

THE POLISH REVIEW

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VOL. IV. No. 47
DEC. 21, 1944

Polish tankmen
at Terheijden,
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PREMIER TOMASZ ARCISZEWSKI BROADCASTS TO POLAND

"Citizens of Poland, I am speaking to you on behalf of the new Polish Government called into being by President Raczkiewicz on November 29, 1944. I am speaking to you from London, from free British soil where legal authorities of the Polish Republic have enjoyed hearty hospitality since the days of June, 1940, when Great Britain stood alone in her heroic struggle against the Nazi and Fascist enemies of mankind. Hardly four months divide us from the moment when the Polish Home Army in the Polish capital, led by the leading authorities of the fighting Underground in Poland, fought the crushing forces of oppression of the German aggressors for the purpose of building, by the will of the largest popular masses, the foundations of a new, free and democratic Poland.

"To you, dauntless people of Polish towns and villages; to you, all unflinching citizens of Poland; to you, members of the Government and of the Council of National Unity, acting invincibly underground in the occupied territories; to you, soldiers of the Home Army, bleeding for over five years in the uneven but relentless fight against the barbarous German occupants, to you flow the first thoughts and first words of the Government. Both men among us in the Government who so recently shared with you the vicissitudes of fighting inside Poland on Polish soil, and those whom fate ordered to organize the resistance of Poland and to defend her rights, first under the leadership of General Sikorski and then of Mikolajczyk—first on the hospitable soil of our French allies and then in the capital of our great ally, Great Britain—we all desire to be and shall be the spokesmen of your desires and longings, of your will and your action. No sacrifice made by you in the fight against the occupants can be in vain. Your lonely resistance against the avalanche of motorized barbarism going to the conquest of the world in 1939 was memorably honored by President Roosevelt

with the words: 'Poland in this war is the inspiration of mankind.' The British Prime Minister, great organizer of victory, Churchill, paid the deepest and most eloquent tribute to the 63-day struggle in burning Warsaw, unprecedented in history. We will continue ceaselessly to proclaim the truth about Poland and our nation, suffering and tried beyond human endurance, bleeding yet fighting.

"Without vain boasting but with full appreciation of the immensity of our sacrifices and achievements for the common cause of the United Nations—we shall tell the world of our Polish contribution to the common task of defeating the enemy and of our part in building the future of the postwar world—free, democratic and peace-loving. But your fighting and your work which have now lasted five years, or your terrible efforts cannot be forgotten. We shall also guard the memory and graves of those who sleep the eternal sleep of soldiers, airmen and sailors, after their victorious battle abroad, fought at the side of our Allies. We shall guard the memory and graves of soldiers of the Home Army who in the first days of the present year fought battles which pinned down considerable enemy forces, in conditions most difficult to support offensive operations of the Soviet army.

"In this war we are united and unanimous in our Home-country, and we are also unanimous as to the Polish cause, abroad. We are tied together not only by the common will to fight and conquer, but also by the common desire to rebuild an independent Polish Republic on the foundations of real democracy, of right, of respect for the rights of citizens and individuals, whatever their origin, nationality or faith, and on the foundation of such economic and social changes, which would assure to every citizen employment, just share of national prosperity and access to education.

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"Whatever happens, whatever may obtain,
I know only this: justice will prevail,
I know only this: Poland will rise again."

—Zygmunt Krasinski
(1812-1859)

POLAND'S POLICY TOWARDS HER JEWISH CITIZENS IN PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE

by PROFESSOR OLGIERD GORKA

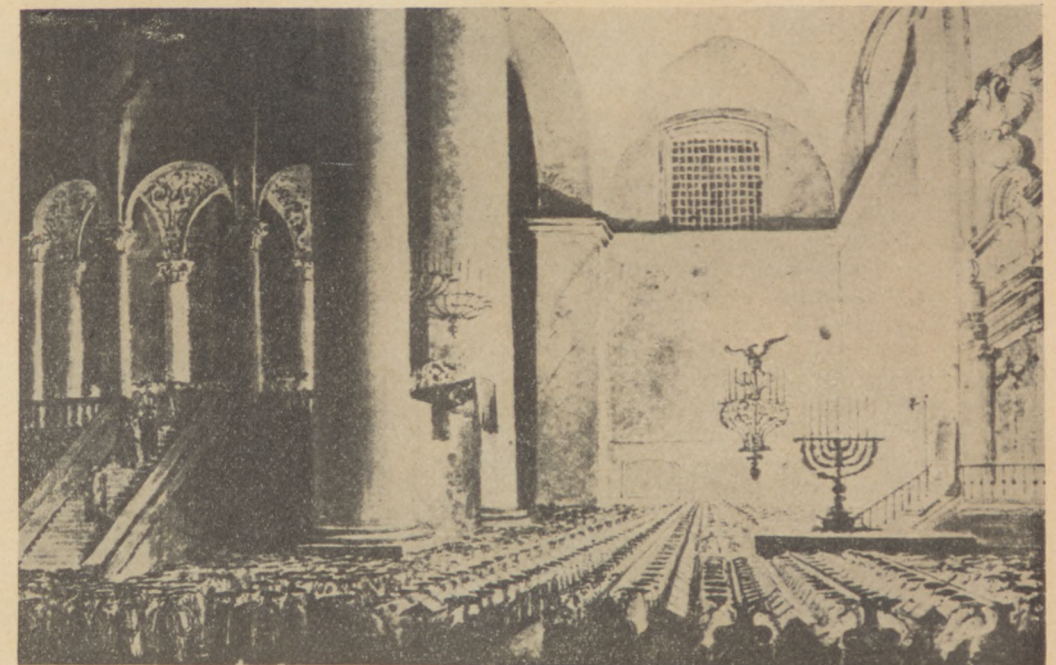
THE policy of the Polish Government during the present war with regard to the Jewish problem in its widest aspects and towards Polish citizens of Jewish faith or of Jewish nationality, has followed a decided course from the first moment of General Sikorski's premiership. This course was conceived as far back as the establishment of the Polish Government-in-exile in France and has been developed and put into broad active practice in England.

The Nationalities Department, of which I am the head, has been the executive organ of this policy. Created as a section of the Ministry of Information and Documentation, and later transferred to the Ministry of Interior, the Department unites in its scope the sum total of all problems of Polish Jewry in Poland and works in full accord and collaboration with the corresponding sector of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

The principles of the policy of the Polish Government as regards the Jewish problem and Poland's Jewish population are very simple. Their aim is to bring into being and full realization the principles stated in Polish Constitutional law providing for the absolute equality of all citizens regardless of creed, nationality or origin. Naturally the Section does not deal with those Polish citizens who, while preserving their Jewish religion, consider themselves nationally Polish. Such a citizen of Jewish creed or Jewish origin—to use a deceiving terminology imposed upon present-day thought by Nazism—is for the Polish State and its government quite as much a Pole and member of the Polish Nation as a Pole of the Catholic, Protestant or Greek Orthodox faith. The group does not therefore form a problem nor does it lie within the competency of the Government's nationalities policy.

There is, however, no doubt that these problems do exist so far as citizens who look upon themselves as Jewish nationals of the Jewish religion are concerned. And here—as we all realize—it is not enough to issue declarations of principles. What is needed is action, the realization of these principles in everyday life. While declarations are needed to give expression and countenance to the policy—it is practice that is the real test.

Steps towards the realization of the principles of full



Interior of Jewish Synagogue in Wilno.

By F. Smuglewicz

equality of rights for all Polish citizens taken by the Polish Government in France have been pursued during its longer and more regulated existence in England. All anti-semitic acts have been systematically combated, frequently through decisions and penalties imposed by Courts, as for instance in the Army. Polish citizens of Jewish religion or Jewish origin play an important part in the Government machine and are extremely active in the planning and preparations being made for Poland's postwar economic life. Pages of instances could be quoted to prove the truth of this statement. I wish to give here only one characteristic example. For a time rumors circulated in certain Jewish circles of the exclusion of Jews from the list of employees of the Polish Relief organized by the Polish Embassy in Soviet Russia. The opposite was the truth. Because the majority of Polish citizen refugees in Southern Russia in 1941 and 1942 were of the Jewish faith or of Jewish nationality—the great part of personnel employed in this work was Jewish. The percentage of Jews was 52.8% and in certain districts as high as 82% of the total of Polish citizens employed by the Polish Government in this relief work. I repeat that many such instances could be found in various Government Agencies, in the ratio of Jewish officers to soldiers of Jewish origin, in the Jewish share in receiving relief, all kinds of scholarships, etc.

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POLAND'S POLICY TOWARDS HER JEWISH CITIZENS IN PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE

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I speak of these facts, which I consider natural and sound, not because I want to emphasize them as a special achievement of the Government. My aim is only to correct rumors which—facts to the contrary notwithstanding—crop up in public opinion, time and again.

But I do consider it a decided point in favor of the Polish Government that, during this war, it defined clearly and precisely its stand on the Palestine question, a question which is so close to the hearts of millions of Jews. I am not concerned here with a discussion of the question of a Jewish State in Palestine—but the Palestine question does concern Poland as a problem of emigration and the future of Jews from Poland. The Polish Nation and Government deeply appreciate the patriotic platform of the Bund, which considers Poland its Motherland, as well as the attachment to Poland and the traditional cooperation of adherents of the Aguda. At the same time, the Polish Nation and Government in no way question the Polish patriotism of Jews whose ideological trends extend beyond the borders of the Polish State. The sympathies of the Polish Nation, which has itself always fought for freedom and its own independent state, towards the aspirations of the Jews for a homeland, are generally known and indisputable. We have no intention of calling on Polish citizens, whatever their origin, to leave Polish soil. On the contrary, we shall open wide the door of Poland unrestrictedly to all Jews-Polish citizens, regardless of place of birth, returning to the country of their birth, to their home and properties. At the same time, however, in a declaration announced by me some time ago on behalf of Prime Minister Sikorski and the Polish Government, I stated that Poland considers emigration to Palestine a right or an additional privilege of every Polish citizen of Jewish nationality—and not a duty. The formula "right, not duty" is without doubt the clearest definition that any Government could issue concerning its attitude; Poland welcomes her citizens of Jewish faith and Jewish nationality but at the same time appreciates and understands their longing for a national home and state.

Although tremendous importance is attached to the above questions by the Jewish emigration causing them sometimes even to overshadow all other problems, I personally consider them of secondary importance, for the time being. During this war, the problem of Polish Jewry has never been for the Polish Government one of declarations, or of satisfying secondary claims however just or unjust. For the Polish Government the problem of Polish Jewry has been, above all, a problem of bringing aid and succor to those masses of Polish Jewry in far-off Poland whose unique tragedy has no equal in the annals of history. This is the crux of the matter and this is its whole import. And here, I may state that it is the Polish Government which was the first to spread information concerning the fiendish persecutions and mass murders of Jews in Poland throughout the world. It was the same Government which, through the intervention of Minister Raczynski, initiated world official and diplomatic action in this field.

But more important than the activity of the Polish Government abroad or its work in the realm of world opinion is its activity within Poland itself. It is generally known that the Jewish combat organization of the Warsaw ghetto was enabled to undertake genuine armed resistance only after receiving arms and supplies from the Polish Underground Movement. But the most important fact was the organization in Poland of the Polish Council for Jewish Relief, a secret and imposingly active institution attached to the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Polish Government in Warsaw. The Council, with its seat in Warsaw and branches in other cities, consists of the most prominent representatives of Polish political parties and various Jewish parties from the National

Committee to the Bund. It did tremendous work in rescuing and hiding members of the Jewish population and we must remember that in general the problem of supplying identification papers, hiding Jews in Polish homes, etc.—was perhaps more vital than financial aid.

As to this latter problem, i.e. financial aid, it must be stated that in spite of the chief difficulty of currency transfer, the Polish Government spares no effort to supply as large sums as possible to the Polish Council for Jewish Relief attached to the office of the Plenipotentiary of the Polish Government in Warsaw and its branches. These sums were drawn from the Polish Government funds in addition to generous contributions on the part of many Jewish institutions, both national and Bundist, who did all they could in this respect. I do not hesitate to state, however, that, as we were more familiar with conditions in Poland than other agencies, we chose only the illegal and underground form of relief for Jews in Poland, realizing that all other kinds of relief were not dependable and abused by the enemy and therefore vehemently condemned by our Jewish compatriots in Poland. In all this work we have followed the demands and directives of Polish Jewry at home and not those of Jewish emigrés.

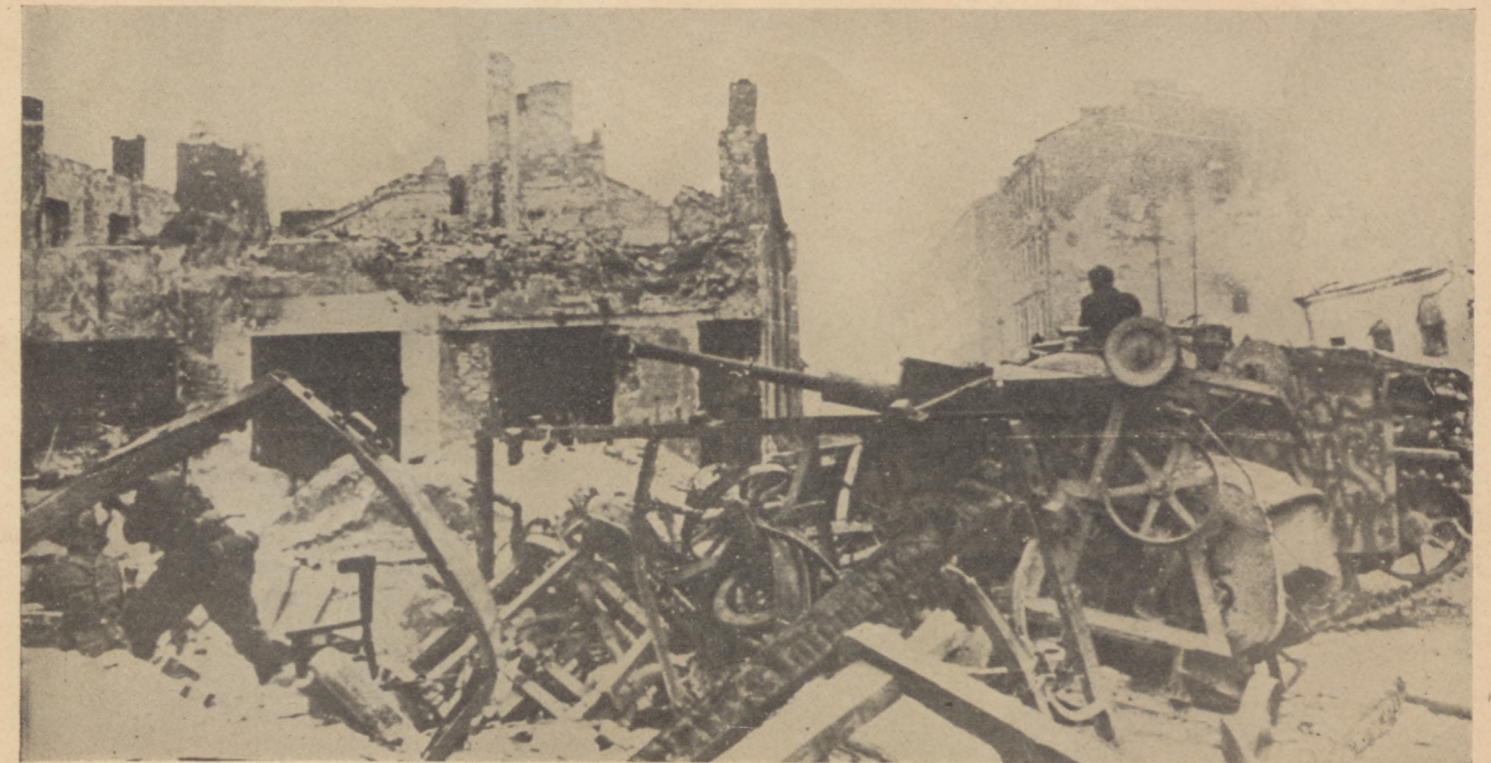
The future will permit a gradual unveiling of the true picture of the gigantic and truly realistic assistance extended to Polish—and often non-Polish Jews—on Polish soil by the Polish Government. I know that discussions on this subject will never cease, that in this matter too, as in all others, endless discussions will be possible and many suggestions will be offered proving how much more could have been done in spite of handicaps. But I know too, that other facts will be brought to light showing what really was done in actual deeds,—not in words or similar manifestations—by other Governments and non-Jewish agencies for the Jews in Poland who are being so ruthlessly murdered. I do not doubt that the result of this comparison will be to our greatest advantage. I do not claim it as basis for glory or boasting, but it is an irrefutable fact that the Polish Government has fulfilled its civil and humanitarian duties towards our Jewish co-citizens and compatriots in Poland. With them we have been united by many centuries of a common life on a common soil—and now we are even more closely united through this greatest tragedy in world history when millions of Poles have died besides millions of Jews on the common soil of Poland.

And in this connection I wish to mention briefly a most important fact. I accuse none here but the Germans. Above and beyond the Government there is the Polish Nation. Their hands are clean with respect to the Jews. Without dwelling on the question as to who helped murder Jews in East Europe, I state with the greatest pride in the Polish Nation that our hands are not stained with the blood of massacred Jews and that there has not been a single incident of Polish participation in the murdering of Jews anywhere in Europe or on Polish territory. Against the background of all that has been happening in Europe—the future will fully show how glorious and spotless is this page in the history of the Polish Nation. Those who are busy hurling second-rate accusations, forget that the judgment of the future will be based, above all, on facts, as to who actually took part in the shedding of innocent blood.

In closing, one more statement regarding the war and the post-war period. There is no doubt that there will still be a large number of Jews in Poland and, therefore, the Jewish problem will continue to exist in that country after the war. Polish policy as regards Polish citizens and the Jewish problem cannot be incidental, cannot be dependent on measures expedient to this or another Cabinet. It did not change after the tragic death of Prime Minister Sikorski and it will not

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THIS WAS WARSAW



A barricade in a Warsaw street, erected by the Polish Home Army.



Warsaw's Museum of Fine Arts was still standing in the early days of the rising. All that remains today is rubble. In the foreground is a shelter available only to the Germans.

Bogdan Pniewski, Polish Architect Who Spurned Nazi Honor, Killed in Warsaw



Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Warsaw, designed by Professor Bogdan Pniewski.

PROFESSOR BOGDAN PNIEWSKI, one of Poland's best-known architects, who spurned a German offer of the Chair of Architecture in Dresden after the Nazi occupation of Poland, was killed during the recent Polish uprising in Warsaw.

Dr. Pniewski, 47 years old and one of the youngest professors in the Warsaw Polytechnic Institute, won first prize among 187 Polish architects who entered the competition for designing Warsaw's Temple of Divine Providence after the last war. Erection of this shrine was provided for by the Polish Constitution of 1791. However, it was not until Polish independence was regained that the old project was revived and the competition announced for designs.

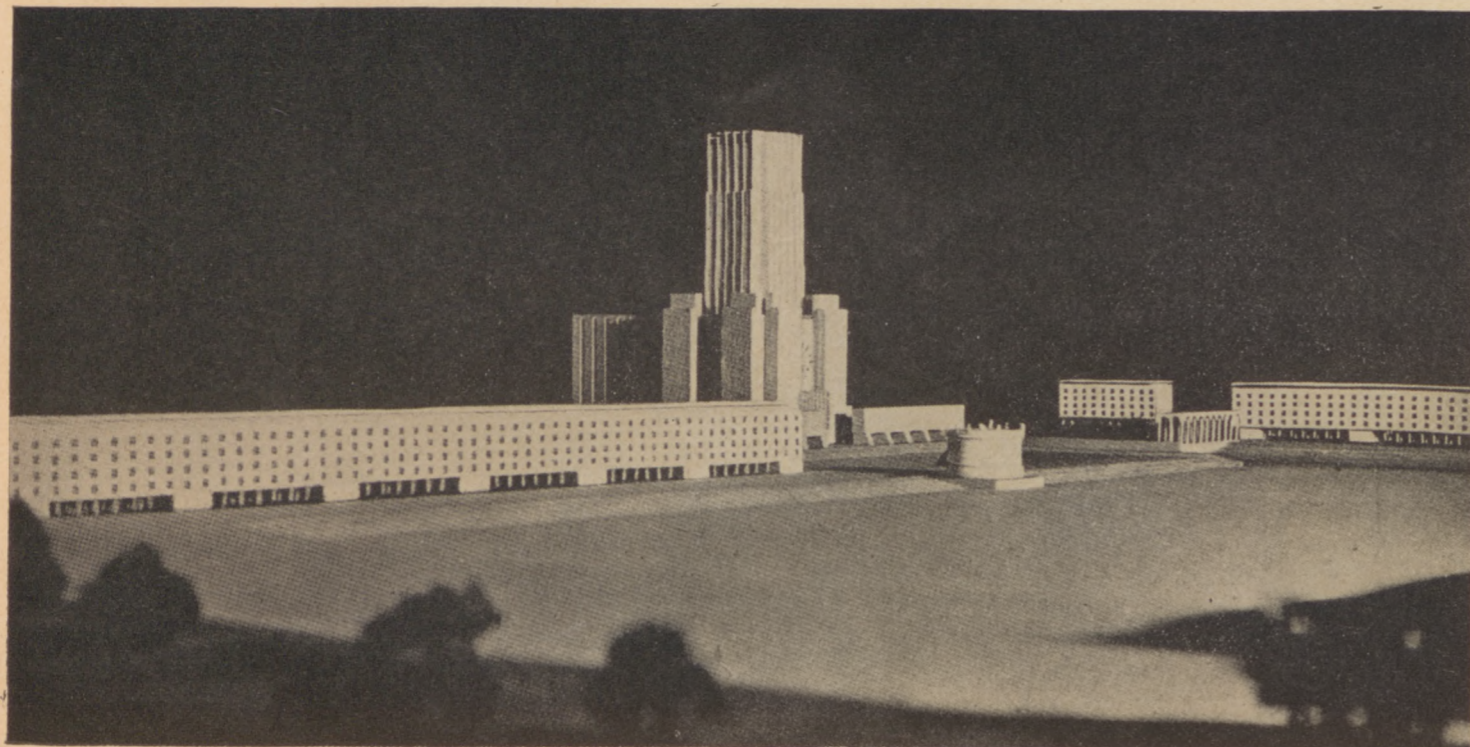


Hotel Patria in Krynica, designed by Professor Bogdan Pniewski.

The famous Bruhl Palace in Warsaw, later the seat of the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was reconstructed in accordance with Pniewski's designs. Pniewski was also the architect of the internationally known Hotel Patria in the popular mountain resort of Krynica. Shortly before this war, he completed the construction of a Court Building in Warsaw that grouped under one roof the Law Courts scattered all over the city.

An advocate of classicism in architecture, he developed his own style, which may be described as one of classical simplicity adapted to modern conditions and new materials.

Pniewski remained in Warsaw after the German invasion and joined the Polish Home Army uprising last summer. He perished amid the ruins of his beloved capital.



Temple of Divine Providence. Modelled after the design of Professor Bogdan Pniewski.

AN UNFINISHED GAME

by LUDWIK BRZESKI

I WAS visiting Captain R. in his tent on the Italian front. Before us ran a long alley of trees at whose further end was a munitions dump. The captain stared ahead for a while lost in thought. Then he lit a cigarette and picked up our conversation.

"Yes, it was a shock to us all—to me particularly—it was so sudden and unexpected. Jedrek led an advanced section to the port. He died along with Master Sergeant Bojkow. Two days after his death a letter came from his sister—Hanka, I think you know her? I had to give her the sad news and return her letter. What else could I do—he was a good soldier, an excellent leader and a fine colleague."

A strange silence fell over the vine-sheltered tent. It was sundown. I had come to this commander of the bomb demolition squad to get further details about Jedrek's death.

I had known Jedrek Kowalski for many years—we had attended the same school, although I had been two years ahead. Our mutual passion for tennis had long ago made us close friends. We played the game at every opportunity. Sometimes Jedrek's brother Jurek and another boy called Wladek joined us. Then we played doubles. Hanka, his sister, did not count for she was only a girl of 14. She was already attractive, but paid not the slightest heed to the young men who always surrounded her. When I finished school, I went to Warsaw to the University. I lost track of them, and only heard that Wladek had joined the air force and that the Kowalski's had moved away somewhere to another city. Not until the last days of August, 1939, did I run into Jedrek again. He had come to Warsaw and the first thing we did was to go to the Legion tennis courts. Jedrek won the first set while I took the second. The third stood 13 to 13 and it was already twilight, so we had to cut it short. We decided to finish it the next day, but the next day we were at war.

The next time I met Jedrek was three years later in Irak. He had come from England as a corporal in the engineering corps. Speeding along on his motorcycle, he recognized me and immediately stopped. We talked a long time, he told me all about Wladek who was a flight lieutenant and an ace of Colonel Skalski's Flying Circus" in North Africa.

"And can you imagine," he told me, "Hanka is soon going to marry him! He used to fly over our house in London and signal her by dipping his wings."

Later I met Jedrek again in the Transjordanian desert, in Egypt, in Palestine and finally in Italy. We always talked about that unfinished tennis game, but never had a chance to do anything about it. The last time I met him was in Ortona, in Italy. He was again speeding along on his motorcycle. He stopped to talk a moment.

"Do you know," he said, "Hanka is probably already married! Wladek is a major and a squadron leader in England."

As night fell, the captain and I became silent. Finally I rose. "Thank you, sir. I shall visit Jedrek's grave at the earliest possible moment." But before I left, an Italian civilian dashed over and spoke rapidly.

"Pardon, Capitano, but I am positive. A German bomb has fallen near our town. It's buried deep in the earth, but hasn't yet exploded. We are all afraid that it will blow up and wreck all our homes!"

The captain quietly asked the name of the town. The Italian replied and asked nervously, "When will you gentlemen come? It's dark already, but early tomorrow morning?" After he left, the captain drew me along the path.



A sapper of the Polish Second Corps, clearing a German minefield in the mountainous region of Northern Italy, does not overlook a single crevasse.

"Would you like to see our work—the work of Jedrek's platoon?"

* * *

Early the next morning I again met the captain. The little town was but 15 minutes away from our bivouac. Twenty minutes later we were hard at work. A large hole made the bomb's location quite readily apparent, but it was so deeply imbedded that we had to dig for it. Once we got it, we would have to dismantle it and sink it in the sea, or else explode it in some empty field. Even if it were a dud, it was important to examine it and determine the reason why it had not functioned properly. It was important not only to us but to all allied bomb demolition squads. All such units share one another's experiences and records. The knowledge gained by American platoons who took apart Jap bombs on New Guinea served our troops in Italy well, and vice versa. My friend the captain had already seen a number of projects and suggestions. His platoon had a sort of museum where all sorts of incendiaries were collected so that our practical knowledge of bombs was greatly increased.

It was 6 a.m. when our soldiers started digging for the bomb. They worked all day, then the next and the next. Finally on the fifth day the shaft was ready, supported by timbers and boards. A pulley was fixed over the shaft to

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STANISLAV V'SOSKE CREATES IMAGINATIVE RUGS

by WALTER C. BOW

SOME twenty years ago, a young portrait painter watched his wife making a rug. They were both dissatisfied with the result and the young artist began experimenting with small rugs of his own design. Outraged by the paucity of shades and crudity of color in commercial yarns, he set about learning dyeing processes, inventing tools, needles and looms, and forged a career for himself in manufacturing hand carved and individually designed floor coverings for American homes.

This artist, generally conceded to be the leading designer and manufacturer of custom-made rugs in the United States, is Stanislaw V'Soske, an American of Polish descent, who was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in 1899 and changed his surname, Wysocki, to the phonetic spelling of V'Soske.

V'Soske's first studies were at the Detroit Academy of Fine Arts under Wecker and Count Krzizanowski. He later studied at the Art Students League in New York City and at the Pennsylvania Academy, training under such contemporary masters as Garber, Henri and Bellows. Following this, he had a number of years of practical experience in various phases of commercial decorative arts, before finding himself in the business of designing and producing special tufted rugs. His technique of sculpturing in a deep pile was a later development, which came after a period of experimentation including the adaptation of tools for the purpose. V'Soske trained some forty workmen in the intricate job of executing his designs. He and his craftsmen, most of whom have been with him for years, select their colors from one of the largest palettes in existence, a collection of more than 25,000 swatches.

The designs of V'Soske's rugs are generally adapted from patterns of old documents, china, silver or other works of art. Additional patterns are evolved from shells, scrolls, flowers and geometric themes. His rugs range from the conservative to the ultra modern. He prefers solid colors in soft muted shades. Subtle and unusual colors are obtained by working first in paint and then matching the wool. Sometimes he combines several tones of the same color, creating a divergence of shade that looks like the play of light on one color. Emphasis is placed on the texture of the rug. One type of carving (cutting the wool down to various levels) depends upon the effect it achieves through the

shadows cast by its sculptural design. Each rug is hand tufted and then hand carved in original designs created by V'Soske. The making of a rug takes three months or longer.

V'Soske believes that a rug should mirror the personality of its owner and be made according to the room's specifications. It should help to create a perfect living picture and not be the center of attention merely because it is a beautiful piece. That is why V'Soske never duplicates a rug. Each is specially dyed, designed and woven to meet individual requirements. Every specimen must be flawless, otherwise V'Soske destroys it and starts all over again.

V'Soske's leadership in the field of rug making is reflected in the fact that his works have been pictured in such publications as *Vogue*, *Town and Country*, *House and Garden*, *Harper's Bazaar*, as well as important metropolitan newspapers. V'Soske rugs have been exhibited at the Paris Exhibition of 1937, the Art Institute of Chicago, New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, the San Francisco Fair, the Baltimore Museum of Art, the Detroit Museum, and other leading American museum exhibitions. Some have added his creations to their permanent collections.

Seven years ago, V'Soske was awarded a one thousand dollar prize by Lord and Taylor, the New York Department Store, for "furthering the prestige of American design and for significant contributions in the field of decorative floor coverings."

In 1942, at the invitation of the Museum of Modern Art in New York, V'Soske exhibited eleven rugs designed by ten prominent American abstract artists and executed by him. Included among the artists were Stuart Davis, John Ferren, A. E. Gallatin, Arshile Gorky, Charles Howard, E. McKnight Kauffer, Loren MacIver, George L. K. Morris, I. Rice Pereira, and Marguerite Zorach. The subjects ranged from the fanciful "Coral Sea" and the artless "Hopscotch" to pure abstractions and the provocative "Virgin."

V'Soske is proud of his Polish ancestry. He states, "naturally, I cherish a real sympathy toward the art of Poland and hope that when this war is over, I may be able to make contacts which will enable me to gain intimate knowledge of the achievements of the land of my parents in these fields."



STANISLAV V'SOSKE



Photo courtesy of Museum of Modern Art
HOPSCOTCH. Rug designed by Loren MacIver and executed by Stanislaw V'Soske.



Photo courtesy of Museum of Modern Art
ABSTRACT DESIGN. Rug designed by John Ferren and executed by Stanislaw V'Soske.



Photo courtesy of Museum of Modern Art
CORAL SEA. Rug designed by Marguerite Zorach and executed by Stanislaw V'Soske.



MUSIC RUG. Hand carved rug designed by Gilbert Rohde and executed by Stanislaw V'Soske for the Metropolitan Museum of Art.



Photo courtesy of Museum of Modern Art
MAGIC CARPET. Rug designed by Stuart Davis and executed by Stanislaw V'Soske.

SCHOOL REFORMS PLANNED BY POLES*

by BENJAMIN FINE

SWEEPING educational reforms for the post-war development of Poland, calling for compulsory public school attendance until the age of 18, universities open to all youth and a wide system of scholarships, have been formulated by the Polish Underground Labor Movement and the Polish Teachers Underground Convention, in a unique document called the "Educational Reconstruction in People's Poland."

Smuggled out of Poland at great risk, the underground program has been issued by the Payne Educational Sociology Foundation, in cooperation with the United States Committee on Educational Reconstruction. Many of the educational leaders who helped prepare the report and who worked on the program have been killed or captured. Large numbers met their death during the recent unsuccessful Warsaw uprising.

Preparation of the reconstruction program, under such adverse conditions, provides the greatest single hope for a Europe that will live in peace with deep concern for human welfare. Dean E. George Payne of New York University declares in an introduction to the report. Terming it a "remarkable document," Dr. Payne asserts that the underground program holds promise for a democratic educational policy in Poland and in other European nations.

CULTURE FOR ALL IN NATION

In a section on "Principles of Cultural Policy," the report, dated "Somewhere in Poland," declares that culture should not be the privilege of any special group but must become the property of the entire nation, accessible to every individual. To bring this about, the program recommends that compulsory kindergarten attendance for all children from 3 to 6 years old be introduced, to be followed by compulsory schooling from 6 to 18 years.

"Education, offered in a truly democratic spirit, should develop in the students an active sense of civic responsibility and social consciousness, respect for all honest work and a genuine love for it, as well as a readiness for sacrifice and an ability to take part in the nation's collective life," the Polish document maintains. "The educational work of the schools, especially in the field of social education, must be supplemented by social and civic centers outside the school system, bringing youth into actual contact with the problems of practical life; in this regard a major role must be played by voluntary youth organizations."

Both kindergarten and school education must be free, the underground statement declares; moreover, it urges that students of limited means receive scholarships as well as free boarding and lodging facilities. It recommends that schools

* Condensed from an article in *The New York Times*, of October 21, 1944.

of all types be co-educational and open to students of all religious denominations. National minority groups would have schools in their own native tongues "in full accordance with the principles of national and cultural autonomy."

FOR FEDERAL CONTROL

On the higher level, the "Educational Reconstruction in People's Poland" declares that the national government must create colleges, specialized institutes of art and science, and experimental schools. Financial aid should be furnished by the national government whenever necessary.

On the question of obtaining good teachers, the report holds that teachers must be guaranteed financial independence and living conditions that will enable them to devote their entire energies and intellectual interest to their work. This may be attained, it was brought out, through "adequate salary standards, automatic promotion, retirement pensions, reduction in the number of working hours, and provision of suitable living quarters."

During the transitional period, it is proposed that a temporary commission for cultural reform, consisting of experts in the various cultural fields, be organized to function in Poland. This commission would be an agency for planning and research, and prepare legislative material for the parliamentary committees. For the first four-year period after the restoration of Poland, all possible efforts must be directed toward the preparation of new contingents of teachers to augment the depleted cadres of trained personnel.

Advocating a far-reaching program of adult education, the underground teachers urge that people's universities be established for the peasantry as well as schools for educational and cultural workers. The report advocates universities and colleges for all citizens, irrespective of their previous schooling. In order to provide Polish cultural and educational institutions with a sound financial basis the teachers demand that a part of the confiscated German property in Poland be allotted to these institutions.

In a statement appearing with the underground document, Dr. Reinhold Schairer, research director of the United States Committee on Educational Reconstruction and head of the World Education Service Council, declares that these Polish plans are realistic and can be attained. While armchair pedagogues sometimes dream of "how to re-educate Europe," the educators in the occupied lands are tackling the problem in a forceful, vigorous manner, Dr. Schairer points out.

"Out of the catacombs and prisons, out of the fires and ashes, the new education of Europe will rise like a phoenix—clear, bright and strong," Dr. Schairer comments. "This Polish plan announces the coming new day of European education like the morning star."

POLAND'S POLICY TOWARDS HER JEWISH CITIZENS IN PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE

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be changed by any successive shifts in government. This policy is an integral and all-essential part of democratic Poland and no other Poland, excepting a fully democratic and progressive one lies within the realm of our future historic possibilities. I do not deny that symptoms contrary to this principle of full and fundamental democracy have appeared in Poland in the past and have sporadically appeared during the present war. These symptoms are systematically seized and blown to fantastic dimensions by groups unfavor-

able to Poland. Nevertheless no future constellation, no possible changes will leave even a trace of probability that in the coming European world, evolving out of an Allied victory, these symptoms can ever again develop to any extent or reach the executive authorities of the Polish State. Common sense and sound vision prove beyond all doubt that the Poland which will arise as the result of this war will be and will have to be an essentially and integrally democratic nation, in accordance with her 1,000-year-old tradition as a good mother to all her children, regardless of nationality or creed.

POLISH ARMORED TROOPS IN THE NETHERLANDS DRIVE NORTH TOWARD ROTTERDAM



A Polish tank serves as an observation post in a clearing at Hooze Zwaluwe, the Netherlands.



A Polish officer inspects a road sign that had been left behind in this Dutch town by Polish troops.



Poles escort German prisoners of war to the rear. Under enemy fire, they are forced to run.

Polish Ferry Pilots Win Admiration of Canada

by ALICE DEMERS

POLES have always been deeply interested in the New World. From earliest times they have come to our shores both as explorers and as pioneer settlers. Perhaps the first Pole to sail to our shores was John Scolvus who is said to have come in 1476 with a small Danish fleet. Scolvus was born at Kolno, a town in the province of Masovia in Poland, but he has been almost forgotten by history.

Once again Poles have come to our shores. This time Polish pilots who man the great modern ships of the air. These airmen are doing an important job in the war of transportation and have already contributed extensively on many operational fronts. Let us hope that they shall not be forgotten as John Scolvus was, but that their names shall be deeply engraved in the accounts of this present war, and the memory of their work never erased from the scrolls of civilization.

The Polish fliers at Dorval R.A.F. Transport Command form the largest foreign element flying with the Transport Command. The first arrivals came in 1941, three pilots who operated with mixed crews in the Ferry Command. Within the next two years Polish crews were sent to Dorval, until the group reached 70 in number. Among these 70 are pilots, navigators, wireless operators and flight engineers. All except three of these airmen have been on at least one opera-



"Plane delivered" to North Africa.

tional tour before coming to Canada: 11 have had two operational tours.

The purpose of sending the boys here is two-fold. First, they are given experience in long distance flying and second, they need the rest, but many of the fliers claim it is more strenuous than operations, especially when bad weather is encountered on northern trips, or they have to fly all night to reach a certain station. Actually this work is really only a break for the boys, as each month a few who have been here for considerable time return to Operational Squadrons or other duties overseas, then they are replaced by other Polish fliers who are also in need of a break.

The job they are doing is vital and dangerous; they are ferrying planes and supplies to all theaters of war. It is not uncommon to hear them say, "When I was in India last week," or "Yesterday, when I was in Africa"—the world becomes a small place when talking to these boys. Up to this point they have made 610 Atlantic crossings and have delivered 250 planes.

The officer in command of the Polish Pool is a well-loved character with a great sense of humor. Decorated six times, he can tell of many interesting exploits and hair-raising incidents over Germany while in the Operational Squadron. Many heroes are included in the group. There are several D.F.C.'s, a few D.F.M.'s and at least 34 Virtuti Militari Medals (the highest Polish award, given only for outstanding bravery in actual combat) and 40 Crosses of Valor. Most of these boys escaped from Poland through Rumania, Yugoslavia, France and then to safety in England. It is amazing with what aptitude they have learned to speak the English language. In such a short period of time, they have become 70 per cent efficient in the language.

There is, however, another side to these Polish Airmen: they are not mere mechanical heroes who perform their duties like some efficient robots at the officer's command—there is a very human side to them. They are more than automatons, they have souls and hearts filled with the warmth and love of Polish tradition. We Montrealers owe them much. The 70 boys who have been within our city for the past 2 years, have intermingled with the people, gone among friends, made vari-

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After a rest, the crew leave their hotel in North Africa to proceed to the air port, whence they will fly home to Canada.

POLISH DAY IN LOS ANGELES



Zosia and Ronald Kucala, representing the youngest generation of Americans of Polish descent, appeared in costume at a Polish Independence Day celebration on November 11, 1944, arranged by the "Friends of Poland" Society in Los Angeles, California.

POLISH FERRY PILOTS WIN ADMIRATION OF CANADA

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ous contacts. From each individual airman has branched out myriads of ideas, pleasant smiles of good will, and charming manners, that have spread the fame of Polish characteristics to a city that not so long ago still believed that the people of Poland live virtually in the Dark Ages.

We are astounded at their hungry desire for knowledge: they are an extremely intelligent race, but forever strive to learn more and seek to use every opportune moment for some valuable enterprise.

Their love of everything that is beautiful proclaims their most outstanding characteristic. From the moment they are born, soft notes of Chopin, Moniuszko, Szymanowski, and Paderewski float into their souls to remain there for time immortal, for a Pole is a true lover of music. It is not unusual to see these proud wearers of the eagle, bend over a flower along the way and exclaim over its beauty, or stop and stare at a rainbow or a colorful sunset. An admiration for Mother Nature and the great outdoors is deeply entombed in the hearts of all Poles. Even in their accented English speech there is artistic expression.

Never have I known a race of people that has retained such great faith, after having suffered so much. They are truly Christian in the real meaning of the word, and could teach us much of a stronger belief in the Great Creator.

A love of family life shines in their eyes when they glow over birthday cakes, or meet among friends and talk of past Christmases in Poland, painting eggs at Easter time amid warm friendly gatherings. Family ties are strong in Poland.

When speaking of Canada and America, they are fond of both countries and feel very much at home. Here, they are able to get their beloved Polish sausage, delicious soured cucumbers and many other Polish dishes. Quoting one Polish officer, he said, "Your climate is almost identical to ours, so how could we help but feel at home."

We take off our hats to these gallant men of the air, who represent a courageous, charming race of allied people on foreign soil. May we cite from the poem, "Ulysses"—"I am a part of all that I have met,"—in the same way have we become a part of all the Polish fliers we have met; and when they return to their native land, may we become a finer and greater people for having known them. Yes, we owe them much!

AN UNFINISHED GAME

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draw out the earth and water. The soldiers who were digging had to make a side tunnel—just like a gallery in a mine.

The work had to be done painstakingly and methodically. If our sounding apparatus registered a "tick-tock," that would mean a time bomb! Our soldier poked about with a seven-foot long iron rod, connected to the sounding apparatus into the ground—that was to indicate the presence of metal, but if that metal should by mistake touch the bomb! Before we could do anything, we had to determine what type of bomb it was, for only one kind could be dismantled. The extent of its damage also had to be known.

Unfortunately the ground was so hard that the shaft could not be dug to the bomb itself and the latter had to be pulled out by force. The captain ordered everyone to draw back and to seek shelter. He himself tied a line to the bomb, got onto our jeep and started the motor. Everyone held his breath. He, however, remained calm and did not betray any emotion. At last after a few tries the bomb moved, enabling us to dig some more. As it turned out, the detonator was missing. Some laborer from an occupied country had done his work well in a German munitions factory.

A Polish soldier dragged the dismantled bomb to a wide ditch especially dug for it in a large empty field.

The captain ordered our soldiers onto his jeep and let them off at various points scattered about the field's edge. It was a little before six. In exactly five minutes he would explode the bomb, but some Italian farmers still stood in the field. "Go and hide," the captain yelled. Finally, there was no one left within a radius of a kilometer. For the last time he went through the hamlet in his jeep to be sure that everyone was safely hidden. The captain was the last to take cover and then 30 seconds later the bomb exploded. Fragments whistled through the air over our heads. Trees bent from the blast of air.

"Weren't you scared?" the captain asked the Italian inhabitants.

"No!" they all laughed, "you should have seen what happened when the British blew up an ammunition train here!"

* * *

"That was our hundredth bomb," the captain said, turning to me as we rode along the jammed road to Porto Recanati to visit Jedrek's grave. "It doesn't sound like a lot, but it took us a good many months to do it. During that time we worked not only for the Second Corps, but also for the commandant of the Eighth Army. In addition to bombs we took

apart 5,500 mines near Allied landing strips in Taranto. Our first bomb was also tackled in Taranto—on February 18, 1944. But before we even got to this first bomb our platoon had to travel a long and toilsome road. During the 1939 Campaign in Poland we also had charge of unexploded bombs. Unfortunately, however, at the time there was no such organized army service for this work. No country had one as yet, not until late in 1940 during the Battle of Britain when hundreds of bombs rained daily on England. Then the work of bomb disposal squads became a matter of life and death to thousands of people. A special course of study was set up. Training courses were begun in the Army. At the same time, when the Second Corps was being set up, the commander of the engineering corps created our own bomb disposal platoon. At first we were just a bunch of soldiers without any equipment, nor did we know how to go about our assigned task. Then I as their appointed leader was sent to a British school. When I finished the course and returned, I taught them the secrets of bomb demolition. We set up a regular school complete with a blackboard, chalk and a spade. I used to dig a hole in the ground and say "This is where the bomb is embedded." We had to imagine everything, for the Luftwaffe never bombed Irak.

When not long after, the entire Corps was transferred to Palestine, our platoon went to Syria, where we were assigned to our first battle sector at Beyrouth. Our boys were full of enthusiasm and hope that finally they would soon see some action. The port is an important one on the Mediterranean, but the Luftwaffe never touched it. Nor did our subsequent transfer to Haifa bring us any closer to the fighting. The first real bomb we ever saw was in Italy—in a most difficult and dangerous place. The bomb had a time fuse that was not fixed to go off until some time after it struck. It was well made—we could neither take it apart nor destroy it. The bomb would explode at the slightest touch. Finally we took care of the 250-pounder, by methods the enemy would like to know. As my commander once told me "In our business you make a mistake only once . . ."

* * *

On a marble slab we saw the legend: "Andrzej Kowalski, second lieutenant of the Polish Engineers, born July 14, 1920 in Warsaw, died on the field of glory, July 6, 1944."

The captain and I stood a long time in silence before this grave at Recanati. We both seemed to see him before us, sitting on his motorcycle dusty and begrimed, but smiling as always. I could almost hear him call "Remember that unfinished game of tennis!"

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PREMIER TOMASZ ARCISZEWSKI BROADCASTS TO POLAND

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"Both in the home country and abroad this future democratic structure of Poland has been clearly defined in a number of declarations which form irrevocable pledges. They are: Government declaration of December 18, 1931, the declaration of Parties of August 15, 1943, the declaration of the Council of National Unity of March 15, 1944 and the manifest of the Council of National Unity of August 18, 1944, broadcast from bombed and burning Warsaw. Pledges contained in these declarations will be deepened and developed. In the very near future fundamental decrees relating to our political, economic and social future and, above all, a decree about land reform and about electoral laws to legislative bodies, will be published, which have been adjusted with Ministers inside Poland and with the Council of National Unity. The decree about electoral laws will have special importance because the main tasks of legislative bodies, elected by free, direct, secret, universal and proportional polling, will be to introduce a new and democratic constitution for the Polish Republic, in accordance with the will of the nation.

"The political basis of the Government of which I am Premier continues to be the agreement of four Parties. True, there are at present no representatives of the Peasant Party in the Government. However, that Party supports the Government and it is our wish that its rightful representatives should join it in the near future. Difficulties which are facing us must be overcome. We do not hide the fact that the problem of Polish-Russian relations is included among these. All Poles earnestly and sincerely desire good-neighborly and friendly relations with the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics, whose magnificent war deeds in the East of Europe have turned the scales of victory to the side of the United Nations. Expression of this desire can be found in the battles of the Home Army which, according to its strength and means, added its

armed efforts to the operations of the Soviet armies in their victorious offensive on the soil of our country.

"We are full of admiration for the sacrifices made by the great Allies in both hemispheres, and we trust that the efforts of the Polish nation will find just and fair appreciation in the world—the effort of a nation which of all the United Nations has fought the longest against the enemy, and has suffered and is still suffering the greatest and most cruel losses in the torture camps of Oswiecim and Majdanek, in the Jewish Ghettos and in the innumerable camps of execution. We believe that our cause, the cause of the first nation on the long list of nations united today in the fight against Nazism and Fascism, will not suffer any damage and will find its final solution in accordance with the spirit of these principles, which are the aim of hundreds of millions of men, women and young people in the temporarily conquered countries, of principles which are also the common good of all the great democracies of the world.

"The Government believes that all controversial matters between Poland and the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics will be solved on lasting, just and honorable conditions, safeguarding the interests of both sides. Our whole nation unanimously desires to be an element of lasting peace and good-neighborly friendship with nations which, like ourselves, have passed through the hell of German aggression. Poland desires to be among the free nations of the world and an element of peace, freedom and progress in every sphere of life. She deserves that her rights should be respected, that her future should be secured and that our future generation should live and work in peace and happiness. When the era of the bloody German flood will end, when aggression is checked and rendered impossible in the future—we will do all we can to make Poland play her due part in the brotherly family of the peace-loving nations of the world."



Address by Dr. Adam Pragier, Poland's Minister of Information, to Polish Union of Journalists

"The Polish Government is a true spokesman of the unanimous opinion of our people at home, our armed forces and generally speaking of all Poles. Mr. Arciszewski, the present Polish Prime Minister, has been one of the principal leaders of the Polish underground state. For four-and-a-half long years he stuck to his duty while facing the possibility of death and torture at every hour of the day and night. Similarly, another member of the Government, Mr. Berezowski, Minister of Interior, has also taken a prominent and gallant part in the underground movement and has sat for four years on the underground councils in Poland.

"We all regret the absence of the Peasant Party from the Cabinet, but you have read their statement in which they have declared their support of the legitimate Polish Government in its defense of the highest interests of the Polish people. Tactical differences cannot disrupt that fundamental unity of all of us in demanding a minimum of right and justice for the people who have been unflinching in their resistance to the invader from the first, and in their faithfulness to the British Alliance through thick and thin.

"The stubborn will of our people to live an independent life was demonstrated to the whole world during the Warsaw rising. Two hundred thousand civilians—that is the German estimate—have paid with their lives for this testimony and our capital has ceased to exist. It has actually been obliterated.

"What was the reason for this holocaust? The purpose of the men and women who went to their death was to cry out in a voice that would shake

the conscience of the world, that they would not be content with mock independence, with sham freedom, with ersatz liberty and that they preferred hideous death to life in bondage. Their simple program is ours too! We reject slavery. We refuse to sign our own warrant of death!

"The policy of one-sided concessions without any equivalent, without any guarantees that there will ever be an end to new peremptory demands, is a policy of capitulation; it is a Munich policy and it must finally bring the same misery, same disasters and same shame which resulted from that ill-fated agreement. Appeasement has never been a policy which would commend itself to free democracies for any length of time.

"The Polish Government is keenly aware of the difficulties it will have to face but it will not shrink from them. Many of these difficulties are but a result of misunderstandings and it will be my duty to clear them up. The Cabinet will derive additional strength from the schooling of its Prime Minister and some of its members in underground struggle. The underground movement is a good teacher though its fees are extremely high.

"I have always believed that freedom-loving peoples cannot abandon the cause of any free nation without the greatest danger to themselves. By defending Poland's rights and her just cause we are fighting not only for ourselves but also in the interest of all United Nations. We are fighting for their honor and their integrity, for equality among nations, for respect of the pledged word and in defense of ideals and principles more important than demands of temporary expediency, and indispensable for the winning of peace."



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