

Russia Quits Fair; Finns to Stay; Reds to Raze \$4,000,000 Pavilion

Moscow Orders Withdrawal Without Giving Explanation—Building Must Be Down in 90 Days—No Comment by Fair

Soviet Russia has withdrawn from the 1940 New York World's Fair, and its pavilion, which was both a magnet for visitors and a center of stormy controversy at the 1939 exposition, must be razed within ninety days, Fair officials announced yesterday.

Following receipt of orders from Moscow, which gave no explanation for the withdrawal, the Fair issued a permit yesterday authorizing the Russians to begin demolition of their pavilion, which is one of the largest, costliest and most ornate structures in the entire foreign area. The Fair said it understood that the marble, granite and steel building, topped by the now-famous statue of a worker holding aloft a red star, would be dismantled piece by piece and shipped back to Moscow, where it would be reassembled.

Outside of confirmation of the withdrawal and discussion of the details, there were no explanations forthcoming either from Fair or Soviet officials. Fair administrative officials made no statement expressing regret or other sentiments, while Soviet spokesmen maintained a similar taciturnity.

Moscow, a Soviet spokesman declared, merely said to tear down the building, giving no explanation of why it was ordering the withdrawal. Its representatives here, the spokesman said, will carry out

orders without seeking to interpret their government's motives.

It was asserted by the Fair, however, and confirmed by the Russians, that the Soviet decision not to participate in the 1940 exposition was cabled here several days ago, before Russia, actually attacked Finland. The announcement was withheld until yesterday, when the demolition permit was issued.

In contrast to the Soviet action, it was reiterated yesterday by a spokesman for Y. A. Paloheimo, acting Finnish Commissioner to the Fair, that Finland still intends to return to the 1940 Fair. It had been announced at the close of the Fair that Finland planned to exhibit again next year despite the difficulties that even then were looming, and the Finnish office said yesterday that the decision remained unchanged.

The Fair's announcement said it had been officially notified that "Soviet Russia has declined President Roosevelt's invitation for participation in the 1940 Fair" and that "no reason has been given for this withdrawal."

Knox Burnett, chief participant engineer of the Fair, sent the demolition permit to the office of G. N. Zaroubin, Soviet Deputy Commissioner to the Fair. The Fair

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said that its original contracts with all foreign exhibitors contained a provision that buildings must be razed within ninety days after issuance of such permits and, accordingly, the Soviet Pavilion must be torn down not later than March 1.

No Contract Let

The Soviet commission already has taken bids for demolition, but no contract has been let, the announcement revealed.

"It is understood," it said, "that the exhibit, including most of the building itself, such as marble, granite and structural steel, as well as the statue and the star on top of the building, will be reassembled."

The contract stipulates that the building must be demolished to the ground line and that the foundation must be demolished to a point four feet underground. The excavation then must be filled to the ground level.

If any part of the exhibit remains at the end of ninety days, it becomes the property of the Fair, and the Fair corporation may dispose of it as it sees fit, and may even charge the exhibitor for demolition costs, the announcement pointed out.

The Soviet Building and grounds cover approximately 100,000 square feet. The building alone takes up nearly 60,000 square feet. Though the Russians never announced the cost, the value of the Soviet Building and its exhibits has been estimated at from \$4,000,000 to \$6,000,000.

Not only the main Soviet Pavilion, where the accomplishments of the Russian workers under the communistic regime were so glowingly displayed this past season, but the Soviet section in the Fair's Hall of Nations and the separate Soviet Arctic Pavilion are affected. At the Soviet Pavilion, Joel Shubin,

press representative, said yesterday that the Arctic exhibits already had been shipped back to Russia, while other exhibits now are being packed.

The Soviet Pavilion, towering high above every building in the foreign area, admittedly captured and held the spotlight in the international zone during the 1939 season and, at the close of the Fair, Soviet officials said that 16,500,000 visitors had visited their building since its formal opening on May 17.

Drew Much Comment

The Soviet Pavilion provoked considerable comment. Much of it was favorable, but there also were bitter criticisms from numerous Catholic, patriotic and veterans' organizations. It was attacked as a "living lie" by a Catholic sodality group official last July, while only ten days ago Homer L. Chailluax, national Americanism director of the American Legion, declared it should not be permitted to display its "elaborate propaganda" again at the 1940 Fair.

At the close of the Fair, the City Board of Estimate fell into a bitter row when Borough President George U. Harvey of Queens and Borough President James J. Lyons of the Bronx objected to Russia's inclusion in a resolution of thanks to nations that had participated in the Fair. Even yesterday, Newbold Morris, President of the City Council and a member of the Fair's board of directors, attacked Russia on hearing of the withdrawal.

"Russia ought to run in shame," he declared. "They came over here to the World's Fair and gave us a lot of hokum about minority rights and the rights of the people to express themselves. Anybody who thinks the Soviet Government is interested in the rights of the workingman is crazy. Russia and Germany combined will give the world an example of 225,000,000 economic slaves working at sweatshop levels to break down the economy and decent living conditions of the civilized world."

The Russians, however, courted both criticism and compliments. In one of the pavilion exhibit rooms was a register. Visitors were invited to write their impressions of the pavilion. The pavilion officials removed the signed pages nearly

every day, so no long-range survey could be made by unofficial observers, but the officials contended that the comments were almost unanimously favorable. It was noticed, however, that there was a sharp increase in the number of bitterly worded criticisms after the Soviet-Nazi non-aggression pact. All these comments, Soviet officials said, were translated into Russian and forwarded to Moscow.

The Soviet Pavilion, semi-circular in design, elaborately carved and built around a central court laid out as an amphitheatre, dominated the entire foreign area because of its central red marble column, surmounted by the 79-foot statue in stainless steel of a worker holding aloft a red star. Only the Fair's Trylon and the parachute jump in the Amusement Area rose higher than the Soviet column. Early in the Fair's history it was forced to fly a United States flag atop the parachute jump when protests came in about the red star being higher than the Stars and Stripes.

Filled With Art Objects

The pavilion itself was crammed with art objects, including a seven-ton Soviet map studded with diamonds and rubies; vivid paintings depicting happy workers, heroic statues of Stalin and Lenin and many dioramas and films showing industrial progress under communism. One wing housed a lavish restaurant, where waiters were for-

bidden to take tips, while another housed a cinema. It was at this cinema that the anti-Nazi film, "Professor Mamlock," was withdrawn immediately after the signing of the Nazi-Russian pact.

In saluting America in a broadcast from Moscow on Jan. 28, 1939, President Mikhail Kalinin of the U.S.S.R. said that the Soviet Union was participating because it felt the Fair would serve the "lofty purpose" of fortifying the "international collaboration so necessary to safeguard peace."

In dedicating the pavilion on May 17, Ambassador Constantine Oumansky stressed the peaceful aims of his country, declaring that it felt a kinship with the United States because "both nations view with horror and repulsion the orgy of aggression and lawlessness" and "both are in sympathy with the victims of aggression."

When H. A. Tikhomirnov, Soviet Commissioner General to the Fair, sailed for Moscow shortly before the close of the season, he announced that officials were highly pleased with the first year's results and that he would strongly recommend renewed participation. Yesterday's announcement was the first indication that the Soviet would not return.

Fair officials said that the Russian Pavilion, which will leave a large hole in its corner of the foreign area, will be the first of the 1939 buildings to be razed. Though several of the smaller foreign exhibitors have withdrawn, the Netherlands is the only other large exhibitor to announce its withdrawal, and the Fair still is working on a plan to save the Netherlands building.

Even with the Fair closed, the Russian Pavilion has continued to attract attention. Its central column, because of its height, is viewed as an aviation hazard, so the red star has been kept alight as a warning signal. It still burned last night and "will continue to burn every night until it comes down," a pavilion attaché said yesterday.