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For immediate release

MEAD LAUDS POLAND'S
FIGHT FOR FREEDOM

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Constitution.)

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When the Polish Government concluded its alliance with Great Britain in that hectic spring of 1939, she realized full well the seriousness of her action. True, it was a generous step on the part of the British Government, but it was conceded under the existing circumstances that Britain could not give much effective help in case Poland was attacked by the Nazi military machine. Poland by concluding the treaty undertook to bear the brunt of the attack, a condition inherent in the terms of the treaty.

This decision on the part of Poland to cast her lot with Great Britain was deeply resented in Berlin, for it caused the Nazi-war-makers to change their plans of conquest.

Poland because of her geographical location and her pledge to Great Britain was now to become the first to fight. This was indeed a brave decision when one looks back and considers the disparity in the military forces of the two nations. Other nations fell for the subtle Nazi propaganda and allied themselves with Hitler's plan of conquest. Still other nations submitted and were overrun but not devastated. There were some who resisted mildly and suffered like penalty. Some few others fought with all they had and were subject to the cruelties of the enemy army of occupation.

However, Poland was called upon to be the first to feel the impact of the mechanized Nazi machine. She was the first to resist Nazi aggression. Poland not only changed the Nazi plan of world conquest -- she gave the world a preview of Hitler's military might; more than that, she gave Britain and France time to prepare for the inevitable.

Poland's courageous determination to fight for principle robbed Hitler of the element of surprise in his plans for the invasion of France and the Low Countries - and gave warning to the western nations of Europe to prepare, for they were soon to face similar attack.

Poland stood up bravely fighting it out from September 1 until October 5, the date of the last battle in which regular enemy forces were engaged. After October 5 guerrilla warfare continued, and when that died away an effective underground came into being.

These thirty-five days of major warfare in the autumn of 1939 prevented further Nazi military activities until the summer of 1940. Think of the consequences of a sudden surprise attack on France and England in 1939! Poland prevented such a disastrous event and by her action many military experts believe she saved the day for the United Nations. Both her government and her people fought for us then. It is our simple duty to stand by her now and also when the peace is determined.

The Polish war was by no means a pushover for Hitler's mechanized forces. Warsaw held out for three weeks and its losses in killed exceeded the losses sustained by the whole of Great Britain in three years of aerial warfare.

On September 30 Modlin capitulated, but only after its supplies and ammunition became exhausted. On October 2nd General Kleeberg led his Polish troops in the Battle of Kock against overwhelming Nazi forces. After three days of desperate fighting and with Soviet armored forces encircling his rear, Kleeberg was forced to cease fighting.

17,000 men, 5,000 horses, besides a large number of cannon guns and ammunition, according to Nazi reports, were captured which gives one an idea of the size of the last Army that faced 75 mechanized Nazi Divisions operating in Poland.

Poland's losses were terrific. The nation lay in ruins. The Soviet and Nazi forces occupied the country. Poland was partitioned again.

But, and this is all important, the war was not lost to the United Nations in 1939. Although defeated in Poland the war was not over for the Polish military forces. Their Navy continued the struggle without a break. The Army was in the thick of the Norwegian campaign in early 1940 and later the same year in France. The Air Force was being absorbed by the R.A.F.

Following the fall of France the Polish forces made way

to Britain where they could continue the struggle.

The Carpathian Brigade found its way south through Palestine and fought effectively at Libya and Tobruk.

They never gave up the struggle to regain the freedom of their homeland and to assure the same privileges to their fellowmen.

They traveled as far as around the globe to re-enter the contest. They fought in Poland, Norway, France, North Africa, and the Middle East. On land, in the air, and upon the sea the men of Poland carried on. In the conquered countries throughout Europe they are foremost in sabotage and in underground operations.

According to statistics given out in 1943, Poland's military strength was excelled by only four other nations.

The Polish Air Force, now with the R.A.F., is stronger than it was in 1939. I saw them in action while in England and was told they fight with reckless abandon so far as their own safety is concerned. "They are absolutely fearless in action," explained one British officer. "We have difficulty holding them in check."

The Polish Navy is also stronger and better equipped than it was before the war began. With the occupation of Poland every Polish ship went to Britain or went down fighting in the attempt.

The Polish Army, once seventh in size in the world, is smaller than in 1939. However, it is fifth in size among the Allies according to 1943 figures. It is poised for the great invasion and the world will shortly hear again of its exploits on the battlefields of Europe.

On this anniversary of Poland's Constitution, I review her epic struggle as one of our foremost fighting allies. I commend the courage and sacrifice of her indomitable people, and above all I appeal to the sense of justice of the United Nations to be fair and considerate of her aims and aspirations when victory comes and peace dawns upon a war wearied world.

We have achieved marvelous results in the conferences held at Moscow, Teheran, and Cairo. We are sustained in our faith that the United Nations can and will continue to work together as a harmonious team.

The communique jointly issued by Mr. Molotov, Mr. Eden, and Mr. Hull at Moscow gave us hope for a closer unity among the nations in determining the problems of today and tomorrow. That communique said:

"The conference agreed to set up machinery for insuring the closest cooperation between the three governments in the examination of European questions arising as the war develops."

That was a magnificent statement. It contains unquestionably the keystone upon which the future peace must rest. The closest cooperation between the three most powerful of the United Nations will destroy the attempts of our enemy to divide our people and frustrate our noble enterprise. Again, Mr. President, I appeal to the leadership of the great powers who wage this war to destroy aggression and injustice, to consider Poland's case in the light of the might contribution she has so heroically made.

