

In People's Commissariat Of Foreign Affairs

COMRADE Lezovsky, Assistant People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs, on Jan. 17 handed Mr. von Eiler, Charge d'Affaires of Sweden, the reply of the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs to the note of the Swedish Government of Jan. 16 of this year, in which the latter lodged a protest regarding the fact that Soviet planes had flown over the Swedish island of Kalax, not far from the city of Lulea, on Jan. 14, and allegedly dropped bombs. The Swedish Government asked the Government of the USSR to take measures to avoid a repetition of such occurrences in the future.

The People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs stated in reply to this note that according to information available, two Soviet planes did actually fly by accident across the Swedish frontier as a result of difficulties in orientating themselves exactly owing to a heavy snowstorm. The Soviet Government expressed regret for what

had happened.

On Jan. 17, the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs also tendered the Norwegian mission in Moscow a note in reply to the latter's notes of Jan. 15 and 16, in which a protest was lodged against the flight of Soviet planes across the Norwegian frontier on Jan. 12 and 14 in the Svanvik-Vaggetem district.

The People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs stated in its note that according to information available, three accidental flights across the Norwegian frontier were actually made by Soviet planes on Jan. 12 and 14, to be explained solely by the unfavorable atmospheric conditions, which made orientation difficult for the pilots. The Soviet Government expressed its regret for what had happened.

Denial of Headquarters Of Leningrad Military Area

1. The British newspaper "Daily Herald," reports that the Soviet air forces have inflicted serious damage to one of the working-class district, of Helsinki. This report does not conform to the facts. The air forces of the Red Army have not bombed and are not bombing the city of Helsinki and, all the more so, the working-class districts of that city.

2. The German Transocean Agency reports that Vinogradov, commander of 44th Soviet Division, has allegedly been found frozen to death in the Suomussalmi section by Finnish troops. This report also does not conform to the facts. Division Commander Vinogradov is in the district of the 44th Division.

TASS Denial

The German newspaper, "Frankfurter Zeitung," alleged in its issue of Dec. 29, 1939, which was recently received in Moscow, in an article on the history of the Finnish province of Petsamo that "the return of the Petsamo province is one of the most important demands which were presented to Finland and of which Molotov spoke in his speech of Oct. 31."

TASS is authorized to declare that the Soviet Government has never presented a demand for the return of the Petsamo province to the Soviet Union and that Comrade Molotov said nothing of the kind either in his speech of Oct. 31 or in any other speech. The said statement of the "Frankfurter Zeitung" is an invention.