

Soviet Russia's Drive on "Undesirables"

ENEMIES AT HOME are the present objective of the Soviet Government.

Frontier districts, munition centers, political capitals, and other places of prime military significance are being "cleansed of elements from whom an invader might draw support or sympathy."

All "former people," by which Soviet term is understood ex-aristocrats, ex-priests, ex-merchants, and the like, will be driven away from regions where they might be dangerous, and with them the kulaks and near-kulaks, who have fled from the farms, as also private traders.

Millions of inhabitants of regions under suspicion, reports Eugene Lyons in a Moscow United Press cable, are being sifted and tested to discover which are "undesirables," and he explains:

"The decrees for passportization provide the Kremlin with the apparatus for this extraordinary revision of its population.

"When passports were first introduced for all residents of Moscow, Leningrad, and Kharkov, the three largest centers in the Soviet Union, it was generally accepted as a method for reducing the swollen populations of those cities."

But a close study of the list of cities, towns, and regions from which "undesirables" must be driven, this Moscow correspondent avers, makes the character of the decree as a war measure indubitable.

COMMENTING on the "cleansing period," which runs from June first to the end of November, *Pravda*, official organ of the Central Committee of the Communist party in Moscow, has this to say:

"In the last two and a half years, the rapid growth of the political consciousness of the proletarian and peasant masses has resulted in an equally rapid growth of our party. Its membership has increased from 1,400,000 to 3,200,000 men (2,000,000 of them being active members and 1,200,000 candidates).