

Russia's Mighty Army

Premier Vyacheslav M. Molotov pictured the Soviet Union as a lusty young giant strong enough to defend itself from both



A typical Red Army soldier

the East and the West in the keynote speech at the opening at Moscow, on January 30, of the Seventh All-Union Congress of Soviets—the Soviet Parliament.

In proof of this claim it was shown that in the last two years the Soviet Government had increased the strength of the Red Army from 562,000 men in 1932 to 940,000 in 1934. Announcement of this fact by Mikhail N. Tukhachevsky, Assistant Commissar for Defense, was greeted with shouts of approval from the 2,000 delegates to the Congress filling the old throne-room of the great Kremlin Palace.

For twenty minutes they cheered Joseph V. Stalin, General Secretary of the Communist Party, and Klementi E. Voroshilov, Defense Commissar, who were on the dais. At times the delegates sang verses of revolutionary songs.

The Red Army, as Moscow dispatches noted, is shown from the figures issued at the Congress to be far and away the largest standing army in the world. Tukhachevsky's report told of formidable increases in all types of armament, including concrete fortifications on the borders.

● Russia and Japan

This strengthening, he said, was because of intensive preparations for war against Russia by capitalist countries. The defense budget for 1934, he said, had been fixed at 1,665,000,000 rubles. But the actual expenditure during the year was 5,000,000,000 rubles. The defense budget for the current year, he added, called for 6,500,000,000 rubles.

Yet great as were the increases in the outlay, he explained, Russian military expenditures were smaller than those of many other States, and only 10 per cent. of the total budget. Japan's military budget was 46 per cent. of the total and Poland's, 40 per cent.

Toward the end of November last year, the Japanese Cabinet, after an all-night discussion of the 1935-36 budget, approved the largest military and naval funds in Japan's history.