

STATEMENT OF HONORABLE JAMES N. MEAD MEMBER, U. S. SENATE, NEW YORK

POLISH HEROISM

As we pause to pay tribute to the memory of the great Polish patriot,

General Casimir Pulaski, who contributed so much to the establishment of our

Republic, our thoughts turn to the heroic fight waged by the underground forces

of Warsaw under General Bor, their courageous leader. The sixty—nine day uprising

of the Polish patriots in the face of overwhelming odds is another chapter of a

brave people in their fight for freedom.

The sacrifices of these brave people, men and women, must serve as an inspiration to free peoples everywhere and must spur us on to greater efforts to the end that the sacrifices which have been made will not have been in vain.

Poland was the first nation to resist the aggressions of Hitler in 1939 and the brave resistance which her people offered to the first full dress display of the might of the Nazi war machine aroused the free peoples of the world to the perils which confronted humanity if Hitler went unchecked. In that brave decision to cast aside appeasement and fight for the right, the whole course of history was changed. Without that valiant struggle, engaging as it did Hitler's forces for thirty-five days of major warfare in the Autumn of 1939, England would not have had the time in which to prepare, the dictators' program for the conquest of the Eastern Hemishpere might have succeeded, and today we in America might have been threatened with invasion of our very shores. We shall never forget our debt of gratitude for the large part that Poland has played in rallying the forces of the democracies and in bringing us to the threshold of victory.

In addition to the heavy loss of life among the underground forces in the Battle of Warsaw the civilian populations of Warsaw and the other stricken areas are in dire need of foodstuffs, clothing, shelter, fuel and medical supplies. It is heartening to know that a delegation of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration is about to visit Poland and it is to be hoped

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- 2 that no political disputes will be permitted to interfere with the establishment of an effective relief program immediately for these innocent victims of the most devastating war the world has ever known. As members of the United Nations, the United States and the Republic of Poland have pledged mutual assistance to the end that the Four Freedoms become the heritage of the peoples of the earth. True to our solemn promise we in America thus are bound to exert the full weight of our good offices in the reestablishment of a free and independent Poland so that she may take her place among the nations of the world. President Roosevelt and Secretary of State Cordell Hull have made it abundantly clear that America and the American people will redeem our solemn pledges.

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