

WAR

Finland

It brought least comfort of all to the Finns. For almost a month that sturdy little nation of 3,000,000 has been keeping its army of 300,000 mobilized on its Russian frontier.

Last week the third Finnish mission was in Moscow, still saying "No" to Russian demands for the port of Hango (which the Finns had mined), for Petsama, Finland's only ice-free Arctic port, and for Finnish territory on the border near Leningrad where Finns have the third strongest fortifications in Europe. Said Finnish Foreign Minister Eljas Erkkö: "When one has already ceded two-thirds of what is asked, there must come a point where an independent State must stop."

From the Soviet newspaper *Pravda* this firm reply excited screams of rage. The statement, it said, "cannot be appraised otherwise than an appeal for war with the U. S. S. R."

Though the Finns refused to scare, sticking firmly to their "No" when any proposals were made that would limit Finnish independence, it was felt that their real hope for safety lay in the fact that Russia, desiring to turn her attention elsewhere, might conclude a mild and speedy agreement.

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