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*Without a free Czechoslovakia there would be no free Poland, and
without a free Poland there would be no free Czechoslovakia.*

T. G. MASARYK
FIRST PRESIDENT OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

POLISH-CZECHOSLOVAK COLLABORATION IN BOMBAY

On the 8th February 1943, under the auspices of the Polish-Czechoslovak Collaboration Committee, at Green's Hotel in Bombay, Poles and Czechoslovaks as well as their numerous friends celebrated the anniversary of the Declaration signed by the Polish and Czechoslovak Governments in London on the 23rd January 1941. This Declaration relates to the Federation of these two States.

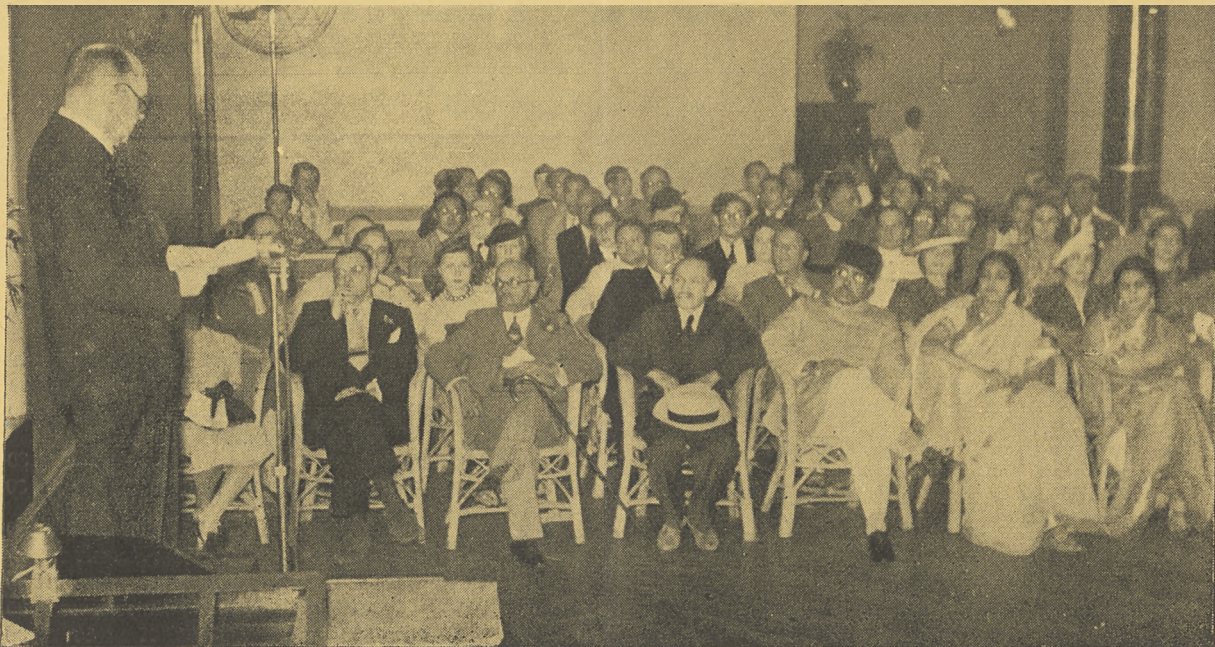
After an opening address, the Consul General for Poland and the Consul for Czechoslovakia delivered speeches, the summary of which we give below for the benefit of our readers.

The programme of the celebration included songs by Mrs. Hanka Ordonowna and Mr. B. Bratich, and dances by Mrs. Lena Zelichowska. All the artists were given an enthusiastic reception. The closing address was delivered by Dr. Z. Augenthaler, Consul for Czechoslovakia.

The Address given by Dr. E. Banasinski,
Consul General for Poland

There is hardly any need to recall that the Polish-Czechoslovakian idea of federal union in its substance is not just two years old and not of the making of any governing body, but that in its origin it is as old as our two nations themselves and that it is of Nature's own making.

Bonds of blood and of spirit have been forging it from time immemorial. The close racial and tribal affinity witnessed by the close kinship of both languages and the kinship of the national spirit, manifested in a similar attitude in the social and cultural field have formed since the remotest past many natural channels directed to a political confluence. To mention only the broadest of these channels—both peoples amongst all the Slav nations adopted Roman Christianity and Roman culture. Both peoples at the dawn



Dr. E. Banasinski, Consul General for Poland, addressing the audience at Green's Hotel on the 8th February 1943.

of their history displayed the same democratic attitude shown in the election of their ruling dynasties, the Piasts and Przemyslids, from the peasant classes. So, from the beginning there were all the internal elements which could and should have naturally produced a political federation. Over them there was the powerful external incentive—the danger from a common ever greedy neighbour.

While common dispositions and tendencies called for a common political structure, considerations of mutual security called for a common front. But the vicissitudes of history prevented in the past this twofold link from materialising in a permanent manner. The enemy whom both peoples are facing today, by the same "fifth-column" methods which were so successful in the preparation of the present war, drove wedges into our common frontier being well aware that to keep both peoples apart meant to keep them exposed to easy attack.

Thus, when Poland in the 14th century inaugurated her epoch-making policy of federal unions of free and independent nations, a policy so diametrically opposite to the later empire building policy of her neighbours, when the first act of this policy was concluded by the Polish-Lithuanian federal union and when the actual plan was to create a triple union in which the Bohemian sister nation was to be the third partner, sudden voices of dissension, very particularly arising at

the crucial moment where agreement had hitherto been undisputed, frustrated the federation at the eleventh hour.

When Poland entered on the successive acts of her federal policy, the neighbouring sister country was already incorporated with the Hapsburg empire and the natural postulate of the federal union had to be postponed for centuries.

But the natural common front, though prevented from coming forward in its full capacity, emerged in spontaneous national motions from the time when Bohemian knights fought at the side of the allied Polish-Lithuanian Army in the battle of Grunwald 1410 until the time when Czechoslovakian volunteers enlisted in the Polish Army at the beginning of the tragic September campaign.

The great achievement at which Polish and Czechoslovakian Governments have finally arrived two years ago, is not only the solution of past problems and the actualisation of an age-old postulate. In its turn, it imposes upon the federated countries new important tasks and puts before our eyes the conditions requisite for translocation of the federal union into a political and economical reality.

So, when we come to the immediate work, we find that we have come at a stage in human affairs where the federal idea has to be put into practice for the greater good of mankind. For Poland and Czechoslovakia it means the subduing of main national policies to the common good. Instead of short term benefit of seclusion and patriotic



Mrs. Hanka Ordonowna

vanities, they will be preferring lasting good by co-operation in military, political and economic spheres.

It is a matter of pride and satisfaction to the Poles that the memorial date of their re-established independence, the 11th November, has been combined with the date of the federal agreement with the Czechoslovak sister-country.

It may indeed become an epochal date. Poland and Czechoslovakia hope and expect that other countries may join in this policy of federal collaboration and follow them on this road which now leads them jointly to victory, and after victory will lead them to security, lasting peace and happy unhampered progress.

The Address given by Mr. Ladislav Urban,
Consul for Czechoslovakia

The collaboration between Czechoslovaks and Poles, based on genuine friendship, is not of a

recent date. From a political point of view it took a definite form during the last war when Poles and Czechoslovaks had one common aim, namely to restore independence to their countries. It was the political wisdom that brought Masaryk and Paderewski together when the destiny of their nations was at stake. The cordial relations of these two great statesmen, who understood each other and were working in complete harmony, set a good example to their peoples and nothing stood in the way of further development of the amity between the two nations when after the war Czechoslovakia and Poland emerged as free States.

Masaryk, who had a gift of expressing his thoughts in clear and terse sentences, was the author of the axiom that without a free Czechoslovakia there would be no free Poland, and without a free Poland there would be no free Czechoslovakia, thus hinting at the imperative necessity of coordination of the national interests of both countries with the higher political ends. We might add today that without the freedom of these two countries there will be no free Europe.

Czechoslovakia and Poland have been neighbours for many centuries, since the very beginning of their national existence. . . . They had their common frontiers, and on account of their geographical position, a common enemy, the Germans, who since immemorial times have tried to overrun their countries and wipe out the Slavic population from the surface of Central Europe. Both have lost their independence in the past and had to fight for it in the last war on the side of the Allies with a result that the old Kingdom of Bohemia emerged from the last war as the Republic of Czechoslovakia and the Kingdom of Poland as the Republic of Poland. It was a political change of great importance, showing how both nations were equally prepared to meet the new situation, break the old tradition, and start their new independent life according to the ideals of modern democracy.

Now they have again lost control of their affairs and their historical enemy has overridden their territories and enslaved their people.

Who is responsible for all these tragedies? Who is responsible for all this huge loss of life and the staggering financial toll of Teutonism on all allied nations for military expenditures?

The lust for power was not Hitler's specialty. It had its roots in the aggressive German spirit, in the movement among the Germans which since the time of Bismark and the Hohenzollerns was known under the name of "pan-Germanism" from which the German National Socialism and Hitler drew their inspiration for the Nazi Germany. This old movement among the Germans, the

spirit of which was expressed in their national song "*Deutschland Ueber Alles*"—"Germany Above All"—promoted the idea that the German nation was predestined to play the leading part in Europe, to rule over all other nations, and to accomplish this mission through "blood and iron."

This pan-Germanism was the cause of the last war and is the cause of this war. It was defeated in 1918, but not exterminated. That is the reason why we have a new war. It was surprising how quickly it recovered from its defeat and reappeared in the form of National Socialism. Pan-Germanism is a dream. A dangerous and arrogant dream. It dreams of a powerful German empire from the Atlantic to Western Asia. It is a threat to the Slavic nations, to the British, French and other colonial powers, and ultimately to the rest of the world. It has also been known by its slogan "Push South-East"—"*Drang nach dem Sued-Osten*." We now have no doubt that the Germans meant business. It was no bluff. It has been such a tempting programme for buoyant Germans that very likely they will be slow to abandon it in spite of the defeats inflicted upon them. It will be in the interests of world peace to have this movement liquidated once for all.

Czechoslovakia and Poland, by their geographical position have been and will be the break-water against the Germans pushing East and South-East. Consequently their importance will only grow in the future Europe. It will be up to these two States to fulfil their mission in the future. Preparations are already being made for the post-war order and as far as Czechoslovakia and Poland are concerned, they were the first two States which agreed to lay foundations for future cooperation by the Declaration of the Polish-Czechoslovak Confederation as early as November 11, 1940. This Declaration was followed by the supplementary agreement of January 23, 1942, according to which the purpose of the Czechoslovak-Polish Confederation is to assure common policy with regard to foreign affairs, defence, economic and financial matters, social questions, transport, post and telegraphs. The Confederation will have a common general staff in peace time, and in the event of war a unified supreme command will be appointed. International trade and customs tariffs will be coordinated with a view to the conclusion of a customs union. Each of the two countries will have its own national currency but a firm parity will be established between them and permanently maintained. There will be a common plan for the development of railways, highways, waterways and air transport and identical rates for postal and telegraphic communication services will be binding on the whole territory. The Confedera-



Mrs. Lena Zelichowska

tion will assure cooperation among its members in social policy, in education and in cultural matters in general. The constitutions of the individual States of the Confederation will guarantee to the citizens of these States the Four Freedoms, and the control of government by the representative national bodies by means of free election. The agreement recognizes the necessity of establishing common organs of the Confederation to ensure a common policy with regard to these specific fields.

This actually is the programme, or a statement of policy, leading to the future collaboration of both nations. It may be subject to changes according to the situation at the end of the war. It will be subject to the approval of the Parliaments in both countries. It is a far-reaching step forward and we sincerely hope that the basic constructive idea will take a definite form after the war and bring about good results beneficial to both countries and the new Europe.

NEWS FROM AND ABOUT POLAND

EXPOSE OF THE POLISH MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

At the meeting of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Polish National Council held on the 16th of March Mr. Raczynski, the Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs in his *expose* of the problems of international policy said:—

“The steady and sure approach of victory of the Allied arms compels our minds to dwell more seriously and more definitely than before on the problem of organising the post-war world. All nations participating in the present struggle, but more particularly those amongst them which have made the greatest contribution towards it, have the right and duty to devote their utmost attention to the problem. This also concerns Poland who was the first to enter the war on the strength of her own decision after having rejected any compromise with the enemy and is paying in blood and treasure the highest price of which she is capable.

“The construction of a post-war system cannot be achieved by means of mechanical operation according to a theoretical pattern. Neither does it depend solely or primarily on problems of procedure: It must be made to serve generally accepted and honestly interpreted principles. The ideological programme of the United Nations, as conceived up till now, consists primarily of the four freedoms enunciated in the Atlantic Charter to which all Governments of the United Nations acceded. This framework still remains to be filled in with details adapted to the authentic needs of moment.

“Post-war organisation must include both the great and small Powers either individually or, one may hope, collectively in the shape of federations or regional agreements. Marshal Smuts in his memorable address delivered in London recently made a very opposite suggestion for acceptance, as a point of departure for future organisation, the already existing body of the United Nations by extending its powers and in time supplementing its composition in conformity with such rules as may be established for the purpose. It is an obvious requirement that within the United Nations the great powers should occupy the position to which they are entitled. But it is matter of equal necessity to adopt the democratic principle of equal participation in organisation by all its members. And in this connection it may be useful to recall emphatically, and contrary to the opinion of those whose memories are either too short or who are simply ignorant or inclined to

hypocrisy, that the responsibility for the outbreak of present war does not lie with smaller States but with aggressive Powers thirsting for territorial conquests and for domination not only over their weaker neighbours but over powerful rivals as well. This war is being waged in order that such crimes shall not be repeated and that such methods of conduct, incompatible with modern progress, and with principles of Christian civilisation, shall be definitely condemned.

“The Services of Great Britain, U.S.A., U.S.S.R. and of China in the achievement of victory will be great. Their corporate collaboration in defence of proclaimed principles will be universally welcomed and will be readily supported by the other United Nations. It would be a mistake, however, to canalize it into an exclusive grouping of some four Powers on the model of the abortive creation conceived by Mussolini and designed to exact concessions for the benefit of Germany and Italy which was realised but once at—Munich with results we all know so well.

“Acceptance in any form or shape of profoundly immoral teutonic conceptions of “living space” which is but a convenient screen for common conquest would amount to a mistake of the same order. I cannot therefore subscribe to the treatment this problem received in one of the leading London journals on the eve of Eden’s departure for U.S.A., where it has been interpreted with an ambiguity of which enemy propaganda has made immediate and full use. I have reasons to believe that the article in question expressed only and solely the opinions of the journal with which we have become already familiar on certain occasions. The journey of British Foreign Secretary to America at the present momentous juncture will enable him to have a profitable direct exchange of ideas with President Roosevelt, Mr. Cordell Hull and other advisers of the President. I have no doubt that it will constitute another stage in the process of defining doctrines and perhaps also the form of collaboration within the body of the United Nations.”

The Polish View as to the Organisation of Future Peace Aims

After the war there would be a close co-operation of the United Nations all over the world, not only in Europe and the British Empire, but in America and Asia, where most important of all is the co-operation with China. A closer union of the Allied peoples in Europe is a task to which General Sikorski’s Government devote their special attention. The Polish Government have initiated perio-

dical talks with the Allies of the Continent which are fully approved of by the British Government.

Poland also has special duties in organising the Central Eastern European area. The Polish aims were best defined in Minister Stronski's speech of November 26th 1942, on a federation of countries situated between the Baltic Sea and the Eastern Mediterranean and representing an area of over one million square kilometres, with a population of more than 100 million people, while Germany has an area of 450 thousand square kilometres and a population of 65 million people. The right principle for founding such a federation would be to begin by asking each of the countries: Do you wish to be a member of the federation?, and not to start eliminating countries by saying: You may not be in the federation. This bloc should be turned against Germany not aggressively but defensively in order to check the German "*Drang nach Osten*." It will not be turned against Russia, but on the contrary, must and can be in friendship with Russia, for such a strong federation separating Russia from Germany is favourable for Russia herself. The political structure of the federation must be based on a complete equality without the supremacy of any one country. Only such a bloc can ensure the future peace of Europe for otherwise the German danger will always threaten the countries east of Germany.

Poles from Russia in the Middle East

There are now 110,000 Poles in the Middle East, who have been transferred there from Russia; 40,000 arrived last March, whilst a further 70,000 reached Iran in August. Of them 65,000 are in the army, 5,000 are men and women in various auxiliary services, and 40,000 (including 12,000 children) are civilians. The majority of the Polish civilians are at the moment in Teheran, where all kinds of amenities have been provided for them. Restaurants and cafes have menus printed in Polish, and announcements are displayed that the waiters speak Polish; cinemas are showing old Polish films or films on Polish subjects, and there is even a Polish theatre, with artistes who before the war played in the Warsaw theatres.

Polish Forces in the Middle East

The unification of all the Polish Forces in the Middle East has been achieved. They are under the command of General Anders, who previously commanded the Polish army in Russia. General Sikorski received from General Anders a telegram reporting this development and expressing on behalf of the united Polish forces in the Middle East their devotion as soldiers, as well as their assurance that they would fulfil to the last drop of

their blood the holy task of fighting back along the road to a free, great and happier Poland.

German Guards in Warsaw

The Germans have doubled their guards around official buildings in Warsaw and police detachments are constantly patrolling the streets. No fewer than 260 Poles have been shot in the city on the 10th March and wholesale arrests are being made.

Mr. Attlee Warns Nazis

A new warning to the Germans was given by the Dominions Secretary, Mr. C. F. Attlee, speaking at Ashton-Under-Lyne on February 28:—"We have never declared or desired the extermination of the German people," he said, "but in the light of the barbarous ferocity with which the Germans are, as a deliberate act of policy, exterminating the Poles and Jews in occupied countries and deliberately wiping out those elements in subjected nations which are the spear-point of national resistance, there can be no easy way out for the Germans."

Mass Murder of Poles at Oswiecim

The notorious German concentration camp at Oswiecim, Poland, has become a mass graveyard for Poles, says the Polish Telegraph Agency.

According to the latest reports received by the Polish Government in London, large transports of Polish prisoners continue to pour into the camp. On January 16, three such transports, consisting of 5,000 people arrived, and on January 25, a further 4,000 were brought in.

Daily mass executions are continually being carried out. No fewer than 250 are executed or die from inhuman treatment, hunger and epidemics daily. There are six crematoria installed in the camp. Between January 10 and 17, 60 Polish miners from the Upper Silesian coal-mines, accused of sabotage by slowing down their output, were taken to Oswiecim and shot in batches of ten each day.

Under the pretext of preventing the spread of typhus among the inmates of the prison at Myslowice, Upper Silesia, the Germans killed about 900 survivors in gas chambers, according to the Polish News Agency. The epidemic broke out in January.

The appalling conditions of famine helped to spread the epidemic and by the end of February, 60 per cent. of the prisoners were dead. The Germans then gassed 30 per cent of the remainder.

NOTE ON THE MASS EXTERMINATION OF JEWS IN GERMAN OCCUPIED POLAND

Addressed by the Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs to the Governments of the United Nations on
December 10th, 1942

REPUBLIC OF POLAND

LONDON,

Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Dec. 10th, 1942.

Your Excellency,

1. On several occasions the Polish Government have drawn the attention of the civilised world, both in diplomatic documents and official publications, to the conduct of the German Government and of the German authorities of occupation, both military and civilian, and to the methods employed by them "in order to reduce the population to virtual slavery and ultimately to exterminate the Polish nation." These methods, first introduced in Poland, were subsequently applied in a varying degree, in other countries occupied by the armed forces of the German Reich.

2. At the Conference held at St. James's Palace on January 13th, 1942, the Governments of the occupied countries "placed among their principal war aims the punishment, through the channel of organised justice, of those guilty of, or responsible for, those crimes, whether they have ordered them, perpetrated them, or participated in them."

Despite this solemn warning and the declarations of President Roosevelt, of the Prime Minister, Mr. Winston Churchill, and of the People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs, M. Molotov, the German Government has not ceased to apply its methods of violence and terror. The Polish Government have received numerous reports from Poland testifying to the constant intensification of German persecution of the subjected populations.

3. Most recent reports present a horrifying picture of the position to which the Jews in Poland have been reduced. The new methods of mass slaughter applied during the last few months confirm the fact that the German authorities aim with systematic deliberation at the total extermination of the Jewish population of Poland and of the many thousands of Jews whom the German authorities have deported to Poland from Western and Central European countries and from the German Reich itself.

The Polish Government consider it their duty to bring to the knowledge of the Governments of all civilised countries the following fully authenticated information received from Poland during recent weeks, which indicates all too plainly the new methods of extermination adopted by the German authorities.

4. The initial steps leading to the present policy of extermination of the Jews were taken already

in October, 1940, when the German authorities established the Warsaw ghetto. At that time all the Jewish inhabitants of the Capital were ordered to move into the Jewish quarter assigned to them not later than November 1st, 1940, while all the non-Jews domiciled within the new boundaries of what was to become the ghetto were ordered to move out of that quarter. The Jews were allowed to take only personal effects with them, while all their remaining property was confiscated. All Jewish shops and businesses outside the new ghetto boundaries were closed down and sealed. The original date for these transfers was subsequently postponed to November 15th, 1940. After that date the ghetto was completely closed and its entire area was surrounded by a brick wall, the right of entry and exit being restricted to the holders of special passes, issued by the German authorities. All those who left the ghetto without such a pass became liable to sentence of death, and it is known that German courts passed such sentences in a large number of cases.

5. After the isolation of the ghetto, official intercourse with the outside world was maintained through a special German office known as "Transferstelle." Owing to totally inadequate supplies of food for the inhabitants of the ghetto, smuggling on a large scale was carried on; the Germans themselves participated in this illicit trading, drawing considerable incomes from profits and bribes. The food rations for the inhabitants of the ghetto amounted to about a pound of bread per person weekly, with practically nothing else. As a result, prices in the ghetto were on an average ten times higher than outside, and mortality due to exhaustion, starvation and disease, particularly during the last two winters, increased on an unprecedented scale. During the winter 1941-1942 the death rate, calculated on an annual basis, has risen to 13 per cent., and during the first quarter of 1942 increased still further. Scores of corpses were found in the streets of the ghetto every day.

6. At the time when the ghetto was established the whole population was officially stated to amount to 433,000, and in spite of the appalling death rate it was being maintained at this figure by the importation of Jews from Germany and from the occupied countries, as well as from other parts of Poland.

7. The outbreak of war between Germany and Soviet Russia and the occupation of the Eastern areas of Poland by German troops considerably increased the numbers of Jews in Germany's

power. At the same time the mass murders of Jews reached such dimensions that, at first, people refused to give credence to the reports reaching Warsaw from the Eastern provinces. The reports, however, were confirmed again and again by reliable witnesses. During the winter 1941-1942 several tens of thousands of Jews were murdered.

At first the executions were carried out by shooting; subsequently, however, it is reported that the Germans applied new methods, such as poison gas, by means of which the Jewish population was exterminated in Chelm, or electrocution, for which a camp was organised in Belzec, where in the course of March and April, 1942, the Jews from the provinces of Lublin, Lwow and Kielce, amounting to tens of thousands, were exterminated. Of Lublin's 30,000 Jewish inhabitants only 2,500 still survive in the city.

8. It has been reliably reported that on the occasion of his visit to the General Government of Poland in March, 1942, Himmler issued an order for the extermination of 50 per cent. of the Jews in Poland by the end of that year. After Himmler's departure the Germans spread the rumour that the Warsaw ghetto would be liquidated as from April 1942. This date was subsequently altered to June. Himmler's second visit to Warsaw in the middle of July, 1942, became the signal for the commencement of the process of liquidation, the horror of which surpasses anything known in the annals of history.

9. The liquidation of the ghetto was preceded, on July 17th, 1942, by the registration of all foreign Jews confined there who were then removed to the Pawiak prison. As from July 20th, 1942, the guarding of the ghetto was entrusted to special security battalions, formed from the scum of several Eastern European countries, while large forces of German police armed with machine guns and commanded by SS. officers were posted at all the gates leading into the ghetto. Mobile German police detachments patrolled all the boundaries of the ghetto day and night.

10. On July 31st, at 11 a.m., German police cars drove up to the building of the Jewish Council of the ghetto, in Grzybowska Street. The SS. officers ordered the chairman of the Jewish Council, Mr. Czerniakow, to summon the members of the Council, who were all arrested on arrival and removed in police cars to the Pawiak prison. After a few hours' detention the majority of them were allowed to return to the ghetto. About the same time flying squads of German police entered the ghetto, breaking into the houses in search of Jewish intellectuals. The better dressed Jews found were killed on the spot, without the police trou-

ling even to identify them. Among those who were thus killed was a non-Jew, Professor Dr. Raszeja, who was visiting the ghetto in the course of his medical duties and was in possession of an official pass. Hundreds of educated Jews were killed in this way.

11. On the morning of the following day, July 22nd, 1942, the German police again visited the office of the Jewish Council and summoned all the members, who had been released from the Pawiak prison the previous day. On their assembly they were informed that an order had been issued for the removal of the entire Jewish population of the Warsaw ghetto and printed instructions to that effect were issued in the form of posters. . . . Additional instructions were issued verbally. The number of people to be removed was first fixed at 6,000 daily. The persons concerned were to assemble in the hospital wards and grounds in Stawki Street, the patients of which were evacuated forthwith. The hospital was close to the railway siding. Persons subject to deportation were to be delivered by the Jewish police not later than 4 p.m. each day. Members of the Council and other hostages were to answer for the strict fulfilment of the order. In conformity with German orders, all inmates of Jewish prisons, old-age pensioners and inmates of other charitable institutions were to be included in the first contingent.

12. On July 23rd, 1942, at 7 p.m., two German police officers again visited the offices of the Jewish Council and saw the chairman, Mr. Czerniakow. After they left him he committed suicide. It is reported that Mr. Czerniakow did so because the Germans increased the contingent of the first day to 10,000 persons, to be followed by 7,000 persons on each subsequent day. Mr. Czerniakow was succeeded in his office by Mr. Lichtenbaum, and on the following day 10,000 persons were actually assembled for deportation, followed by 7,000 persons on each subsequent day. The people affected were either rounded up haphazardly in the streets or were taken from their homes.

13. According to the German order of July 22nd, 1942, all Jews employed in German-owned undertakings, together with their families, were to be exempt from deportation. This produced acute competition among the inhabitants of the ghetto to secure employment in such undertakings or, failing employment, bogus certificates to that effect. Large sums of money, running into thousands of zlotys, were being paid for such certificates to the German owners. They did not, however, save the purchasers from deportation, which was being carried out without discrimination or identification.

14. The actual process of deportation was carried out with appalling brutality. At the appointed hour on each day the German police cordoned off a block of houses selected for clearance, entered the back yard and fired their guns at random, as a signal for all to leave their homes and assemble in the yard. Anyone attempting to escape or to hide was killed on the spot. No attempt was made by the Germans to keep families together. Wives were torn from their husbands and children from their parents. Those who appeared frail or infirm were carried straight to the Jewish cemetery to be killed and buried there. On the average 50-100 people were disposed of in this way daily. After the contingent was assembled, the people were packed forcibly into cattle trucks to the number of 120 in each truck, which had room for forty. The trucks were then locked and sealed. The Jews were suffocating for lack of air. The floors of the trucks were covered with quicklime and chlorine. As far as is known, the trains were despatched to three localities—Tremblinka, Belzec and Sobibor, to what the reports describe as “Extermination camps.” The very method of transport was deliberately calculated to cause the largest possible number of casualties among the condemned Jews. It is reported that on arrival in camp the survivors were stripped naked and killed by various means, including poison gas and electrocution. The dead were interred in mass graves dug by machinery.

15. According to all available information, of the 250,000 Jews deported from the Warsaw ghetto up to September 1st, 1942, only two small transports, numbering about 4,000 people, are known to have been sent eastwards in the direction of Brest-Litovsk and Malachowicze, allegedly to be employed on work behind the front line. It has not been possible to ascertain whether any of the other Jews deported from the Warsaw ghetto still survive, and it must be feared that they have been all put to death.

16. The Jews deported from the Warsaw ghetto so far included in the first instance all the aged and infirm; a number of the physically strong have escaped so far, because of their utility as labour power. All the children from Jewish schools orphanages and children's homes were deported, including those from the orphanage in charge of the celebrated educationist, Dr. Janusz Korczak, who refused to abandon his charges, although he was given the alternative of remaining behind.

17. According to the most recent report, 120,000 ration cards were distributed in the Warsaw ghetto for the month of September, 1942, while the report also mentions that only 40,000 such cards were to be distributed for the month of October,

1942. The latter figure is corroborated by information emanating from the German Employment Office (Arbeitsamt), which mentioned the number of 40,000 skilled workmen as those who were to be allowed to remain in a part of the ghetto, confined to barracks and employed on German war production.

18. The deportations from the Warsaw ghetto were interrupted during five days, between August 20th-25th. The German machinery for the mass slaughter of the Jews was employed during this interval on the liquidation of other ghettos in Central Poland, including the towns of Falenica, Rembertow, Nowy Dwor, Kaluszyń and Minsk Mazowiecki.

19. It is not possible to estimate the exact numbers of Jews who have been exterminated in Poland since the occupation of the country by the armed forces of the German Reich. But all the reports agree that the total number of killed runs into many hundreds of thousands of innocent victims—men, women and children—and that of the 3,130,000 Jews in Poland before the outbreak of war, over a third have perished during the last three years.

20. The Polish population, which itself is suffering the most grievous afflictions, and of which many millions have been either deported to Germany as slave labour or evicted from their homes and lands, deprived of so many of their leaders, who have been cruelly murdered by the Germans, have repeatedly expressed, through the underground organisations, their horror of and compassion with the terrible fate which has befallen their Jewish fellow-countrymen. The Polish Government are in possession of information concerning the assistance which the Polish population is rendering to the Jews. For obvious reasons no details of these activities can be published at present.

21. The Polish Government—as the representatives of the legitimate authority on territories in which the Germans are carrying out the systematic extermination of Polish citizens and of citizens of Jewish origin of many other European countries—consider it their duty to address themselves to the Governments of the United Nations, in the confident belief that they will share their opinion as to the necessity not only of condemning the crimes committed by the Germans and punishing the criminals, but also of finding means offering the hope that Germany might be effectively restrained from continuing to apply her methods of mass extermination.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my high consideration.

L. S. EDWARD RACZYNSKI.

UNDERGROUND

A SPEECH BROADCAST BY A SECRET RADIO-STATION IN POLAND

This is the secret Warsaw radio station speaking in the capital of the independent Polish Republic which still carries on the war against the invaders.

We are speaking to you, dear fellow-citizens, from our beloved Warsaw—hungry to-day, impoverished, dark and ruined—but which has not yielded to the enemy even for a single moment and on the contrary, carries on the struggle day and night. You may well be proud of Warsaw which has proved to be a capital worthy of a great people.

We send you our greetings, dear brothers in England, Russia, France and wherever you may be scattered by the hurricane of the war. We also greet our compatriots who are now citizens of the American Republics. We particularly salute our Army.

You cannot imagine, Polish soldiers for whom we are yearning so much, how proud we are of you, because, after the disaster in September, 1939, you continued the struggle on other fronts. You cannot even realise how glad we are that your exploits have won you the praise and esteem of our allies. We long for the moment when you will rejoin us in Poland which will then be a free country again, and this time for ever.

Dear fellow-citizens, our transmission is taking place in circumstances which compel us to make it as brief as possible. We cannot even remotely give you an accurate account of all the crimes and murders which are continuously being perpetrated by the Germans in Poland. We hope you will know at least a part of them. They are so horrible that it is difficult to believe them from a distance. We shall speak of these atrocities another time.

To-day we wish to thank the President of the Republic, the Commander-in-Chief and all of you, brothers, as well as the statesmen and peoples of the English-speaking countries of the world, for the words of hope and encouragement addressed to us on the third anniversary of the treacherous attack on Poland.

We want to tell you to-day that the war against Germany is a struggle for life or death, a fight for the very existence of free nations, in which there is no room for any compromise whatever: either they or we! We have to choose between enslavement—but even the slaves are to be annihilated soon—and fighting, for even dying, as free men. Our country has chosen the second alternative. There is no responsible person in Poland who would even think of a compromise with Germany. History will remember that among a great people of many millions, not one man was to be found who yielded to the terror of the invaders and

consented to become a tool in their hands. Remember that we prefer to fight to the last. Death would be better than slavery.

We demand of you, however, that you do everything in your power to retaliate these crimes upon the Germans already now, because otherwise everybody who is of any value to Poland may well be killed before the war is over.

At present we are absolutely certain that the allies will win the war. The fact that Japan has joined the war is not sufficient to counterbalance the weight of the United States and recently, Brazil, as well as the unexpectedly stiff resistance of Russia. High German circles, according to reliable information which has reached us, no longer dream of victory, but only hope that Germany will be able to smash Russia before a second front can be opened in Europe. The Germans calculate that after transferring the bulk of their forces subsequently to the west, they will be able to frustrate any attempt to invade Europe, and thus will eventually secure a negotiated peace which they so much desire. The Germans are convinced that they will be inevitably defeated, if this plan fails. They are already utterly frightened by the terrible air-raids of the Allies on Germany.

In addition to these fears, the cleft between the army whose soldiers have to fight in Russia, and the Nazi party whose members are making easy fortunes at home, is widening every day. Bad organisation, contradictory orders, the awful condition of the railway system, scarcity of coal and electricity and a general decrease of production—these are the signs of approaching disaster. Nobody believes nowadays in the truthfulness of the German propaganda.

Dear fellow-citizens of the Polish Republic, you have the honour to represent Poland in the allied countries. Our future will depend to a considerable extent on your attitude, work, courage, and determination. We expect much from you. We are convinced that you are working untiringly for one goal: the independence of Poland.

Poles in America, the country from which you or your ancestors came, demands your help. Follow the appeal of your noble President, F. O. Roosevelt, to whom we are deeply grateful for his contribution to a democratic victory and the deliverance of our country!

Poles, citizens of the Republic! We in Poland, and you abroad, all grouped around our President, the Commander-in-Chief, General Sikorski, and his Government—the only constitutional re-

representatives of the Polish People, who enjoy the fullest confidence of Poland,—we will, all of us, fight until victory is won !

Long live Poland, Great Britain, the United States of America, and all Allied Countries !

Gestapo Terror as Sabotage in Poland Spreads

Information received by the Polish Government shows that sabotage is spreading all over Poland, and causing the German invaders to become more and more alarmed and restive. The Gestapo has adopted a new means of terrorizing labour by

mass arrests of Polish workers. One night some time ago strong Gestapo and S. S. detachments drew a cordon around the village of Garbatka, near Radom. At two o'clock in the morning they arrested in their homes, 560 workmen employed at forced labour in the nearby ammunition works at Pionki. Twenty workers were executed on the spot. All the others were sent to Oświęcim concentration camp. The Gestapo was acting on the suspicion that the Polish workmen were preparing a large scale sabotage action to blow up an ammunition factory.

POLISH-CZECHOSLOVAK COLLABORATION

First Polish Ambassador to China at Batanagar

On his way to Chungking, the first Polish Ambassador to China His Excellency Count A. Poninski visited the Czechoslovak industrial shoe centre at Batanagar, where he was welcomed by the Honorary President, President and numerous members of the Committee of the Czechoslovak Society.

After visiting the Bata Shoe Factory, Count Poninski attended the working conference of the Batanagar Czechoslovaks. Greeting the Czechoslovaks in India Count Poninski said :

“In Turkey in Iraq, in Iran in fact of all through my travel I have heard of your great work and achievements here. I have been told of this place as an exemplary Colony of Czechoslovaks, working and fulfilling their duties towards their motherland as well as towards the country on whose soil they live today. And I must add that what I see here is true to what I had heard about you. I am glad to find that the small community of the Czechoslovaks, thousands of miles away from their country represents Czechoslovakia here in such a magnificent way. And I am particularly glad to hear of the development of mutual connections between the Czechoslovaks and Poles here in India, as a living embodiment of the Czechoslovak-Polish Federation on which both my and your Governments in London are working to-day.

“Even here far out in India it can be realized that the Czechoslovak-Polish Federation is not an

artificial creation of politicians, but that its true being is based on an ardent desire for close collaboration of our two peoples, by the natural laws of entity, and helped on by the similarity of our languages and of our congenial cultures. History proves that the artificial obstacles and barriers between our two nations were created by our western neighbours, the Germans, whose intention was to weaken us by such divisions, and that alone was what separated us in the past, and was the cause of differences between us.

“The final shape of the Polish-Czechoslovak Federated Union will be materialised by our people

themselves in their own homes after the present war, for the final victory of which we are both fighting, toiling and sacrificing together is over. The work of your Czechoslovaks and Poles, here in India, your mutual understanding and co-operation, are one of the foundation stones on which the building of our future is being and will be built up. It is the best proof that our co-operation stands on the strongest basis ; the



His Excellency Count A. Poninski, the first Polish Ambassador to China among the Czechoslovaks in Batanagar

will of the people.

“It gives me great pleasure to observe all you have done so far, and all you are doing to introduce our two countries and their cause to this great Indian Peninsula. Long Live Czechoslovakia !”

Lecture on Polish-Czechoslovak Federation

On the 20th February last a lecture on the Polish-Czechoslovak Federation was given by

Mr. O. J. Litawski, Secretary of the Polish Union in India.

Explaining the importance of the Declaration signed by the Polish and Czechoslovak Governments in London on the 23rd January 1941, relating to Federation of the two States, the speaker also referred to the Federation between Greece and Jugoslavia, expressing his hope for the future co-operation of all these Nations.

There was a large gathering of Poles and Czechoslovaks at the premises of the Polish Union in India and the Czechoslovak Society in Bombay, Colaba Road, Bombay. The Consuls for Czechoslovakia and Poland were also present.

93rd Birthday of T. G. Masaryk, First President of Czechoslovakia

On the 6th March 1943 the Poles and Czechoslovaks residing in Bombay commemorated the 93rd birthday of the First President of Czechoslovakia, Thomas G. Masaryk.

The Consul for Czechoslovakia, Mr. Ladislav Urban, in his speech underlined the importance of the struggle of the late President for the libera-

tion of Czechoslovakia during the first World-War and represented him as a great Scholar and Statesman, called by the Czechoslovaks "President-Liberator."

On behalf of the Polish Union in India, Dr. Edward Sternbach, Vice-President of the Polish Union in India, recalled to the memory of the audience the collaboration of the late President with the Polish Representatives and especially with I. Paderewski during the first World-War in order to obtain the independence of both Nations.

There was a large gathering of Poles and Czechoslovaks living in Bombay.

A book on "Czechoslovak-Polish Relations"

A book on Czechoslovak-Polish Relations, illustrated with many photographs, has recently been published by the Czechoslovak Societies in Calcutta, Bombay and Secunderabad. The price is Rs. 2/8 and the net proceeds of the sale will be used for the benefit of the Polish children refugees in India.

Remaining copies may still be obtained from the Editorial Board of the "Polish News" in Bombay, Heliopolis, Colaba Road.

POLES IN INDIA AND AFGHANISTAN

Departure of a Polish Artist

Hanka Ordonowna, the well known Polish disease, who during her sojourn in Bombay appeared several times before Bombay audiences, was given a warm farewell on the 27th February 1943, on the eve of her departure to Teheran.

On behalf of the Polish Community she was addressed by the President of the Polish Union in India, who expressed his appreciation of her splendid work, wishing her every success for the future.

The Consul for Poland bidding her good-bye on behalf of the Consul General and of himself, predicted her return to the Polish stage where she would again arouse the enthusiasm of the disci-

We are pleased to inform our readers that beginning with this issue we shall be in a position to supply them now and again with news concerning, the Polish Community in Afghanistan.

There is only a small number of Poles in Afghanistan, mostly of engineering profession, who are working there on the strength of the Agreements signed with the Afghanistan Government.

Annual General Meeting of Poles in Afghanistan

On the 13th November 1942 an annual general meeting of Poles in Afghanistan was held at the premises of the Polish Library in Kabul. It appears from the Report on activities submitted that the Polish community in Afghanistan collected a sum of £ 429-0-0, which has been transferred to General Sikorski, Polish Prime Minister, London, for the War Relief Fund.

minating Warsaw public. We are looking forward with keen interest to the fulfilment of this prediction.

Polish Union in India

The annual general meeting of the Polish Union in India will be held at the premises of the Union, Heliopolis, Colaba Road, Bombay, on Sunday, 18th April 1943, at 4-30 p.m.

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The wedding took place at St. Joseph's Church, Panchgani on Saturday the 13th March, of Miss Aleksandra Marya de Olszanska and Mr. Kenneth George Milne.

The bride, a Polish Red Cross worker, is well known in Polish circles in Bombay.

Death of a Polish Geologist

One of the Polish geologists, Dr. Adam Draht, lost his life in the Chash desert July last, when performing his duties.

On the 19th December 1942 the Polish Community in Kabul commemorated the death of Dr. A. Draht by investing a tomb stone, founded by them, at the Christian cemetery in Kabul.