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XXI. Severance of Diplomatic Relations With Finland

(The Department of State Bulletin, Vol. XI, No. 262, July 2, 1944)

On June 30 the following note was delivered to Mr. Alexander Thesleff, Chargé d'Affaires of Finland:

JUNE 30, 1944.

SIR:

On June 27, 1944, the Finnish Government made the following announcement:

"The German Foreign Minister von Ribbentrop has concluded his visit to the Finnish Government.

"During this visit questions of interest to Finland and Germany were discussed, especially Finland's expressed desire with respect to military aid. The German Government has declared itself prepared to comply with this wish of the Finnish Government.

"The discussions which were conducted between the President of the Finnish Republic Ryti and Foreign Minister Ramsay on one side and the German Foreign Minister on the other, are sustained by the spirit which has its roots in the comradeship in arms between the armies and the existing friendship between the two peoples.

"Complete agreement and understanding were reached on all points between the Finnish Government and the German Government."

The Finnish Government has thus formally admitted to the world that it has now entered a hard and fast military partnership with Nazi Germany irrevocable throughout the war, for the purpose of fighting the Allies of the United States, in alliance with the enemies of the United States. This action was taken without recourse to the established

democratic procedure of Finland, and responsibility for the consequences must rest solely on the Finnish Government.

The American Government is not unaware of the fact that the infiltration of German troops into Finland, with the consent of the Finnish Government and German infiltration into the councils of the Finnish Government have deprived Finland of liberty of action and reduced the Government of the Republic of Finland to the condition of a puppet of Nazi Germany.

This necessarily changes the status of the Finnish Government. The United States, up to the present, has taken every opportunity, publicly and through diplomatic representations, to warn the Finnish Government of the inevitable consequences of continuing its association with Nazi Germany. These warnings have been ignored, and the partnership is now complete.

The Government of the United States must take into account the fact that at this decisive stage in the combined operations of the military, naval and air forces of the United States and the other United Nations, the Finnish operations have a direct bearing on the success of the Allied effort. Notwithstanding the esteem in which the American people have held the people of Finland, further relations between the Government of the United States and the Government of Finland are now impossible.

The American Chargé d'Affaires in Helsinki has therefore been instructed to request passports for himself and for the members of his staff and their families.

The American Government is requesting the Swiss Government to assume immediately the representation of American interests in Finland.

Accept [etc.]

CORDELL HULL

The Chargé d'Affaires of Finland was handed his passport at 11 a. m. June 30 by Mr. George T. Summerlin, Special Assistant to the Secretary of State.

Arrangements will be made as soon as possible, on a basis of reciprocity, for the repatriation of Mr. Thesleff, his family, and the members of the Legation staff. Meanwhile, they will be treated with all appropriate personal courtesies although necessarily their activities will be restricted.