

FINLAND REJECTS WARNING OF U.S.

Polite Note Says Russia Still Holds Some Areas Vital to National Security

By The Associated Press.

HELSINKI, Finland, Wednesday, Nov. 12—The Finnish Government rejected today the United States' warning to stop fighting Russia or risk loss of American friendship.

In a polite note to Washington, disclosed today, the Helsinki regime asserted that Finland did not want to continue the fight any longer than her vital security demanded, but that she could not agree to expose herself to future peril by interrupting military operations before her objective was wholly realized.

This message was in response to the warning that Cordell Hull, United States Secretary of State, disclosed in Washington on Nov. 3.

The Finnish reply said the defensive nature of the Finnish struggle was not altered by Finnish efforts to "make harmless and to man the enemy's attack bases beyond the 1939 borders."

Since going to war against Russia last June 26 Finland has gained back substantially all the territory she was forced to concede to Russia after the Winter war of 1939-40, with important exceptions.

Justice Not Doubted

If Finland had possessed enough strength, she would have crossed the borders to get at these bases in the Winter war, the Finnish note said, and "surely nobody would have doubted the justice of the Finnish operations."

It went on to state that vital Finnish areas remained in Russian hands, including the Rybachi Peninsula, whose guns control Petsamo, Finland's only port on an open ocean; outer islands in the Gulf of Finland, and above all the Hangoe Peninsula on the southwest tip of Finland, which controls shipping in the Gulf and from which the Russians still make air raids on South Finland.

The government again denied ever having received Russian peace proposals.

Territory in East Karelia occupied by Finnish forces is populated mostly by Finns, it added.

The New York Times

Published: November 12, 1941

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