INVASION

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## Appeals to Americans Not to Confuse Attack on Finns With Real Russian Wishes

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## DENIES EMIGRES APPROVE

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## Former Premier Emphasizes the Masses Are in Ignorance of Kremlin's Move

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Alexander Kerensky, former Russian Premier and leader of the 1917 revolution that led to the overthrow of the Czarist regime, issued a statement yesterday appealing to American public opinion "not to confuse Stalin's invasion of Finland with the real wishes of the Russian people."

"All of us Russian democrats and true Russian patriots protest against the shameful and dishonorable action of Stalin in Finland," Mr. Kerensky said. "Protected by the German Army in consequence of his alliance with Hitler, Stalin has ruthlessly invaded a little, peaceful, democratic country.

"Some European newspapers and politicians have ventured to say that the invasion of Finland has the support of the Russian people and even of Russian émigrés abroad. I emphatically protest against this misinterpretation of the sentiments of the Russian people, both inside and outside of Russia. It is wholly unjust to confuse Russia with the Bolshevik dictatorship and the Russian people with the followers of Stalin.

"Contrary to those foreigners who, to the very last moment before the conclusion of Stalin's pact with Hitler, had regarded Stalin as a defender of democracy and peace, we Russian democrats never made this mistake. The Russian people have never entertained any sentiments with regard to Stalin that were not the sentiments of condemnation and hatred.

### Stresses Opposition to Stalin

"He has filled the concentration camps to overflowing. His executions have been innumerable. The

discontent with the Stalin regime had penetrated even to the higher circles in the army, navy and air force.

"The cables from Moscow now show clearly that Stalin's assault on Finland is being carried out not only without the consent of the Russian people but even without their knowledge. They are being kept in almost complete ignorance of the Kremlin's moves."

Mr. Kerensky pointed out that the relations between the Russian people and the Finns had always been friendly and that even under the czars, during the nineteenth century, Finland had enjoyed a large measure of self-government,

"Only a few years before the outbreak of the war in 1914," he continued, "the degenerate government of Nicholas II had sought to interfere with Finland's autonomy, but in those dark years Russian public opinion had strongly supported, as always, Finland's struggle against the autocratic government.

"After the overthrow of the Czarist regime in March, 1917, the new democratic government of Russia granted Finland complete self-government, leaving the question of formal independence to be decided by the Constituent Assembly, which was, however, forcibly suppressed by Lenin on the very first day of its existence.

"The Bolsheviks falsify history, as they do everything else, when they claim to have granted independence to Finland. The Finns compelled them to grant this independence by force of arms, when they defeated the Bolshevik uprising in Finland engineered by Lenin and Trotsky in 1918."

### Blames Moscow For Dispute

Mr. Kerensky said that while it was true that Russia's strategic position on the Baltic and Finnish frontiers became untenable after the treaty of Brest-Litovsk, "peaceful revision of these frontiers would have been entirely possible if Russia had a democratic government actuated only by legitimate Russian national interests."

"The organization by Moscow of a puppet Finnish Government on the border of Finland, composed wholly of Joseph Stalin's agents in the Comintern and the OGPU, shows clearly that his invasion of Finland has nothing in common with Russian national interests," Mr. Kerensky said. "On the contrary, this shameful and unprovoked attack on a little nation dishonors the name of Russia and offers an opportunity to the enemies of the Russian people to arouse hostility against my country, which remains the victim of the most barbarous totalitarian regime in Europe."