

The Ambassador in the Soviet Union (Steinhardt) to the Secretary of State

MOSCOW, December 2, 1939—
5 p.m.

[Received December 2—2:32
p.m.]

998. The Swedish Minister has just called to see me and in the course of our conversation stated that he had been authorized yesterday by his Government to undertake the representation of Finnish interests in Moscow and that he expected to call at the Commissariat for Foreign Affairs later this afternoon for the purpose of inquiring whether this would be agreeable to the Soviet Government. He and I are of the opinion that the Soviet Government will decline to permit a third power to represent Finnish interests in Moscow on the grounds that the Soviet Government has now recognized the Kuusinen government and has announced its intention of exchanging diplomatic representation with that government. The Minister expressed the opinion that the lack of communication between the Finnish Legation in Moscow and the Helsinki Government accounted for the instructions received by him from his Government in conflict with the action of the Finnish Minister in Moscow as reported in my No. 987, December 1, 6 p. m.

The Swedish Minister has promised to advise me later in the day of the answer received by him from the Soviet authorities.

STEINHARDT

Source: Foreign relations of the United States. Diplomatic papers. 1939. Volume I. General. (CONCERN OF THE UNITED STATES OVER SOVIET DEMANDS ON FINLAND AND THE OUTBREAK OF THE WINTER WAR). Department of State 1956, publ. 6242. (*University of Wisconsin Digital Collections*)