

The Polish Review



Late General Wladyslaw Sikorski
Polish Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief

Sikorski, Whose Faith Never Faltered

GENERAL SIKORSKI was the very incarnation of the spirit of Poland, the recognized political and military leader of the first of the United Nations to oppose Germany, the Man to whom all Poles looked to lead them back to a free, strong and independent Poland after the war. His tragic and untimely death is an event that can be measured only in terms of history. His life, spent in the service of his country, was that of a self-made man and shows better than any eulogy how great a loss Poland and the World have sustained.

Son of a Farmer

Wladyslaw Sikorski, son of a gentleman farmer, was born in Southern Poland, then occupied by Austria, in 1881. His grandfather had been a soldier of Napoleon and the family estates confiscated after the father's downfall. His father died when he was three, and at fifteen he was giving lessons to pay his way through college, first in Cracow, then at Lwow Polytechnic. He did his three years military service in the Austrian army, and had the unusual distinction of rising to the rank of sub-lieutenant and being placed in the reserve as a full lieutenant when he returned to Lwow, where he pursued his studies in civil engineering. He graduated in 1907 and was appointed to the Galician Warways Administration.

Leader of Underground

While in college he took a prominent part in Polish movements, was President of "Bratnia Pomoc," the Student's Welfare Association, and was active in the organization of Polish Folk Schools, the nucleus from which the splendid educational system of reborn Poland was to spring. In 1908, he organized a young men's club of military character that developed into the League for Direct Action, and was later elected first President of the Lwow Riflemen's Association.

In 1910, young Sikorski married the daughter of the President of Lwow College, Halina Zubczewska. Two years later he became Secretary General of the Temporary Commission of Independent Parties, a semi-secret organization of which he had been one of the moving spirits. It directed the underground Polish movement, and this was further fomented by "The Polish Question," a secret paper published in Lwow and edited by Sikorski. In all his work for Poland from the earliest days before the last war, Sikorski was always the

champion of democracy, the foe of dictatorship.

When war broke out in 1914, Poland was divided between Russia, Germany and Austria. Sikorski saw at once what a unique opportunity there would be to bring the Polish Question before the world at the Peace Conference to follow the war. Sikorski rapidly rose to be Lieutenant-Colonel and in 1917 was sent to Warsaw to recruit a Polish army. After the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk Sikorski addressed a solemn protest in his own name and that of 150 other Polish officers to the Austrian Commander-in-Chief against the new partition of Poland. As a result of this protest, Sikorski was brought before an Austrian court martial and interned in Hungary. In 1918 he regained his freedom and during the last weeks of the Austro-Hungarian Empire he was busy organizing secret forces with which to fight against any further partition of Poland.

A Victorian General

As the collapse of Germany approached, Poland emerged as a unified country and Col. Sikorski was appointed Chief of

Staff to the Eastern Army of Poland. He suppressed the Ukrainian revolt fomented by Austria, defended Przemysl and Lwow, freed Tarnopol and the Zbrucz district. As the German armies withdrew from Poland at the end of 1918, the Russian armies advanced and occupied Wilno. They were met by newly organized Polish forces and fighting started between Poland and Russia almost automatically without any formal declaration of war. Sikorski, now a Major General, commanded the Polish IXth Division and played a signal part in the defeat of the Soviets. Peace negotiations having failed, Russia again attacked Poland in June 1920. Under a Government of National Unity led by Wincenty Witos of the Peasant Party and Ignacy Daszynski, a Polish socialist, all Poles rallied to the defense of their soil. General Sikorski was in command of the Polish Vth Army and succeeded in frustrating the Russian attempt to encircle Warsaw from the North. As Marshal Foch wrote later: "General Sikorski proved himself a chief in the full sense of the word." He attacked and after three days of fierce fighting broke

through the enemy lines. The Poles won the Battle of Warsaw, known in Poland as "The Miracle of the Vistula," and called by Lord d'Abernon the eighteenth decisive battle of the world. Sikorski was then given command of the Polish IIIrd Army and with General Haller defeated Budyenny's cavalry and swept the Soviet armies out of Poland. As Chief of the General Staff he divided Poland into military areas and efficiently organized Poland's peace time forces.

Prime Minister at 41

In December 1922 General Sikorski became Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior. His administration was popular, because just, firm and energetic, entirely free from political bias. He laid the foundation stone of the Port of Gdynia, the small fishing village which was to become one of the world's chief ports. Above all, he obtained from the Great Powers recognition of Poland's eastern boundaries settled by the Treaty of Riga and of her right to Wilno and its district. Now one of the great political figures of Poland, General Sikorski was immensely popular with the army who recognized in him a great soldier and a born leader. When his Government fell he was appointed Inspector General of the Army and later made Minister of War in the Grabski administration.

In May, 1926, Marshal Pilsudski, with the support of some of the army, seized power and a conflict with General Sikorski ensued, which led to his retirement on half pay in 1928. For several years he devoted himself entirely to the study of history and the art of war. His great work "Modern Warfare" obtained an award from the French Academy. In it he discussed modern warfare in all its phases and foresaw the vital importance of tanks, motorized infantry and air-power.

Creates New Army

On the night of September 17th, 1939, when Poland lay crushed under the brutal and unprovoked aggression of Germany, General Sikorski decided to leave Poland and build a Polish army in France. He crossed the Rumanian frontier at 4 a.m., a few hours before the Soviet troops occupied Eastern Poland, and at 8 a.m. was in conference with French Ambassador Noel in Bucharest and General Faury, his military attaché. On September 24th General Sikorski arrived in Paris, called for volunteers from the large mining and labor population of Poles, and on September 15th

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Poland's Great Leader

"With General Sikorski's untimely death the Polish Nation has lost a great political, military and spiritual leader. I met him for the first time forty years ago when we studied at Lwow University. Ever since we were bound by a close and lasting friendship and worked together through thick and thin. I remember Sikorski as a leader of the students' patriotic association—*Odrozanie*—at Lwow University. This association aimed at the dissemination of the high moral principles of Christianity and democracy as a means of achieving the independence of Poland. Whenever I think of Sikorski, his name brings back to my mind memories of this organization of which he was the youthful leader. Sikorski's most passionate desire was the rebirth of the Polish nation to which cause he devoted his whole life. He will go down in our history also as a great teacher who constantly upheld the great principles of democracy, social justice, civic righteousness and Christian ethics. His activities extended far beyond the boundaries of Poland and the interests of the Polish nation alone. His military achievements are well-known. He was one of the few who foresaw the mechanized character of modern warfare and warned his contemporaries in vain. Similarly his political visions, of which a federation of all the nations of Central Europe was the most important, are now approved everywhere. Lastly he was a truly great man with a vision of the future, with a heart open to every human sentiment. Sikorski never was and never wished to be a dictator. He was the great democratic leader of a democratic nation, as a soldier, as a politician, and above all, as a man. People with totalitarian mentality could not understand him and the chiefs of totalitarian nations hated him. This is hardly surprising. But for us Poles—and also I hope for all lovers of peace, justice and democracy—he will remain the lasting symbol of a new and better world to come, for which the United Nations are now fighting."

STANISLAW KOT
Polish Minister of Information

The Polish Review

Vol. III, No. 27

JULY 19, 1943

Weekly Magazine Published by

THE POLISH REVIEW PUBLISHING CO.
with the assistance of the Polish Information Center
745 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

Annual Subscription Four Dollars

Single Copy Ten Cents

"High Above, Sikorski's Spirit Will Float Leading Home The Banners of the White Eagle"

by STEFAN ROPP

EARLY in the morning of July 5, I turned on the radio and heard the speaker say: "The news has just come through that Gen. Sikorski, the Polish Prime Minister, was killed in an airplane accident." I was thunder-struck. So much of Polish history not only of the last three years but also of the last 25 years was closely woven with that name. The first to fall at his post among the heads of the governments of the United Nations. What a strange parallel!

Poland, the first country to resist Hitler and the first victim made to suffer immeasurably for her staunch defense of Freedom. And now again Sikorski, first among the leaders of the United Nations to make the supreme sacrifice for that same liberty, not of one nation but of all the United Nations.

His last political acts were two—a speech and a message. The penultimate act was the speech delivered in Cairo two days before the end. He stressed the solidarity of the tortured nation behind the policy pursued by the Polish Premier. He spoke of the intimate contact with the underground resistance and he enjoined all the Poles scattered over the face of the earth to bury their differences, their personal enmities and to rally in their hearts to the sublime task of building anew their beloved Poland from the fuming ashes of destruction.

Gen. Sikorski's last message sent from Gibraltar a few hours before his journey's end was a dispatch sent to President Roosevelt. It was a warm, heartfelt message of friendship and admiration for the American people, expressed on Independence Day, the 4th of July, 1943. Then he, his only beloved daughter, his trusted friends of the staff and his young secretary, to whom he was a father, boarded the giant plane. Two minutes later the dreadful thing happened. The last home-coming of the Commander-in-Chief to the temporary capital of the Polish Government in London, will not be as expected.

We, who live on to mourn him, we who in grief, behold his life given to the service of his country and the last years of his superhuman efforts to vouchsafe independence to his people, we who mourn the loyal friend that he was personally to

so many of us, pledge solemnly to God in this hour of commemoration to abide by the last appeal he uttered to us all.

We shall stand fast by the community of the United Nations; we shall defend the principles of the Atlantic Charter; we shall strive with all our might towards the Four Freedoms; we shall labor to bring freedom and democratic integrity to the Polish nation.

To you, dear Friend and Supreme Leader in the darkness that befell us, we affirm the vision of Poland you so ardently desired and for which you prayed. That the nation we shall build anew will be fertile with mutual friendship and care for the common man; that it will be democratic not in principle alone but in spirit; that all races shall be the children of one Polish nation at their own hearth within the land; that equal opportunity shall be given to all, and free development of his particular culture be the birthright of a Pole.

Ours will be the spirit of friendly neighborliness, even as yours has been. The overwhelming majority of the tortured nation gave you its love and its confidence. This democratic recourse to the people guarantees that the foundation upon which heretofore rested the policies of the Polish Government will not be altered.

Thus you will live on, not only in the memory of the Polish people, but in the very core and substance of Poland. A fortnight of mourning has been decreed by the President of the Republic to mark the passing of a great Pole, but that mourning will be infinitely extended in national sorrow. When the time is fulfilled and the resurrected Nation, radiant and free, stands before the demise of the enemy, when the onrushing arms of the United Nations file past, the Polish armed forces will march amidst the ashes of Warsaw and the torn pavements, washed generously with the blood of the best sons of the nation. Then high above, your spirit will float, leading home the banners of the White Eagle!

Then also in the minds of the lowly and the stricken, in the hearts of the starved children, in the enthusiasm of the tortured youth, and amidst the enfeebled aged, your vision will burn brightly like a torch of triumph, immeasurably brighter than the flames which in the night, off the Rock of Gibraltar, shot skyhigh and consummated the supreme sacrifice and agony of a great patriot.

"SIKORSKI—OUTSTANDING LEADER OF OUR TIME" (ROOSEVELT)



General Sikorski was always a welcome guest at the White House.

GENERAL WLADYSLAW SIKORSKI made innumerable public statements during his tenure of office as Polish Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief from September 30th, 1939, to his tragic end on July 4th, 1943. From the wealth of these official speeches, addresses and broadcasts as head of the Polish Government in London and during his frequent trips to America and Polish armed forces in the Near and Middle East, the following excerpts have been selected as typical of his political philosophy and very human outlook.

"We Poles have learned a great deal by this war. It has taught us to fight in unity and solidarity for a new Poland, whose strength will be based on equal rights for all its citizens, irrespective of race or creed, on the political, social and industrial principles of Democracy. In building a new Europe after victory we must exclude selfish nationalism, the greatest evil of all times that was so cunningly exploited by Germany in sowing discord and dissension among other countries."

(From a broadcast made in January, 1942.)

"Poland has entered upon the path of political realism with determination. Proceeding in this spirit the Polish Government was the first to stretch out her hand to Soviet Russia,

proposing friendship. For the same reason we have taken the initiative in signing with Czechoslovakia an agreement that should become the foundation of a future European union towards the establishment of which we are making further efforts. An honest understanding with the Soviets should ensure lasting security for Poland. Otherwise—as the course of history has proved—we should be doomed to simultaneous struggle upon two fronts, and the prospect would be dark indeed. This understanding will be no less beneficial to the other side. A strong Poland will be capable of withholding the everlasting German *Drang nach Osten*. It will afford our neighbor an opportunity of accomplishing great tasks and furthering the development of the enormous areas and untold wealth of the U.S.S.R. Unquestionably the possibilities of Russia in this regard are boundless. I am, therefore, confident that the differences that still divide us will disappear."

(From a speech before the Polish National Council in March, 1942.)

"Twenty-four years ago we found our country economically devastated and politically divided. Left entirely to our own resources we had to rebuild villages, towns, trades, business by ourselves, for at that time, Poland received no help from the outside. No reparations were granted her, and she was



FROM SIKORSKI'S HISTORIC JOURNEY TO RUSSIA
Top, left—Diplomatic conferences in Egypt. Bottom, left—As Commander-in-Chief of Polish troops in Russia. Top, right—Greeted by Molotov on arrival at Russian airport.

left with enormous debts. A free Sejm of the reborn Republic gave the Polish State a constitution permeated with the liberal spirit. At that time already all citizens had equality before the law regardless of religious or national differences. All were guaranteed political, religious and social freedom. Then we created a foreign policy directed only by Polish *raison d'état*. What is more we organized very swiftly Polish armed forces which practically from the first moment took up the fight for age-old Polish territory in order to force the frontiers of our state by our own efforts. We founded new industry, working for rebuilding Poland's economy and communications. We formed our navy and merchant fleets, we carried out considerable agricultural reforms, we established a new system of protection for workers, social insurance, we took revolutionary steps in national education reform, we raised the level of our eastern territories politically and economically by uniting them more closely with the mother country.

"These splendid Polish achievements, opposed to the German "New Order" built on slavery, infamy, abasement and destruction, were due to Poland's vitality, strength, spirit, love of work and particularly its unequalled dynamic character and healthy instincts.

"... The twenty-four years which separate us from the independence day were in Poland's history a period of great ups and downs of tremendous achievements and not less greater mistakes. We are suffering much at this time, but this suffering has united all classes, professional, peasants and workers, in one large family that love Poland, their motherland, above all."

(From a broadcast made on Poland's "Independence Day," November 11, 1942.)

"This war is no ordinary war for material interests or territorial ambitions. It does not resemble those conflicts

of the past, the outcome of which was decided in a single battle. On the course of this war depends whether the world will achieve the realization of the highest ideals, or be defeated by a primitive barbaric materialism that reduces men to beasts. We are fighting a mortal war which will decide the fate of nations, of continents and of the whole world. Such is the true nature of this war.

"Poland was the first to take her stand on the side of Right, to which all the United Nations have now rallied. I am proud to be able to say that there is no one in my country who hesitated to enter this fight, or who opposed the unanimous will of the nation. The Polish Government and the Polish Army, although abroad, merely express the will of Poland and obey her commands. The Polish armed forces, whose number now exceeds 100,000, are fighting on sea and in the air, taking their part in all operations, including service on the African front.

"Those of our land forces who fought so valiantly in Libya, are now being regrouped with Polish detachments that came out of Russia, and prepared in the Middle East and in Scotland for further action.

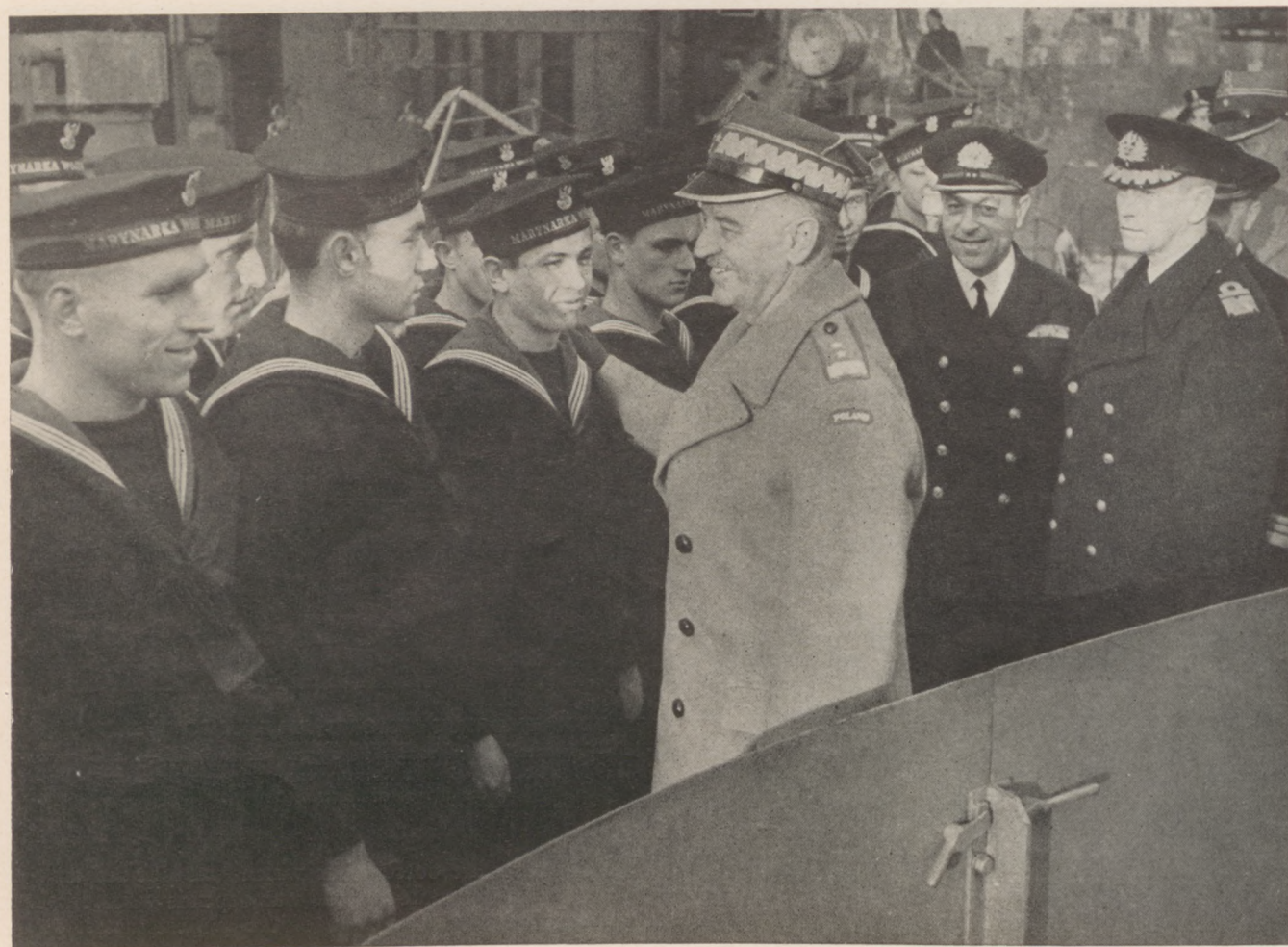
"I have frequently heard expressions of surprise that Poland took up the challenge to fight the invader against such overwhelming odds, and that she has never ceased to fight. It appears likewise that it is not clear to everybody why the most ruthless and brutal persecution and the most inhuman methods of extermination are being applied to Poland. I should like to explain both these facts.

"There was never any doubt among the Polish people that when Hitler challenged Poland, that challenge would be unhesitatingly taken up. The entire nation knew that this was going to be a decisive conflict between the Reich and the Polish nation. We knew that our Allies would stand by us, that the United States and the other American Republics

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"SIKORSKI—DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN

AND SOLDIER" (KING GEORGE VI)



Among friends. Commander-in-Chief inspects Polish Navy.

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would lend us their support. But above all other things, Poland acted as she did in accordance with her age-old traditions, with that philosophy, morality and culture she had represented for generations in the family of civilized nations. No matter what the odds the Polish nation, with all its dynamic qualities, never gave up, never contemplated surrender. Poland will never accept the yoke of slavery."

(From a speech made when accepting the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws from the Catholic University in Washington on December 8, 1942.)

"Six and a half million Poles have been victims of the Germans. It means that every fifth man, woman or child in Poland has been either murdered, or driven from his home, taken to a concentration camp, tortured, or carried off to forced labor in Germany. To help you visualize what this really means, I ask you to imagine that the entire population of Metropolitan New York has been murdered, deported and driven from their homes. What mass enslavement for forced labor means may best be realized by imagining that all the inhabitants of Chicago and Washington have been thus enslaved.

"To realize the extent of the monstrous massacre of Jews, you must imagine the whole of Manhattan closed in by ghetto walls behind which all the Jews of the Western Hemisphere have been imprisoned, to be gradually and methodically exterminated in groups of several thousands daily by machine gun

fire, lethal gas or electrocution.

"Regardless of this appalling state of things, underground Poland fights on. Newspapers are secretly printed and circulated four times daily and print the latest British and American radio bulletins. We do not boast of sabotage because the glory that such propaganda would bring us is not worth the victims it would inevitably entail in our country.

"Let us consider the reaction of our population. I will read you the text of a protest secretly circulated in Poznan, Warsaw, Wilno and Lwow:

"The total number of Jews killed has reached one million, and this number is increasing daily. All perish: the rich and the poor, the infirm and old, the women, the men, the youths and little children. Their only crime is that they were born into the Jewish people, and are condemned to extermination by Hitler. Therefore we, Catholics and Poles, desire to speak. We do not want to be Pontius Pilates. We cannot actively counteract the German crimes, we cannot help anything, we cannot save anybody, but we protest from the bottom of our hearts, filled with compassion, indignation and horror."

"On the day of victory the walls of the ghetto in Poland will fall. They will be destroyed by the Polish people. Now, however, means must be found to save the Polish Jews, victims of this bestial barbarism.

"As regards the future European settlement, I should like to say that the natural instinct of self-preservation makes nations tend towards the establishment of international unity among freedom-loving peoples who, living peacefully side by

side, are exposed to the threat of attack from their powerful neighbors. This tendency towards federation is especially strong among the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The realization of this ideal, of which I am a fervent advocate, will safeguard not only the security of nations situated between Germany and Russia, who will thus form a kind of international family, but it will likewise be a natural rampart of protection for Soviet Russia, always so concerned about her Western security. Such a peaceful family of nations would not only be a factor of security, but also one of permanent European stability and economic development through the creation, over a vast area, of possibilities of large scale exchange. As the Representative of Poland, I have the right to talk of Confederation, because five centuries ago, Poland had already established a successful Confederation of neighboring States.

"In this present war, Poland is not only fighting for her own freedom. True to her traditions, she is fighting for the realization of her oldest maxim: "The union of the free with the free, on a basis of mutual equality." Regardless of overwhelming odds, Poland was the first to challenge brutal aggression. She will be the last to leave the field of battle."

(From an address at the Overseas Press Club of America on December 16, 1942.)

"A great deal is being said about Eastern Poland. But those who speak often forget that it was I who fought for our borders, that I defended Lwow, that later as commander of the Fifth and Third Armies I fought for Eastern Poland. I did not and shall not barter Polish soil! I defended and shall defend Polish soil! I represent the Poland that in 1939, accepted the German challenge, and I trust and firmly believe that Poland will come out of this war victorious and will be greater and stronger than ever!"

(From a speech in Detroit to a great gathering of Americans of Polish descent on December 20, 1942.)



An inspiration for daring Polish airmen.

"Modern war has made the worker at his bench equal in importance to the soldier in arms.

"At the same time, modern warfare—that is total war—has drawn entire nations into the orbit of suffering and sacrifice. Enemy bombs and barbarian terror fall equally on all professions and on all social classes.

"When by the labor and armed effort of entire nations, we achieve complete victory in this war of nations—peace, to be lasting, must guarantee international security, and also social security.

"International security we can achieve by establishing democratic institutions not only in the life of particular nations, but also in international life. The basis of such an international democracy will be

the acceptance and realization of the principle of Confederation in Europe, its permanence must be guaranteed by international power in the service of Right.

"We shall achieve social security by establishing economic conditions in which all will be equally assured of work, fair wages and complete equality before the law.

"For the maintenance of peace, I believe that social security is as important as international security. No international system of political cooperation can maintain peace, if the people suffer from poverty, or are exposed to discrimination or persecution, or if labor is not assured of the right to work, and is not insured against unemployment, sickness, accident and old age, or if the worker does not earn enough to enable him to live a decent life.

"Today it is difficult to foresee what the post-war world will be like, economically and socially. It seems to me, however, that disappointment awaits those who expect a complete reversal of existing policies.

"When this war is over, I imagine the world will have learned the lesson of experience and will go forward along the road of international economic cooperation, planned on a national and international scale.

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They would have gone through fire for him.



One of his most pleasant duties.

"SIKORSKI—GREAT POLISH PATRIOT AND STAUNCH ALLY" (CHURCHILL)



At home with his wife and only daughter.

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"After this war, we must make the benefits of public utilities, such as the American TVA for instance, accessible

to broad masses of people. The realization of such plans will also enable us to deal with employment problems, better than after the last war.

"In Poland, war has made men equal in sacrifice, suffering, resistance and fighting. When we liberate Poland we shall all have an equal right to freedom, work and education.

"I know the patriotism of the Polish Socialist Party, which has a page all its own in the history of Fighting Poland.

"I count on its patriotism in the rebuilding of liberty! The working masses can rely upon the fact that the words contained in today's statement will become deeds in the free and independent Poland that is to be."

(Speech to a labor delegation in Detroit, December, 1942.)

"We believe that our martyrology and our struggle for the common cause will spare us untimely reproaches and render impossible the putting forward of claims to our lands so painfully redeemed in blood. We are carrying on with our duties. It is beyond human strength to do more. We have given of ourselves all that materially and morally can be given for victory and solidarity. Accordingly the securing of friendly relations with Soviet Russia has been and continues to be one of the main guiding principles of the Polish Government and the whole Polish Nation.

"Therefore the facts that are separating us must be removed as soon as possible. We expect the Soviet authorities to let the tens of thousands of Polish soldiers' families leave the U.S.S.R. as soon as possible, together with tens of thousands of Polish children and orphans. We also ask for the release of men fit to carry arms and in conclusion for the continuation of welfare and relief work for Polish citizens in Russia, deported after 1939 until they are able to return to their homes in Poland.



At his desk. At right—Major Gen. Tadeusz Klimecki, Chief of the Polish General Staff, who was also killed in the Gibraltar tragedy.



THEIR LAST TRIP

Top: General Sikorski bidding farewell at the Cairo airport. Right: General Sikorski's daughter, Mrs. Zofia Lesniowska, before boarding the plane with her father.

"After all, these are not problems that affect allied unity. If they are solved it will perhaps facilitate the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between Poland and Russia. But there are limits to concessions which no one in the Polish nation will pass."

(From a broadcast to Poland on May 4, 1943, to commemorate Poland's National Day.)

"I wish today, the Fourth of July, to pay my sincere homage to the great American nation, especially as I am spending it as a guest of the Governor of Gibraltar where I have met some of your officers.

"I am convinced that under you, Mr. President, the inspired leader of the American nation, and in close collaboration with Great Britain, victory will soon come to the United Nations.

"The victory will not only crush the enemy but also bring into being your principles of freedom and justice."

(Gen. Sikorski's Fourth of July message to President Roosevelt sent a few hours before he was killed in an airplane crash off Gibraltar.)



RARE ENGLISH ATLAS OF SEVENTEENTH CENTURY POLAND

THE ENGLISH ATLAS.

Volume I.

CONTAINING A DESCRIPTION OF POLAND.



OXFORD.

Printed at the THEATER, for Job. Tanlonius & Waerberg, and Steven Swart, Bookellers in Amsterdam. MDCLXXX.

acquired the latter, was so impressed by the unique nature of this collector's item that he decided to republish the part containing a description of Poland with four large and very beautiful maps drawn in Amsterdam, that are masterpieces of old Dutch cartography.

Mr. Tebinka asked Oscar Halecki, Professor of History in the University of Warsaw and now Director of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America to write a preface to the 28 page work* that appeared in folio, a true photostatic copy of the original English Atlas. In his introduction, Professor Halecki writes:

"Without discussing the maps themselves where, of course, many inaccuracies could be pointed out, but which give nevertheless an impressive picture of XVII-th century Poland, it seems advisable to make some remarks about the introduction preceding the maps.

"It is based on fairly large material, rather carefully studied by the English author. The well known books of Martin Kromer, the noted Polish historian of the XVIth century, and of Christopher Hartknoch, the contemporary historian of Polish Prussia, have obviously been the main source of information. But earlier authors, as for instance, the chroniclers Vincent Kadlubek and Mathias of Miechow, and numerous writers of the XVIIth century including Starowolski, Fredro, Piasecki, Lubienski, etc., are also quoted, though it is difficult to ascertain whether the author had a first hand knowledge of their publications.

"He is writing with a great deal of sympathy for the Poles who all will enjoy his very friendly characterization of the Polish people. This section of his study, coming after a short description of the country, its name, situation, boundaries, climate, natural resources and fauna with special reference to the "Bisontes Zubati," speaks not only about the "disposition of the inhabitants," but also about their language and customs. It is worth while remarking, at the moment of the Copernican Quadri-centennial, that the English writer did not fail to name "Nicolaus Copernicus, the famous astronomer" among the greatest Poles of all ages."

The following excerpts from the text of the Atlas give some idea of the work's flavor:

*The English Atlas. 28 pages in folio with 4 maps. For sale at Z. Tebinka, 51 East 78th St., New York, N. Y. Price \$3.

"Polonia, or Poland called by the Natives *Polska*, takes its name, as some conjecture, from Pole, which in the Slavonian language signifies a plain and champain Country, such as this Kingdom for the most part consists of."

In describing the disposition of the inhabitants the author states: "The *Polanders* are generally of a good complexion, flaxen-hair'd, and tall of stature. The men, for the most part, corpulent and personable. The women, slender and beautiful, disdaining the help of art and *fucus's* to set them off. They are naturally open-hearted and candid; more apt to be deceived, than to deceive, not so easily provoked as appeas'd; neither arrogant, nor obstinate; but very tractable if they be gently and prudently managed. They are chiefly led by example; are dutiful to their Princes and Magistrates; and very inclined to civility and hospitality, especially to strangers; whose customs and manners they are forward to imitate. The Gentlemen (who are all noble) take delight in keeping great store of Horses and Arms. The Daughters always walk before their Mothers, as in Italy; and the unmarried Sisters before the married. They covet nothing more than to have their children well instructed in the Latin tongue, so that in no part of Italy, not in Rome itself, shall a man meet with so many that are able to converse in Latin as here. Even the Daughters of the Nobility and wealthy Citizens, at home or in Monasteries, are taught to write and read as well the Latin as their Native Language. When they grow to years of maturity, and not before, they are put to learn good huswifery, and to look after their dairies; or else employed in spinning, weaving or sewing: whilst the men, according to their several qualities, follow their Husbandry, Merchandising, or the more weighty concerns of Church and State. The Nobles are very much addicted to travel, as admiring foreign Countries more than their own: which is the reason that they greedily, and easily, learn the languages of those Nations they affect. And they esteem it no small commendation of their ingenuity to introduce something of the new habits and customs of the people with whom they have conversed. For they are very docile and easily attain what they give their minds to. Neither indeed are they so fit for Mechanic as for learned Arts; to which they therefore more apply themselves, as appears by the many eminent Divines, Historians, Mathematicians and Philosophers that



have flourished in Poland; witness Stanislaus Hosius, Cardinal and Legat at the Council of Trent; Matthias a Michovia, Johannes Dlugossus, and Martinus Cromerus, their excellent Historians. Johannes Zamoscius their great General, and Chancellor of the Kingdom, excelling no less in most parts of learning than he did in military conduct. Nicolaus Copernicus the famous Astronomer, Martinus Smiglecius the Logician, Abr. Bzovius, who hath continued Baronius's Annals; with many others, whose works are much esteemed in foreign countreys."

The author goes on to describe the habits, baths ("Hot Baths are very much used in this Country, especially in Winter: and are frequented by both sexes, though in places apart from one another"), diet, drinks, money, traffick, military strength and government of the Poles. There is a particularly detailed account of the manner of electing Polish Kings, followed by an accurate list of Polish rulers in chronological order from Lechus the First (700 A.D.) "Who built the City Gnesna, in the place where he found an Eagle's Nest; and therefore gave it this name from Gniazdo, which in the Polish language signifies a Nest: hence also the Arms of Poland are an Eagle," to Sobieski, King of Poland at the date of the Atlas's publication.

A large part of the Atlas is devoted to descriptions of the various palatinates and cities of Poland: Great Poland, Masovia, Prussia, the Great Dukedom of Lithuania, Samogitia, Livonia, Volhynia and Podolia, Lesser Poland, Ukraina.

An interesting chapter entitled "Of the Countries and Provinces to which the Kings of Poland have formerly pretended a title by conquest, contract, or otherwise" deals with Polish claims to Silesia, Lusatia, New Marck, Pomeran, Ducal Prussia, Muscovy and Sweden.

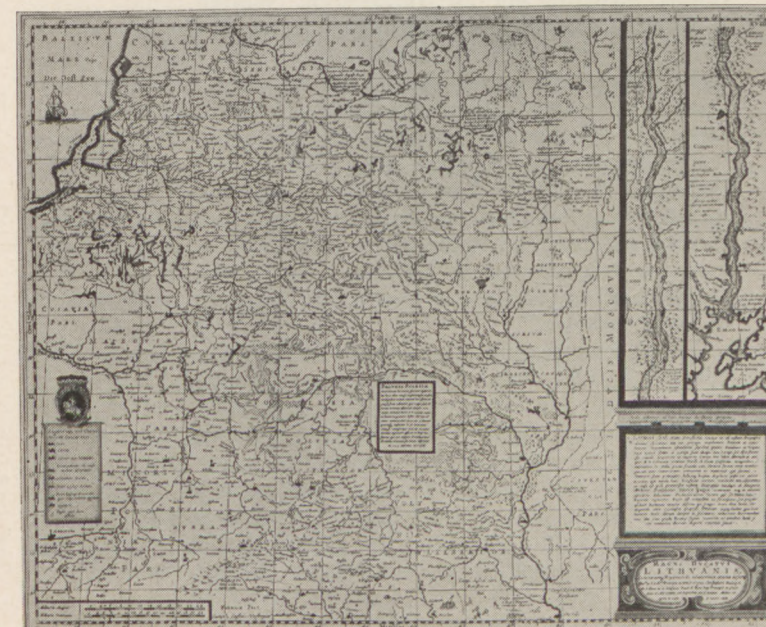
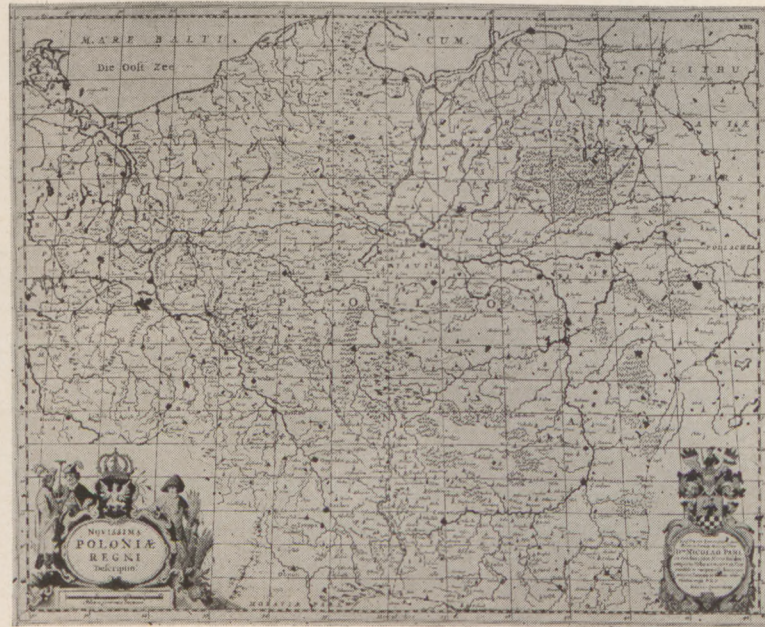
The final chapter of this fascinating work on Poland, "Of the Pretensions of Foreign Princes to the Kingdom of Poland" concludes that "The Emperors of Germany had never any more title to the Crown of Poland, than the Danish Kings have to the Throne of England."

In the words of Mr. Tebinka, he reproduced the Atlas of Poland in this historical moment "to remind the world of the truths proclaimed by a XVIIth century English historian, when Poland was the greatest power in Europe, about the scope of her political influence, her freedom of religion, and her democratic liberties."

IN 1680 one Moses Pitt of London, booksellers published the English Atlas, "encouraged by His Most Sacred Majesty, His Royal Highness the Duke of York, both the Universities, the Royal Society, and divers others, to undertake the printing of an accurate description of the world."

Having collected some six hundred subscriptions, Moses Pitt planned to print his Atlas in eleven volumes, but only four appeared, the last in 1682. Volume I contains a "Description of the Places next the North-Pole; as also of Muscovy, Poland, Sweden, Denmark, and their several Dependances with a General Introduction to Geography, and a Large Index, containing the Longitudes and Latitudes of all the particular Places, thereby directing the Reader to find them readily in the several Maps." Volume II contains a description of North Germany, Volume III of Austria, Hungary and neighboring territories, and Volume IV of the Netherlands.

Through the centuries the English Atlas of Moses Pitt has become an increasingly rare publication. At present there are only six known copies of the original in existence, five in England and one in America. Mr. Zygmunt Tebinka of New York, who through a happy accident,



ON THE SOMBRE PATH OF REFUGEES

by ARNOLD JASKOWSKI

A LONG line of people trudges Southward . . . Their faces tired, pale; their famished bodies bent under wretched bundles that contain the last remnants of their worldly goods. Some stumble from sheer physical exhaustion . . . Polish refugees on their way to lands that offer asylum and hospitality. . . . refugees from Palestine and Iran on their way to India, South Africa, Mexico. . . .

They were fifty thousand when they left. And then the gate was shut again. . . . Their only hope is the West and the reawakening of man's conscience. . . .

They trudge along getting some help, some aid, appallingly little when compared with the terrific hardships they bore ere they finally reached Iran's hospitable soil. Help came from Polish authorities, from the Persian people and their government, above all from British authorities and American Poles. Enough to keep them alive, to cheat the graves where so many have been left behind. . . .

Once in the Middle East everything possible was being done but the task of those whose duty it is to help the refugees is heavy indeed. Means are scanty—and the war demands superhuman efforts from the United Nations.

The net of highways in the Orient is of such construction that material help sent to Russia by the United States and Great Britain has to follow the same line along which Polish refugees move in the opposite direction. Enormous masses of war material flow Northward. Insatiable is the Moloch of war. Its victims have to wait sometimes for months for the rare intervals during which they can proceed Southward. "Transportation and tonnage difficulties" is the official terminology.

The migration of Polish refugees had to fit into the movement of lend-lease. Hence its peculiar fan-like formation extending from Teheran to the Persian Gulf, from Palestine to the Red Sea.

Women fit for auxiliary military service, and boys for "Junak" (pre-military training) camps were sent to Palestine. The majority of women, after preparatory training joined the Polish Army in Iraq. Some of them went to the Polish Army in Great Britain. The "Junaks" stayed in Palestine where they continue their training.

These, however, were not the first Polish refugees in the Levant. The year 1940-41 saw a first wave from Hungary, Roumania, Yugoslavia and Greece. In all these countries much sympathy and friendship was shown to the Poles. Though their lot was not a happy one, they reached the Near East in fairly good condition with their morale unimpaired. They settled down and adapted themselves to their new environment. Many of the better educated have succeeded in making themselves materially independent. They have made friends in Egypt, Syria and especially among the Jews in Palestine. Of late they have been joined by many army men who, because of age or physical disabilities, have had to retire from service. The latter also enjoy social security.

Another group and the largest is made up of refugees the Polish Government is endeavoring to move from Iran to Persian Gulf ports. These people are entirely dependent on assistance from the Polish Government, the British authorities and the Persian people.

These were the conditions that obtained in January, 1943. It is doubtful whether there has been any marked change. Military transport going North, absorbs all facilities. So that particular group is doomed to long and irksome delays.

There were some 25,000 Polish civilian refugees in Iran:



Polish children's camp at Teheran.

families of soldiers and civilians and many, so many orphans. Four out of every five were peasants who for generations had tilled their own soil and felt like uprooted trees. Local conditions so radically different from anything they knew made it very difficult to find work for them. The remaining fifth were families of soldiers, employees and professional men. The latter were the best architects of their own fortunes.

In January, 1943, Polish refugees in Iran were grouped at Meshet, Teheran, Ispahan and Ahwaz.

Meshet, situated in a mountainous region, rich in vineyards, gave sustenance to two hundred Polish boys, aged ten to fifteen.

A new influx of refugees was expected, "a third wave," among them 300 children. The Persian people and authorities prepared a cordial welcome. Unfortunately the "third wave" failed to arrive. . . .

The largest group of Poles in Iran was in Teheran, where Polish Government agencies had established four civilian camps, including one for convalescent children.

Because of transport difficulties the lot of the refugees is hard, food and clothing are inadequate. The Polish Government Agencies have only limited means. Yet much has been done to alleviate the situation, thanks to the increase of food rations by the British authorities and the generous shipments of clothing from American Poles. The Polish Red Cross has organized a civilian hospital, where patients from former military hospitals are treated. It includes a free clinic for visiting patients. A home for mothers, babies and the aged has also been opened at Teheran. Both hospital and home are well kept; yet these are only half measures just enough to "pull through."

The Polish peasant is the worst off of the refugees. The better educated Poles found it easier to adapt themselves. They proved it in Teheran where alone or in partnership with Persians and Armenians, they opened restaurants, cafes and stores, butcher shops, laundries and shoe-repair shops. Many Polish men and women found employment in department stores. Others found work in orchestras, beauty parlors and photographic studios. In Teheran alone there were 16,000 Poles, about 50 per cent. women, 40 per cent. children and 10 per cent. men, most of whom joined the army.

(Please turn to page 14)

THE EMBLEM

by JERZY GLEBOCKI

Dedicated to the Chaplain of the Polish Air Force, S/L. R. Gogolinski-Elston.

5:30 p.m. I have eaten my supper quickly, drinking as little as possible—just four tiny cupfuls of black coffee—and am on my way to a quick cold bath.

I cross to the table and open the drawer, plunge my hand deep into my pocket, and bringing out a miscellaneous assortment of trifles, arrange them on the shining surface of the dark walnut table.

My wallet, my identity card—I must leave them here: I must not take anything that might give information to the enemy—my notebook with addresses, somebody's photograph, a crushed tram ticket and a few pencils.

I throw them carelessly into the bottom of the drawer. They fall with a soft thud.

A letter—a narrow blue sheet of paper, large generous writing, a long deckle-edged envelope—a letter from Poland . . . you know, away there in the lonely distance!

The pupils of my narrowed eyes glide over the paper—maybe soon strange, indiscreet hands will open it, and pore greedily over the innermost threads of my life.

My eyes are misty and my hand trembles slightly as I hold the letter. . . . The dry rasp of a match, and on to the dark brown surface of the table there slowly float the charred fragments of paper, weaving on their way mysterious patterns in mid-air.

The emblem of the Holy Mother. . . . Old, bound in suede. I remember. . . .

Summer was coming, hot, sultry, just as it is now. I was sitting with my father on the veranda sipping sweet, cool milk. The garden overflowed with fragrant flowers, and the evening stole softly over the lawn, bringing with it the smell of newly-cut grass. The cows lowed contentedly from their watering place. Amidst the perfume of the lilacs the sparrows argued incessantly.

Lovely, calm Polish countryside.

Through the avenue of elms the Burgomaster, walking with a quick, nervous tread, bringing a letter, important . . . for me.

I looked into my father's eyes. He knew, and paled.

"Yes," he said, "this is the beginning. The harvest is gathered. . . . War, and to-night you must leave us."

He said no more.

God! How happy I was that finally and irrevocably there would be war!

The time came for parting, and I met the severe and searching eyes of my father; he held something in his hand behind him. Kissing my forehead, he said good-bye, and put the emblem of the Holy Mother into the palm of my hand.

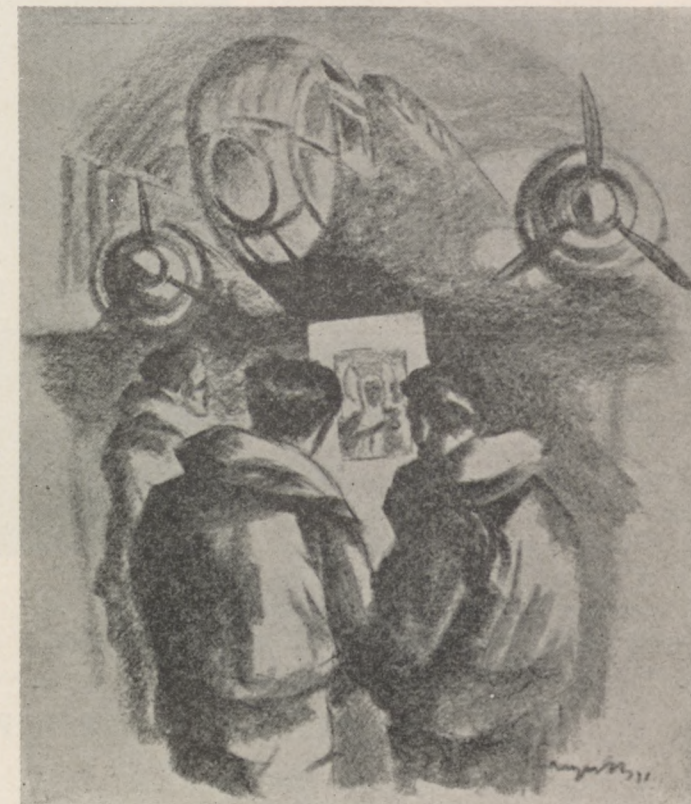
"This emblem," he said, "my father received from his mother before leaving for the Insurrection in 1863—my father and your grandfather. It was with me all through the last war. You go to fight in a holy cause. Wear it on your heart, and by the grace of God I'll see you again. Be brave."

That was all.

And on the branches of the lilac trees the nightingales sang with high, sweet voices, breaking sharply into the velvety night. . . . The copper-coloured moon rose softly into a sky lit by a million stars, and the grasshoppers chattered busily in the grass. Over at the home-farm the awakened dogs bayed, as if in farewell.

The coach bumped over the uneven roads and, wearing my father's gift, I went out into the unknown.

And now again the emblem tinkles softly in my hand, its thin, worn surface painted long ago by the hands of a Polish woman.



Drawing by Jerzy Faczynski
A prayer before the take-off.

I pick up the jacket of my battle-dress, and into the left pocket put the rosary and the emblem of the Holy Mother.

The wind rustles the curtains and a stray, intrepid sunbeam alights on the wall, throwing into sudden relief the dull black cross over my bed, giving it life. . . .

Two clean handkerchiefs, identity disc, fireproof and waterproof, that's all—nothing more. Some warm underclothes, socks, a pullover and battle-dress. I struggle for a moment with my electrically heated shoes. At last they are on. Three pairs of silk gloves and round my neck a fleecy scarf. Flying suit, helmet, "Mae West," and my parachute are over at the hangar.

I stop for a moment, close the drawer of the table, and glance round the disordered friendliness of my room.

My eyes fall on the writing-pad. In the left corner the square badge of the Polish Air Force, and in the right, R.A.F. STATION, Y. . . .

Automatically I open my fountain-pen and write the date, 6-25-41. Twenty-fifth of June.

It is now almost two years since I left. . . . Yes, two years. . . . I must write. My father must know. This is my first operational flight. . . .

My superior officers? My friends?

My thoughts are working quickly. . . . Acquaintances from Poland?

I sit down and write:

"Dear Padre,

In two hours I shall leave for Bremen. If anything should happen, when you return to Poland please tell my father that . . . tell him, that . . . at that moment, the emblem was next to my heart. . . .

That's all now. I have to go. It is time."

26 YEARS AGO

NEAR the statue of Kosciuszko in Chicago in 1917, Bachmetiev, Russian envoy, pledged liberty and independence to Poland in the name of the revolution in Russia.

Immediately after the revolution of 1917, Russia recognized Poland's independence. This was fully confirmed by the *Declaration of the Council of People's Commissars of the R.S.F.S.R. to the Polish Government, and the Polish Nation of January 28, 1920.*

Point one of the declaration states: "The Council of People's Commissars declares that the policy of the U.S.S.R. towards Poland is based not on any occasional, transient considerations of a war of diplomacy but on the inviolable principle of self-determination of nations and it has recognized and recognizes unreservedly the independence and sovereignty of the Polish Republic and declares this recogni-



tion to be the basis of all its relations with Poland from the moment of the formation of an independent Polish State."

ON THE SOMBRE PATH OF REFUGEES

(Continued from page 12)

Poverty notwithstanding hygienic conditions among the Polish refugees are good, medical care is free for all.

Educational problems are also well taken care of. Nearly 8,000 children attend primary or secondary schools. The educational level is fairly high. All children belong to the Boy Scouts or Girl Guides.

Soldiers' families are the best off, for they are taken care of by the Polish Ministry of Social Welfare, but get military family allowances, which have been raised to 10 toumans monthly per adult, and 5 toumans per child. (A touman is roughly 30 cents.) It has also been found possible to obtain employment as seamstresses for many women. In Camp No. 1 more than 600 women were thus working in three shifts earning as much as 50 toumans monthly on piece work.

Ispahan is the third centre of Polish refugees in Persia. It is a beautiful spa situated about 6,500 feet above sea-level, so the summer heat is quite bearable. Here are some 3,000 orphans and 300 adults caring for them, as teachers or nurses.

Living conditions are excellent, the school level high. One finds many high-school teachers taking primary classes and university professors teaching in secondary schools. There are also training schools and even a fine art school. Engraving is being taught by Persians. As a result Polish children get quickly acquainted with the Persian language and with the country's ancient art.

The fourth settlement—in Ahwaz—is perhaps the least satisfactory.

Refugees live here in the old Iranian Cavalry barracks near the city limits, bordering on the desert. The heat is terrible, reaching in summer 115 in the shade.

The Ahwaz camp was intended to be a temporary affair, but transportation difficulties brought the number of its inmates to more than 6,000. Though British authorities were most generous, conditions here were rather hard. All these people have but one desire, to get away from Ahwaz as soon as possible.

Thus, through all those camps, slowly, very slowly, the stream of refugees moves South. Many have already reached India, some have pushed as far as South Africa. About 5,000 orphans and another 5,000 children with their families have by now been moved to India.

They live in a camp North of Bombay, in a healthy mountainous region, 5,000 feet above the sea. The British moved them there from a lower altitude where the children were suffering from endemic disease. Each family occupies a separate little wooden house where they do their own house-keeping. There is a shortage of physicians, and although the Polish Consul does his best to improve the camp, lack of funds impedes his efforts. Nevertheless some 200 Polish families have succeeded in finding employment in Bombay. Some of them work in restaurants; some are occupied in various crafts and trades; some have established their own small stores and shops.

About ten thousand Polish refugees have penetrated as far as the table lands of Africa. They are being directed towards Uganda and Tanganyika, where they are received with great sympathy and real friendship.

The assistance given these Polish refugees by the Union of South Africa is generous to a degree. There are no camps. Individual families are given houses in villages, towns or on farms. Small plots of land are allotted to them, so they can not only make a living but even attain some degree of prosperity. The mild climate, the fertile soil, the handsome hospitality of British colonists come as a real relief to our fellow countrymen after the indescribable nightmare.

An orphanage for five hundred children is being established by the Polish Consuls at Johannesburg and Capetown. They are expected to arrive from India, with another convoy of twelve thousand refugees.

May all the hardships and tragedies of these people be not in vain, may their patriotism and endurance lead them back to their beloved Poland.

Sikorski, Whose Faith Never Faltered

(Continued from page 2)
ber 28th issued his first Order of the Day to the army he was forming. It read: "On taking command of the army now forming, I expect from every officer and man a conscientious performance of his duty and the utmost sacrifice. . . . We are all here to defend the honor of Poland . . . the Polish army shall not be absent from the battles that will decide the fate of Poland. . . . We are not here to play politics, but to fight for the honor of our country and under its flag."

Poland's Great Leader

On September 30th, President Moscicki transmitted his powers as President of the Polish Republic to Wladyslaw Raczkiewicz, then in Paris. The new President took the oath of office in the Polish Embassy in Paris and immediately appointed General Sikorski Prime Minister.

After forming his cabinet, General Sikorski conferred with Premier Daladier and Edouard Herriot, President of the Chamber of Deputies. Two days later the French Chamber declared that the integrity of Polish frontiers would be assured by France after the war. Great Britain had already declared that she would recognize no change of frontiers effected by force. On November 7th General Sikorski was further appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Polish forces, and in December the Polish National Council was created at his suggestion and Ignacy Paderewski elected President.

General Sikorski insisted in April, 1940, that Polish troops should accompany the Allied expeditionary force to Norway where at Narvik and elsewhere the Carpathian brigade greatly distinguished itself. Before the Polish force left France, their Commander-in-Chief addressed them. He said that theirs was a great honor to fight for the freedom of a fellow country in distress. He told them that their banners bore the device "For Your Freedom and For Ours!" and that Polish soldiers fought for Freedom wherever Freedom was menaced.

Calls Poles to Arms

Under General Sikorski's command the Polish troops fought heroically during the Battle of France. They covered the French retreat, suffered heavy losses and a number were obliged to cross the border into Switzerland where they were interned. When France fell, General Sikorski flew to London and with Prime Minister Churchill organized the evacuation of the Polish army and air-force from

France to Great Britain. On June 24th he broadcast to Poles all over the world, calling them to arms. He said Hitler was now at the height of his power and had occupied eight capitals in Europe, but that would not give him victory. General Sikorski declared that Poland would fight on for her independence "in full understanding and with the support of the British Government." He added "Poland's army is small in numbers, but its soul is great." How great was shown in September when the Polish air force side by side with the Royal Air Force covered itself with immortal glory in the Battle of Britain, the first major defeat sustained by Germany in this war.

Champion of Federation

General Sikorski initiated negotiations between the Polish and the Czechoslovak Governments for a rapprochement between the two countries with a view to federation so as to realize the plan he had long cherished of Central Eastern European solidarity. To the day of his death General Sikorski continued to proclaim his firm faith in federation even after the negotiations with Czechoslovakia had been suspended.

Early in 1941, King George and Queen Elizabeth inspected the Polish troops. The King commented that Goebbels had called the Polish troops, "Sikorski's tourists." "Very dangerous tourists, Your Majesty" was the comment of a Polish officer. Soon after this General Sikorski paid his first visit to the United States. He was received by President Roosevelt with whom he had cordial talks. In New York he was welcomed with an ovation and after visiting Paderewski he went on to Chicago.

When Germany attacked Russia on July 22, 1941, and Great Britain declared that she considered Russia an ally, General Sikorski was quick to seize the opportunity to improve Polish-Russian relations and try to free some two million Polish deportees who had been sent into Russia. In a broadcast speech to Poland justifying his action he said: "Germany's aggression brings us back to the conditions existing after the Treaty of Riga in 1921."

Pact with Russia

On July 18th General Sikorski said: "I sincerely desire understanding with Russia in spite of the great wrong which Poland received at her hands in 1939, and in spite of 150 years of deep conflict, but the understanding must be one that fully recognizes Polish sovereignty." On July 30th, 1941, the Polish-Russian pact was signed. General Sikorski had conducted

the negotiations with great skill and diplomacy, overcoming many obstacles and smoothing out many difficulties. Some members of his cabinet resigned, but in Great Britain and the United States the Polish Russian pact was received with great satisfaction.

Talks with Stalin

General Sikorski left England on November 1st, visited Lord Gort at Gibraltar, then went to Cairo and a few days later the British destroyer "Kipling" took him to Tobruk where he inspected the Carpathian brigade that was defending the Lybian port and decorated many officers and men. Back in Cairo, General Sikorski continued his historic journey first to Teheran, where he met General Anders who for two years had been a Russian prisoner of war, then to Kuybishev where a large group of Poles gave him a rousing reception, and finally he arrived in Moscow on December 3rd. There he saw Stalin with whom he talked for two and a half hours. The outcome was the Polish Russian declaration broadcast from Moscow in forty languages and in German "so that Hitler would have the pleasure of listening to it." It stated "German Hitlerite imper-

Visits to America

General Sikorski flew to America a second time in March, 1942, when he was accompanied by Count Edward Raczynski, Polish Ambassador to the Court of St. James and acting Foreign Minister. He had a long talk with President Roosevelt, conferred at length with Mr. Sumner Welles, attended a meeting of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives and broadcast from New York to the people of Poland.

Again General Sikorski came to the United States in December last year, and again he found himself in complete accord with President Roosevelt and the State Department on all points. He made a remarkable series of public addresses before the Catholic University in Washington after the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws had been conferred upon him by the Archbishop of Baltimore; before the Overseas Press Club of America where he spoke to more than 300 editors, correspondents, commentators and other well-known authorities on international affairs; before the Polish organizations in Chicago, Detroit and Buffalo.

New National Council

General Sikorski returned to England by the same route he had followed on the outward journey. He had flown 15,000 miles in extremes of heat and cold, remaining more than 120 hours in the air. He had spoken many times in public, had conferred with innumerable people, had visited all Polish units and spoken, as a comrade and a leader, to men who had fought bravely for their country, had suffered the hardships of prison camps and as soon as they were free had flocked to join the colors of the White Eagle.

In February, 1942, General Sikorski reorganized the Polish National Council, and Paderewski having died, Prof. Grabski was elected President. In opening this most representative assembly General Sikorski made an important speech in which he declared that Poland had extended the hand of friendship to Russia, and that the principal objects of the Polish government were to liberate Poland and restore it to its rightful place among the nations of the world, to participate in building a just and lasting peace, to see that Germany was effectively

and permanently disarmed and that all German crimes committed in Poland should be severely punished. He then pledged that the future political structure of Poland would be ultimately decided by the Parliament of Free Poland, but that it would be a Christian and democratic republican state guaranteeing the rights and liberties of all citizens regardless of national, racial or religious differences, that the predominant power in Poland would be "a true national assembly representative of the common will of the people and elected by general, equal, direct and secret vote. In the name of the Polish Government and people, General Sikorski repudiated "all systems of totalitarian government and all forms of dictatorship as contrary to the principles of Democracy."

His Tragic End

General Sikorski shared the regret of President Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill when Soviet Russia broke off relations with the Polish Government in London, but he maintained his realistic outlook and in dealing with a difficult situation was solely guided by the best interests of his country.

On his last voyage General Sikorski went to inspect the Polish forces in the Near East. He left London on May 25, flying to Cairo, whence he visited Bagdad, Teheran and Beirut. On his way back to England General Sikorski's plane fell into the sea of Gibraltar.

TRIBUTES TO SIKORSKI

**From Franklin Delano Roosevelt,
President of the United States,
to the President of the Polish Republic**

"I am deeply grieved to learn of the untimely death of General Sikorski, his daughter and the Polish officials who perished with him. On behalf of the American people and myself, I extend to you and to the Polish people our heartfelt sympathy.

"During his several visits to Washington, I had the opportunity of personally becoming well acquainted with General Sikorski. Through my associations with him I learned to admire his integrity, his patriotism, and those great qualities of leadership which so fully justified the confidence which you and the Polish people placed in him. His high sense of statesmanship and devotion to the cause of liberty and democracy made him one of the outstanding leaders of our times. His passing represents a severe loss to all freedom-loving people."

**From King George VI of England
to the President of the Polish Republic**

"I am deeply shocked, Mr. President, to learn of the tragic death of General Sikorski and of those who were travelling with him on his country's service. My people will fully share the sorrow of the Polish nation in the grievous loss which they have sustained through the death of this distinguished citizen and soldier who has rendered outstanding services not only to his own country but to the common cause of the United Nations. On behalf of the British I beg you to accept my most sincere sympathy."