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Meeting of the New Estonian Parliament

In the elections on 18 March, nationalists of various parties are reported to have won 78 of the new Estonian Supreme Soviet's 105 seats. This gives them more than the two-thirds majority necessary to change the Estonian constitution and declare independence.

2. The first session of the new Supreme Soviet has apparently been advanced from next week. It began a two-day session yesterday. According to a reasonably well-placed nationalist official of the Estonian Communist Party (which provisionally broke with the CPSU on 25 March), the nationalist majority in the Supreme Soviet is pressing for a vote to suspend the Soviet constitution in Estonian territory so that only Estonian law applied.

3. The nationalists apparently intend by this to show that the republic is "apart" from the Soviet Union, and that, juridically, the inter-war republic survives, but to stop short of proclaiming a renewed, independent Estonian republic. Moscow would be likely to see it otherwise.

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