

## Hull Calls Charges Falsehood

Secretary Hull yesterday termed "monstrous and diabolical falsehoods" charges he said had been made by Drew Pearson, columnist and radio commentator, that Hull and other high State Department officials wished the Soviet Union "to be bled white."

The Secretary of State opened his press conference, without waiting for questions, by reading the following statement:

"I do not ordinarily take notice of attacks made either on the State Department or myself. When these attacks, however, concern our relations with an Allied government, I must take notice of them.

"I am informed that recently Drew Pearson published over the radio and the press the charge that I and other high officials in the State Department are opposed to the Soviet government and that we actually wish the Soviet Union to be bled white.

"I desire to brand these statements as monstrous and diabolical falsehoods."

Last week Hull said in a statement which did not name individuals that some writers and commentators were "lending aid and comfort to the enemy" by making untrue statements about international relations of the United States.

Pearson, commenting on the Secretary's statement, said:

"I hope that Mr. Hull's denial of my charge that he is anti-Russian will stand up better than his recent denial that Sumner Welles would resign.

"Unfortunately, Mr. Hull does not explain why he kept the Russian Ambassador to the exiled governments cooling his heels in London for two months, refusing him passports to confer with the French exiled government in North Africa. Since North African political affairs are dominated by the United States, Ambassador Bogmolov couldn't have been held up by the British foreign office alone.

"Also, Mr. Hull failed to explain why the Italian armistice terms prepared by the United States and Britain immediately after Badoglio came into power were not communicated to Russia.

"As one of our most important allies, Russia had every right to be consulted regarding proposed terms for surrender of a major Axis power, and no one can blame Russia for being irked by this snub.

"If we are worried over Russia making a separate peace, we certainly should not set the example by proposing a separate peace ourselves."