

OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF THE USSR

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Speaker: Vyacheslav Molotov, People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs

Subject: The Situation in Poland and the Soviet Intervention

The Polish State has in fact ceased to exist. The collapse of that state has removed the guarantee of the existence of the treaties concluded between the USSR and Poland. The Soviet Government, which has always been and remains a friend of Poland, cannot remain indifferent to the fact that the Polish state, which was the basis of the Versailles Treaty, has collapsed, and that the 15 million Ukrainians and 12 million Belarusians living in Poland have been left without protection.

The Polish Government has demonstrated by its flight and by its talks with the German Government that it has lost all capacity to carry out the functions of the state and to guarantee the preservation of the life and property of its own citizens.

The Red Army, aware that the Polish State has ceased to exist and that the Polish Government has dissolved, and aware that it is the only power that can guarantee the safety and security of the population of Western Ukraine and Western Belarus, has decided to cross the border and take under its protection the life and property of the population of these regions.

The Soviet Government has ordered the Red Army to cross the border and to take under its protection the life and property of the population of Western Ukraine and Western Belarus. The Soviet Government has no intention of seizing any part of Polish territory, nor does it seek to change the existing situation. The Soviet Government is convinced that the Polish people will welcome the Red Army as liberators and that they will find in the Soviet Union a friendly and reliable ally.

The Soviet Government is ready to conclude a treaty of friendship and mutual assistance with the Polish Government, if such a government can be formed. But until such a government is formed, the Soviet Government considers it necessary to take the necessary measures to protect the population of Western Ukraine and Western Belarus.

End of Statement.