

# POLISH NEWS

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*The Example of the Polish Nation under cruel oppression and the example of her Leaders and Armed Forces abroad, are an inspiration to every freedom-loving nation in the world.*

MR. EDEN

Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

## CIVIL RESISTANCE IN POLAND

*Mr. St. Kot, the Polish Minister of Information, at the Anglo-American Press Association's meeting held in London on the 21st April speaking on the "Nature of Poles" said the following :*

"The resistance preserved to occupants by the Polish Nation is something of an outstanding nature in the course of the whole history for it is a total resistance by a nation of 25 millions and a total resistance in every respect. In spite of much artifice and many temptations the occupants have not succeeded in sowing dissension between the peasants, workers and intelligentsia, exploiting antagonism between different parts of Poland and different peoples, bringing religious groups into conflicts, nor have they found anybody to act as Quisling. 25 million Poles are united as never before in history and are unanimously hostile towards the Germans. The second characteristic feature of the resistance in Poland is that it is a movement completely in solidarity with the Polish

Government and directed by it. It was not until recently, for security reasons, that it was disclosed that the Delegate of the Polish Government was in Poland; actually the plenipotentiaries of the Polish Government have been organising resistance in Poland since 1939. The Delegate of the Polish Government bases his work on three elements, an armed organisation, political representation in Poland which is a grouping of all political movements, and the Directorate of Civilian Resistance. You will ask what armed organisation is doing in Poland since so little is heard about it in the Press. It will not be until after the war that the whole extent of the struggle being carried out continually against the occupants can be disclosed, it will be seen then to what extent the sabotage and fighting in Poland have contributed to Russian successes. Attempts have been made several times either by irresponsible external propaganda or by German provocation to incite the Polish nation to general

rising but this would have meant that such a rising would have been drowned prematurely in a sea of blood. We chose a difficult way but it was the only one. We chose to fight underground, undermining the strength of the occupants slowly but surely, until having armed ourselves we should be able to rise at a decisive moment when the Allies attack in Europe. While awaiting that opportunity the underground front in Poland keeps up continuous guerilla warfare. Take for example the figures concerning the armed action and the sabotage. In one month alone during this year one hundred locomotives have been damaged, seventeen trains derailed, seven oil wells rendered useless, eighteen military transports attacked and more than five hundred Germans killed. I have mentioned a form which this resistance takes; it is a civilian struggle. It means not only the spiritual mobilisation of the whole nation but that the nation is kept in a state of mental readiness for an action in faithfulness to its own nation and state and in hate and scorn of the invaders. The Directorate of the Civilian Resistance gives instructions to the whole nation. For example if it announces that the national holidays are to be spent at home the streets remain empty. Thousands of announcements are stuck up under the noses of Germans and the citizens comply with the orders. All take part in this resistance, including women and children. The most powerful instrument in the hands of this resistance movement is the secret Press. You will have heard that nearly a hundred secret papers appear in Poland, that some of them have a circulation of twenty thousand, that they work so efficiently that they were able to publish photographs of Churchill visiting Polish troops in Scotland, the Victory of El Alamein, the landing in North Africa, and to issue special editions on these events within a short time. At the most difficult period of this war,

after the fall of France, the secret Polish Press preserved the faith of the Polish people in ultimate victory, foretold the conflict between Germany and Russia, the entrance into the war of the U.S.A., the increase of vast production and the gigantic raids on the Reich. As instrument of the civilian struggle, the secret Press is guiding the whole nation to-day in its heroic resistance. An atmosphere has been created in Poland in which so long as trust in the moral principles of the Allies and a faith in their words last no Quisling can arise—an atmosphere of such scorn and hatred of the occupants that they in their own words sense inevitable sentences of death in every look. I do not wish to give you a one-sided outline to the effect that the Poles in spite of terror and starvation are prepared to carry on resistance indefinitely. Resistance on such a large scale demands enormous sacrifices. In Poland it is not thousands of people that are dying but tens of thousands. Germans by means of man-hunts involving some tens of thousands at once are endeavouring to paralyse the Underground front, death from starvation and sickness thins the fighters' ranks. That is why the Polish Underground front sends two main appeals continuously: hasten the tempo of the war—the forces of the nation maintaining the resistance are strained to the utmost, and strike more and more powerful blows at the German towns with a definite aim to avenge the inhuman bestiality and to take reprisals for persecution. Therefore, not only our ardent wishes but the much more ardent wishes of our brothers fighting in Poland go out towards the heroes of the Allied armies in Africa with the appeal to "drive Germans into the sea as quickly as possible," to the allied airmen with the appeal "Go more often and hit harder"; to the leaders of the Allied nations—"invade Europe with your armies as soon as possible, we shall help."

## NEWS FROM AND ABOUT POLAND

### General Sikorski in the Middle East

On the 28th May, in Cairo, General Sikorski dined with Mr. Casey, the British Minister of State in the Middle East, Mr. Zazulinski, the present Polish Minister in Egypt, General Anders, General Klimecki, General Maitland Wilson, Commander-in-Chief of the Middle East Coast Forces, Lord Moyne, General Batumont-Nesbitt and Colonel Cazalet. On the 29th May in the morning General Sikorski visited General Maitland Wilson. At noon in the Polish Legation General Sikorski invested Ambassador Romer with the Gold Cross of Merit with Swords. The next day Cardinal Spellman lunched with General Sikorski in the Polish Legation in Cairo. On the 31st May Gene-

ral Sikorski visited the Junaks Camps in Egypt, i.e., the R. A. F. Mechanical and Signals Schools. After listening to classes and visiting the living quarters, General Sikorski delivered a speech to the gathered Junaks saying "Dear boys, I bring you your President's and Government's hearty greetings. You bear the name 'Junak' and should be proud of it. I am glad that thanks to the Polish Soviet Treaty I could save and bring you here. You are working under the protection of our big mighty Ally—Great Britain. Profit from this by watching the British and learning from them. From that nation much can be learned; first of all self-discipline. Remember this in difficult moments when discipline is particularly necessary." On the same day

in Cairo General Sikorski took lunch with General Maitland Wilson, Commander-in-Chief of the Middle East Forces.

On the 1st June General Sikorski arrived at the Polish Army Headquarters, Middle East, and was greeted by General Anders, Minister Malhomme, the Polish Minister in Iraq, General Tokarzewski, Bishop Gawlina as well as other Polish and British high officers and representatives of the Iraqi Government, and the Baghdad Society. When General Sikorski appeared the Polish National Anthem sounded, the guard presented arms and General Sikorski passed along and greeted the Ulans, welcomed the Iraqi Government's Delegates, thanked them for the reception Iraqi peoples gave to the Polish soldiers and said "Polish Soldiers will always keep it as a warm memory." He asked them to convey greetings to the Iraq Regent and the Iraq Government. Then General Sikorski approached the Generals and other Polish Officers chatting with them, some of whom he had not seen for several years since they had been sent on special missions eastwards. Later General Sikorski, General Anders, Minister Malhomme, British General Beaumont-Nesbit watched from the tribune the March Past. While "Warszawianka" the Polish National Song was sounded one of the regiments created in Russia paraded. General Sikorski saw them on his first visit to Russia when they marched without arms in torn uniforms. Now they are in excellent condition, healthy, burnt by the sun, and well equipped. The spirit of the Ulans impressed everybody present. After the March Past General Sikorski asked the Commander of the regiment to convey thanks to the regiment saying "You march as guards—I am sure you will fight like guards." The Commander answered "For the Country's glory we will do our utmost and fight our best." With General Sikorski arrived his daughter Sofja, General Beaumont-Nesbitt, General Klimecki and Colonels Marecki and Cazalet.

### Declaration of General Sikorski

No. 5 of the Fortnightly "Parade"—issued in the Polish language in the Middle East—contains a declaration given during Gen. Sikorski's stay in Cairo. The declaration says: "The Polish Nation is living through a very difficult period. Every Pole especially Polish soldier should be wide awake to that fact. In moments like these only unity can save the Nation's future. The obstinate defence of Poland's honour at home by our compatriots shows the unity achieved there. The Polish Army in the Middle East will follow in their footsteps. When this army goes into battle it will achieve a renown that will endure for centuries, it will not only play a great part in the

recovery of Poland's lost independence but it will place Poland's power and rights on an eternally stable footing."

### The Polish Submarine "Dzik" and the Destroyer "Slazak"

On the 10th June the Admiralty issued the following announcement: "The Polish submarine 'Dzik' operating with the Royal Navy in the Mediterranean intercepted a fully laden enemy tanker about 7000 tons and scored two hits with torpedos. The vessel burst into flames and it is believed to have sunk later." "Dzik" is the newest Polish submarine commissioned in December 1942. Four Fockewulfs were destroyed by Spitfires over northern France and Belgium on the 10th June evening; two of them were shot down by Polish airmen.

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On the list of the Allied ships which shot down the record number of enemy aircraft the first place is held in a draw with a British ship by the Polish destroyer "Slazak."

### Polish Youths under Training

Thousands of Polish boys and girls are being trained in camps in Palestine to take part in Poland's post-war rehabilitation. The camps which are staffed by the Poles and avoid the suggestion of exile have elementary, secondary and vocational technical schools with qualified teachers.

### Mayor La Guardia's Speech

During General Sikorski's latest visit to New York, Mayor La Guardia said:—

"General Sikorski, a few days ago, I had the honour and privilege of greeting you here at City Hall and of extending to you in the name of the seven and a half million people of New York City our sincere welcome. Today, on behalf of the people of the City of New York, we are gathered to bid you farewell and to ask you to take a message from the people of this City to the people of your country. Rich as is your language, General, we cannot express in ours the great admiration that we have for the people, the liberty-loving, fighting people of Poland.

"Tell them that we cannot find words to express our stunned admiration for their courage and the resistance that they put up in defending their home land against a mighty, powerful, cruel, brutal nation. And the people of Poland did not submit, never have submitted, and never will submit to aggression.

"Their history is a hard one but they have demonstrated their indomitable character and nature and their firm refusal to surrender at any time. They have lived through centuries of oppression. The people of Poland know what war is. Their country was first invaded by the brutal forces of the Nazis and fifteen days later they were confronted with another invasion from the east.

"At this time, wherever possible, wherever there are Poles, there you will find an armed force joining with the United Nations. And, part of this message, General, is that the people of our country are not unmindful of the resistance of Poland and will speak up at the proper time for the complete restoration of the rights and territory that belong to Poland.

"It may be difficult for some to understand the situation in parts of Europe. There may be some who are not familiar with the terrible conditions under which the people of Poland lived when they were divided—part under Germany, part under the Hapsburgs and part under the Romanoffs—but that day is gone. An American President had the vision and the courage at the last peace conference to speak out on behalf of the rights of the people of Poland. Then, after nearly twenty-five years, during which Poland demonstrated her right to be independent—demonstrated the success of her independence, she was again ruthlessly, brutally, cowardly and unlawfully attacked. You can assure the people of your country, General, that another American President will speak out at the proper time for the protection, the freedom and the liberty of the people of Poland. We feel assured that at no time in the future will any minority rights be ignored by the new Poland that soon will be established. We feel assured, General, that there will be no persecution or prosecution on account of religion or for any other reason under the new Poland.

"Ordinarily, leave-taking and expressions of farewell are intermingled with sorrow. Ordinarily, we say we are so sorry that you must leave us so soon. On this occasion, we say we are glad that you are going, General Sikorski, because we know that you will resume the important duties of your office and that you will add more inspiration and courage to the people of your country. And, in bidding you farewell, we say, of course, 'auf Wiedersehen,' not in New York, not in England, but in your own country—free and independent."

### Viscount Halifax on Poland

The British Ambassador Viscount Halifax speaking in May at Chicago, referring to atrocities in Poland, said "The latest estimates I have had show that whereas 150,000 Poles fell in actual fight-

ing probably about 400,000 Poles and 1,500,000 Polish Jews have since died by execution or maltreatment. The estimates further show that two million Poles have been sent to forced labour in Germany, that three million more have been driven from their homes and one million are in concentration camps or prisons. Out of a peacetime population of 35 million, more than eight million men and women have suffered barbarous punishment or death. We all deplore the recent rift between Poland and Russia. Earnest efforts are being made with the full support of the British Government and of the United States to restore friendly relations between these two great Allies."

### Minister Raczynski on Polish-Czechoslovak Collaboration

At the 25th meeting of the National Council Mr. Raczynski, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, replied to the declaration made by the Czechoslovak Minister Ripka on the 17th May, saying: "I don't know the actual reasons which caused Mr. Ripka to take up the matter just now and to give it considerable publicity. I don't wish to engage in polemics when both the countries are in need of constructive ideas envisaging the future. I would, therefore, begin by recalling the 'Gentlemen's Agreement' from which we evolved the 1940 programme of our labours and finish by a few words on the present situation. We had as a matter of course to take into account the state of international relations existing at that time, namely the fact that the Soviet Union stood outside the group of the United Nations. This fact, however, did not prevent the work of bringing together our two nations which are so close to each other and which rely on mutual assistance. Nevertheless, it was mutually agreed that in establishing in the future her relations with the Soviet Union, Poland will not expect Czechoslovakia to engage herself on her side except for the sympathies which should properly exist between the two partners. On the other hand Poland reserved for herself a similar restraint in event of any difficulties arising in the regulation in the future of Czechoslovakia's relations with her neighbours of the central European group. Finally they both acknowledged the existence of views regarding the Teshen problem and agreed to consider this a disputed point in the programme in the hope that progress made in drawing the two countries closer together will facilitate its friendly settlement. The United Nations' position underwent, since 1940, a fundamental change for the better thanks to the entry into the war of the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union's access to the coalition of the United Nations as henceforth a friendly allied power did not infringe in anything the mutually agreed foun-

dition upon which the Polish and the Czechoslovak Governments pledged themselves to build up an organic unity of the two nations. Their confederation never could and never in future will have an anti-Soviet bias. On the contrary its achievement is obviously and undeniably in the interests of Russian security and of safeguarding European peace, and that is why the Polish Government continues to foster it sincerely and openly as a fundamental and organic factor unaffected by considerations of the current political tactics and advantages which it may yield to individual Governments in the short run. We believe we may count in this our endeavour on the understanding and the support of Great Britain, whose responsible statesmen repeatedly declared themselves in this sense, and of that of the U.S.A. We don't doubt this initiative corresponds with the interests of France. We believe finally that in spite of the objections advanced lately by the Soviet Government—let us hope not for fundamental reasons—the Soviet Union will appreciate the considerations adduced above which demand its realisation. I think it is necessary to emphasise that the interruption which ensued in the dissension of the confederation did not arise out of a dispute on any of the points discussed. This refers in particular to the Teshen question which both sides agreed to reserve for a final point of discussion. Nevertheless in spite of this or that obstacle of rather temporary nature blocking the road leading towards a closer union of the two fraternal nations, I believe unshakably in the realisation of a jointly taken decision which has been accepted by the two peoples and imposed by historic necessity.”

### **The Polish National Council on Polish-Czechoslovak Collaboration**

The Polish National Council adopted recently a resolution stating that it is “in the well understood interest of Poland and Czechoslovakia to reach an agreement which would repair mistakes committed in the past.”

### **Pope's Friendship for the Polish Nation Manifested**

For the second time within a few days the Pope manifested distinctly his friendship for the Polish Nation and the importance he places in the proper solution of the Polish question. The first step in this direction was the nomination of an Apostolic Delegate to the Polish Government, the second his recent speech to the Collegium of Cardinals. Speaking about Poland, the Pope stressed the enormous contribution made by the Polish Nation to the spiritual and intellectual riches of Europe and the world saying: “We pray that this nation which has been so cruelly oppressed and those other nations which have been forced with Poland to drain

the cup of bitterness in this war may receive a future in accordance with their well-founded aspirations and the greatness of their sacrifices in a Europe reconstructed on Christianity's basis and in the family of Nations free from the mistakes of the past.”

## **THE DIRECTORATE OF CIVILIAN RESISTANCE**

The Polish underground paper “*Rzeczpospolita Polska*” of the 5th December 1942, Warsaw, published the following proclamation: “For more than three years the Polish nation have been fighting with an unexampled heroism against the German terror which is becoming more widespread and is assuming more barbaric forms. The self-defence action, undertaken by the Polish public in various ways, demands co-ordination and a uniform direction. The civilian and military agencies set up in Poland by the Government of the Polish Republic have established as an organ subordinate to them the Directorate of Civilian Resistance. This is for the purpose of directing the public initiative and action into a certain organised system. In connection with the above I appeal to the Polish people to subordinate themselves entirely to the orders, announcements and appeals of the Directorate of Civilian Resistance. Every Polish citizen apart from the duty of complying with the above should endeavour to spread these orders, announcements and appeals as quickly as possible by communicating them to his circle in every possible way and above all by word of mouth. Furthermore I appeal to all the independent political and social organisations to include in their internal orders and circulars texts of all the orders, announcements and appeals of the Directorate or the essential summaries of them and order their members to adhere to such orders absolutely. Finally I demand of all the editors of the independence press, which ought to be under the conditions of occupation the chief and permanent link between myself, the administrative political machinery under my direction and the Polish public, that they should reproduce all the matter transmitted by the Directorate complete or, if editorial considerations do not permit this, in any case essential summaries. Failure to comply with the above obligations will be considered as expressing a negative attitude towards the idea of unifying the civilian resistance carried on by the Polish public. Every Pole, therefore, should become a link in the network covering the whole of occupied Poland. Every Pole should take up his place on the civilian resistance front at once in order to oppose the enemy in a uniform and organised manner before that front is transformed into an armed one.” Signed by Plenipotentiary in Poland of the Government of the Polish Republic,

## Activities of the Directorate of Civilian Resistance

News from Poland reveals that the tension there is growing and becoming more and more difficult for the Germans. Throughout the country especially in Warsaw, the Germans are reinforcing S. S. and Police forces. However, the Directorate of Civilian Resistance reiterated his appeal to the Polish people to act only in self-defence and not let themselves be provoked into any revolt on a large scale at this juncture, for the Germans have obviously decided to avail themselves of the lull at the fronts to try to destroy the resistance of the occupied countries, particularly Poland. "Swit" announced that during May the Germans shot 550 Poles in the Pawiak prison in Warsaw. In reprisal, armed members of Polish Underground commandos carried out death sentences passed by the underground movement on the Gestapo men accused of murdering the political prisoners in Pawiak prison. The three Gestapomen—one S. S. Captain and two lieutenants were spending a gay evening in the famous Adria Cafe, Warsaw, a dancing place popular with Germans, when Poles took them by surprise at 10 p.m. on 22nd May. Gestapo-men were shot on the spot, the Poles escaped. In the meantime the Germans are getting more alarmed because of the successful boycott, by order of the Directorate of Civilian Resistance, of recruitment of Poles for labour in the Reich. The Gestapo Chief in the Bialystok-District issued an appeal to the population in which he admits the complete lack of response to the call for voluntary mobilisation, attributing this to the "terror exercised by the underground movement" and states that he ordered the arrest of 100 Poles who will be held as hostages until those liable for work in the Reich have reported. In connection with this appeal the Directorate of Civilian Resistance sent a message of thanks to the Bialystock people for adhering closely to their orders. "Swit" reports that the Polish Government's Plenipotentiary in Poland appealed to the Ukrainians to boycott the "S. S. Legion Galizien" which have been formed by the Germans with a view to deepening differences between the national groups in Poland. The Plenipotentiary emphasizes that the Ukrainians and Lithuanians co-operating with the Germans are betraying their own nations which they do not represent in the least. Ukrainian Quislings like Kubijowic deceive the Ukrainian nation whom Germans also intend to annihilate and exploit them temporarily in economic respects. The fighting Poles holding out their hands to the Ukrainian sister-nation appeal to them to join in the common fight against the occupants for the sake of a future founded on justice and equality.

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News was received from Poland about the continued organised Polish resistance to the German mobilisation of Poles for forced labour in the Reich. On the 23rd April an appeal by the German Mayor of Warsaw, Leist, was stuck up on the walls calling Poles to report voluntarily for work in the Reich and in the German industries in the General Government. The appeal contains promises for better food rations, better housing conditions and gives assurances of their being permitted to receive care and offices of priests. At the same time the appeal threatens that all means of force are to be used ruthlessly if Poles do not heed it and do not report voluntarily. In answer to the German appeal the Directorate of the Civilian Resistance issued a call to the Polish public asking all the Poles to offer resistance to this new German attempt to gain Polish workers by means of false promises of better conditions of life. "Do not believe Leist's word, he is lying" says the Polish appeal. "Resist with all your might all attempts to deport you as you have done hitherto. Make it difficult for the German labour authorities to carry out their duties."

## Condemnation of German Crimes

The secret paper "*Rzeczpospolita Polska*" of May 6th publishes a declaration by the Plenipotentiary of the Polish Government in Poland concerning the discovery of the graves of the murdered Polish officers at Katyn. The declaration refuses the right to the Germans to exploit this fact reminding them of their mass murders as well as the extermination of the Polish nation carried out by them. The declaration also condemns recent German crimes of the Warsaw Ghetto expressing respect and sympathy for the Jews who are fighting there and appeals to Poles to help those who managed to escape. As it is known this is always done under the death penalty.

## Verdict of the Death Sentence Carried Out

"Swit" reports that on the 10th May in Warsaw in accordance with the Directorate of Civilian Resistance a verdict of the death sentence was carried out on Mr. Geist, a high official of the German Arbeitsamt and organiser of man-hunts of Poles for forced labour in the Reich. Simultaneously a Gestapo-man accompanying Geist was killed. After having received a death verdict letter, Mr. Geist never went out unaccompanied.

## New "Citizens" of the German Reich

The Secret Polish Radio station "Swit" reports that on the 25th May in the Polish territories illegally incorporated with the Reich an order was published that "slightly germanised as well as people of German descent" become automatically

citizens of the Reich when they voluntarily enrol into the German army or the German police.

### German Propaganda in Poland

The secret Polish Radio-Station "*Swit*" reports that in view of the Poles determined attitude, the Germans have given up the idea of inciting them to fight against Soviet Russia, yet the Germans are still carrying on the propaganda aiming at least to neutralise the Polish public opinion in order to weaken the Poles' resistance to a total mobilisation for German Industry. The German propaganda is trying to make use of any Anti-Polish attack from Moscow explaining that the formation of the Polish division in Russia portends the Sovietisation of Poland. "*Swit*" declares that the Poles by not accepting this propaganda will determinedly sabotage the total mobilisation order recognising the necessity of a speedy defeat of Germany and impossibility of lengthening the war.

### Nervousness of the Germans in Poland

"*Swit*" reports that Germans taking advantage of the lull on the east front try to provoke a premature rising among the occupied nations. They are making most obvious attempts in Poland where hatred against oppressors is growing day by day. Germans hope that by brutal reprisals they will be able to frustrate the co-operation of the occupied nations with the Allies when the time comes. Recent regulations issued by the Germans may be attributed to their feeling of insecurity and attempt to provoke the Polish people. They call for street patrols, guards posted before all offices, and barbed wires entanglements round the railway stations. Anybody entering the German offices is subject to interrogation as are all who wish to leave the town gates which are guarded by special detachments armed with machine-guns. Military persons, officials and railwaymen are obliged to carry arms all the time. German soldiers arriving in Poland receive instructions not to walk in the streets at night and to be constantly prepared for attack. Numerous German citizens living in Poland are sure that Germany will be defeated and are winding up their affairs and leaving Poland with all possible speed. The same tendency prevails among administrative officials. Oscar Koch, Director of the Warsaw Education Department, left Poland recently.

### 3rd May in Poland

On the 3rd May the Polish ghost's voice was heard all over Warsaw at 10 p.m. Through loudspeakers which are installed in the different points of the city such as Wilson square, Napoleon square, etc., a special broadcast was heard cutting through the programme. It began with Polish patriots' song '*Rota*'

followed by a short speech on the commemoration of May 3rd and ending with the Polish national anthem. Crowds of Poles gathered round loud speakers and patriotic excitement was intense. During the playing of the national anthem many people in the crowd wept. On the night of 2nd—3rd May all the monuments in the city were decorated secretly with red and white wreaths and on the national day they were buried in flowers. In some places Polish flags were to be seen.

### Germanisation of Polish Children

Further news received from Poland concerning the fate of children of Poles thrown out from the districts of Zamosc and Bialystok say that children above 12 years were deported immediately together with adults to forced labour into Germany. Younger children were subjected to a segregation and the healthiest and strongest ones were sent to the "institutions for German bringing up" in the heart of the Reich for the purpose of being completely germanised while the remainder were sent to various parishes being transported by special trains to various points of Poland. The latest news says that during March numerous transports of these children arrived in Pomorze, most of them aged 4 to 10. Large crowds of Polish women gathered on the railway stations of Bydgoszcz, Tczew and Gdynia wanting to take the children home and look after them. The German escort handed over some children to Polish families, against payment of forty marks per child. Some children whom the Germans would not give up even for payment were placed in the special camp in Garczyn near Koscierzyna and a certain number of them were sent to the families of German colonists who are settled down in Pomorze with the purpose of germanising those children. However, the German colonists, contrary to the order, handed over the children to the Polish families against payment.

### The Treblinka and Majdanek Slaughter Camps

Grim details have reached London concerning the notorious Treblinka slaughter camp situated on the railway line Warsaw-Bialystok, where thousands of Jews have been massacred by the Germans. The report is a document so terrible to read that most of it is unfit for publication. Scenes are described of the slaughtering of Jews in batches of 500 at a time in specially constructed chambers. They die of suffocation when the steam is turned on at such pressure that they cannot breathe. Doomed Jews were forced to take off all their clothing and are kept waiting in the open air for hours, before being driven to the chambers of death. The camp is so organised as to be capable of putting to

death at least 5,000 persons daily and it is said that arrangements are being made to enlarge it.

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The Secret Polish Radio station "*Swit*" gave details about the organisation of Majdanek concentration camp, destined to hold 15,000 prisoners. The camp is divided into five sections; first for Jews, second for Poles and Jews sentenced to death, third for prisoners transferred from Pawiak, fourth for the victims of the street raids and fifth for women.

The Camp is under S.S. command which employs German as well as Ukrainian Warders. Barracks are not heated and are full of vermin; the prisoners are terribly ill-treated, food consists of 300 grammes of bread and a half pint of soup daily. Recently in the Majdanek camp died a professor of history of the literature of the Lwow University, Kazimierz Kolbuszewski. There arrived lately at the Majdanek camp several foreign prisoners of Jewish origin, among whom is said to be Leon Blum.

### Gas-Chambers in Concentration Camps

According to the news received from Poland Gas Chambers in the so-called death camps for Jews in Poland are calculated to put to death 700 people simultaneously. The executions last now up to forty-five minutes only. Before the execution of the Jews their hair is cut in order to be used later for industrial purposes.

### Killing of Polish Prisoners

"*Swit*" reports that the Germans kill off Polish prisoners in Oswiecim by giving them methylated spirit injections. The experimental Station of the Berlin Institute of Hygiene has been instituted in Prison Block Number Ten where experiments have been made on 200 Jews and 25 Jewesses in artificial fecundation, castration and sterilisation. In Block Two two thousand Polish prisoners were gathered, the majority of them workers from Dabrowa in Silesia. During the so-called training period of several months the prisoners are forced to sleep on their stomachs in a position producing painful sores. Prisoners attempting to change the position are shot by tommyguns. In the Ravensbrueck Camp in Mecklenburg for women from occupied countries many women were accused of anti-German activities, among them many Polish women from West-Poland and Warsaw. Beginning from June last year 86 Polish women were shot there, 11 others sent to Warsaw were executed there. Recently a camp holding 12,000 prisoners was opened at Rajsk, six kilometres from Oswiecim. Prisoners are chiefly Polish,

Czech and Rumanian gypsies as well as Soviet prisoners-of-war. Gypsies' children are taken away, their fate is unknown. Mortality in this camp is enormous, out of Polish gypsies only 140 remained alive after a month and only 200 out of 10,000 Russian prisoners.

### Desolation in Poland

No fewer than 356 villages in Poland have been burned and completely razed to the ground by the Germans, the Polish Telegraph Agency announced on 11th June. The places where they stood were ploughed up after all the inhabitants had been massacred.

In over 1,000 other villages the Germans have carried out mass reprisals, murdering the majority of the population, men, women and children.

The agency says that all German crimes are recorded and remembered in Poland. At night Poles write the names of these villages in chalk, tar or paint on the walls of Polish towns.

### Religious Persecution in Poland

In connection with the Pope's declaration the Secret Polish Radio Station "*Swit*" reveals the following acts of religious persecution by the occupants. On the 11th May in Duniny Kieleckie the German Police surrounded a group of Poles praying before the statue of the Holy Virgin and without reason shot nine of them. On the 10th May in Krasnystaw the Germans mobilized all Polish inhabitants providing them with spades and forcing them to dig out corpses from the local cemetery in order to make room for Germans. Every Polish family was forced to dig out the remains of their nearest relatives often already in a state of decomposition. Numerous women went mad and many people who offered resistance to the German order were arrested.

### Death before Dishonour

Ninety-three Jewish girls and young Jewish women, the pupils and the teacher of a Beth Jacob School of Warsaw, Poland, chose mass suicide to escape being prostituted to German soldiers, according to a letter from the teacher, made public in New York by Rabbi Leo Jung.

### The Liquidation of the Cracow Ghetto

New facts about the extermination of the Jews in Poland have been received in London. From March 13th to 15th the Germans liquidated the



Cracow Ghetto. This was done in the same way as the notorious liquidation of the Warsaw Ghetto by the end of 1942. All inhabitants of the Ghetto were deported to the so-called death camps where they were massacred. During three days of elimination of the Cracow Ghetto Gestapo men killed more than one thousand persons on the spot, other Jews were loaded into lorries and deported to the concentration camp at Oswiecim where there are installations for mass killing like the gas chambers, the rooms with metal floors through which runs electric current and six large cremation furnaces. The news has also been received that the Germans are moving the Jews from Lodz too. Transports proceed towards Ozorkow where execution takes place. This is yet another place, besides those already known, where the Germans make arrangements for massacre of the Jews.

### The Warsaw Ghetto

"*Swit*" reports: "The heroic fight of the Warsaw Ghetto has almost ceased, except in some isolated points. Among others who perished, there was Engineer Kleplisz, Member of the '*Bund*,' one of the most heroic fighters during the Ghetto's last stand and one of the chief organisers of the resistance. In some parts of the Ghetto one can still hear isolated explosions. Many Jews have been burned alive, thousands have been shot or taken to the death camps. All members of the Jewish Council in Warsaw have been shot. Some thousands of Jews still remain in Ghetto-cellars but they too are being annihilated. The Germans' cruelty is appalling—they are burning down whole blocks of houses as well as bombarding them. The whole Ghetto is surrounded and all exits—even outlets of the sewer system—are closed and watched. Escaping Jews are immediately shot. "*Swit*" appeals to all the Poles to give every assistance to the Jews in succeeding to escape in spite of incredible difficulties.

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The secret radio-station "*Swit*" reported on the 13th May that during the fight which has developed during the liquidation of the Warsaw Ghetto, Germans have burned down about 200 houses. Members of the Jewish Council of the Ghetto—Gustaw Wilikowski, Councillor Szereszewski, Engineer Maksymilian Lichtenbaum and Engineer Alfred Stegman, who were arrested as hostages on April 17th, were shot in Warsaw at the beginning of May and their bodies thrown on to a refuse heap.

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"*Swit*" reports that the battle in Warsaw Ghetto cost the Germans 300 killed and over 1,000 wounded. "*Swit*" estimates that the Germans have murdered 90% of the Polish Jews.

### The Polish Bata Leader Victim of Nazi Bestiality

News has been received from a neutral country via England of the death of Mr. A. E. Gabesam, the head of the Bata Shoe Co. Ltd., in Poland in one of the Nazi concentration camps there.

The cause of his death is unknown, but well enough known is the savage treatment meted out by the Germans to their captives for readers to understand some of the tortures to which he must have been subjected before death provided a merciful release.

It is known that Mr. Gabesam was sent to the concentration camp last February after his continuous refusal to co-operate with the Germans.

### Celebration of the 400th Anniversary of Copernicus's Death in London

At the Royal Institution, London, distinguished British and Polish Scientists met to honour the memory of Copernicus on the 400th anniversary of his death. The gathering was arranged by the Copernicus Quater-Centenary Celebration Committee, Sir Henry Dale presiding. President Raczkiewicz and many members of the Polish and Allied Governments were present. Sir Henry Dale delivered an opening speech, reading also a telegram sent by a similar meeting held at the Carnegie Hall, New York. Then Minister Kot addressed the gathering, giving a vivid picture of Poland's political and cultural atmosphere in Copernican times. Astronomer of the Royal Institution Dr. Spencer Jones spoke about the great importance of the Polish astronomer's discoveries, accompanying this with explanatory lantern slides. Minister Raczynski thanked the organising committee. The gathering admired an interesting exhibition of Copernicana lent from the Bodleian Library, Oxford. Sir Henry Dale also read Roosevelt's message to the Carnegie Hall gathering: "Commemorating the Quadricentennial of Copernicus' death naturally turns our thoughts to his native Poland now in chains and prostrate under evil power of Axis conquest. The Polish plight to-day is indeed tragic. Her oppressors are implacable foes, alike of the truth, progress of the spirit and the free inquiry to which Copernicus

devoted years of his active and useful life. Although the free institutions are suppressed temporarily in the land of Copernicus' birth, yet the dawn of happier days is assured.

It is therefore highly appropriate that in the midst of the all-out war and sacrifices which it demands we pause for a moment to draw refreshment of mind and spirit recalling the great contribution which Copernicus made to the sum of human knowledge and progress of the mankind. Not only great men of great nations must be allowed to attain freedom. This liberty must be made available progressively to the small states, communities and individuals if humanity is to march forward into light and life. We must always remember that the creation and the sweep of great liberating ideas

may be the work of a single isolated individual, as in the case of Copernicus. By these reverent ceremonies, therefore, American people honour not only a great pioneer of our civilisation, but they recognise thereby the undying contributions that came from the small nations of the world. Copernicus serves to remind us that the small nations have given for the common advantage of all the peoples many of the great enduring concepts which have enriched a man's life. This opportunity of living with a growing and unrestricted knowledge about a man and his place in the universe lays on us all so imperious a responsibility that we should pledge ourselves in the name of all the venerated great men of ideas to strive to maintain that opportunity for ever."

## UNDERGROUND

### Regular Polish Underground Forces

"*Swit*" reports that the H.Q. of the Polish Underground Forces published a communique stressing that in Poland there does not exist any "partisans movement" but only regular Polish Underground Forces. At present their struggle is of a defensive character in order to preserve the highest possible number of soldiers for the hour of offensive. Examples of the defensive character of this struggle are for instance rescues of political prisoners from German clutches: in April in Warsaw, in May in Malgoszcz and Celestynow. "*Swit*" attacks certain elements inspired by non-Polish interests who are trying to provoke a premature general rising which in present conditions is doomed and hopeless and could only bring about cruel reprisals. "*Swit*" stresses that the Polish Underground Forces fight alone and do not receive from outside either arms or food.

### Sabotage in Poland

The German press in occupied territory reports that big fires occurred on the farms of the German settlers in the Konski district—many houses, stables, cattle, agricultural machinery having been completely burned down. The German press says that the cause of the fires is unknown—but probably due to mass sabotage on the part of the Poles.

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"*Swit*" reports: "On May 20th near the Colestynow station on the Warsaw-Lublin railway line the Polish underground forces hold up a train carrying victims of the recent Warsaw man-hunts. During the ensuing flights the Poles killed four Gestapo-men and wounded a number of others, Two attacking Poles have been killed, but 45 poli-

tical prisoners destined for Majdanek death camp were freed from the German clutches.

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"*Swit*" reports that during April Polish Underground Forces carried out numerous death sentences on Gestapo-men: in the District of Kielce, killed 14 Gestapo-men, in the District of Lublin 40. H. Q. of the Polish Underground Forces warned the Gestapo-men in Poland that all of them will meet the same fate.

### Poles Assist the Escape of British Prisoners of War

"*Swit*" reports that on 16th of May five Poles accused of assisting the escape of a British war prisoner whom Poles succeeded in hiding in a safe place, have been sentenced to death at Gdansk.

### Polish Humour

The Poles in their underground struggle are showing not only a grim determination of resistance, but wit and sense of humour as well. Now and again they ridicule their German occupants and a new example is reported from Poland. The Cracow members of the Polish underground movement secretly printed a notice in Polish and German regarding the Polish officers' graves at Katyn which they have posted up on Cracow's walls. The notice was signed by a forged signature purporting to be that of Ohlenbusch, the German Propaganda Chief for the General Government. The notice began by dealing with a primitive way in which the Polish officers had been killed, then went on to say that: "In view of this the propaganda department is organizing popular excursions

sions to the German concentration camps at Oswiecim, Majdanek, Treblinka and others in order that the Poles may have an opportunity of seeing for themselves the camps. Such means are large gas and steam chambers in which victims are suffocated to death and iron floors charged with an electric

current used for electrocuting large numbers of people and finally a large crematorium at Oswiecim which can burn as many as 3000 bodies daily." Many German offices displayed the notice, believing that it had actually been issued by the German propaganda department.

## POLES IN INDIA AND CHINA

### 400th Anniversary of Death of Copernicus Commemorated in China

Chungking, May 24th (Central) :

On the occasion of the 400th anniversary of the death of Nicolaus Copernicus, the famous Polish astronomer, a commemoration meeting was held in the National Central Library this afternoon under the auspices of the Sino-Polish Cultural Association.

Mr. Li Hsi-mou, Dean of the National Chiao Tung University, presided over the meeting, at which Count Alfred Poninski, the Polish Ambassador, and Mr. Chin Fen, Vice-Minister of Economic Affairs spoke.

Count Alfred Poninski said *inter alia* :

"Bowling in reverence to the memory of Copernicus, the outstanding pillar of Polish learning, we think with deep emotion about the martyred soil of his birth. We call upon the conscience of the world-justice to restore fully in the future, after the unconditional surrender of German oppressors, Polish sovereignty and rights to those coast lands, so vitally necessary for our independence, security and economic welfare."

Among those present were Baron Jules Guillaume, the Belgian Ambassador, Mr. Alf Hassel, the Norwegian Minister, Mr. Alfonso Castro Valle, the Mexican Charge d'Affairs, Dr. Victor Hoo, Administrative Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Lone Liang and Dr. Lin Chi-han, respectively Director of the European Department and Senior Secretary and concurrently Chief of Protocol of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Dr. Monlin Chiang, President of the National Red Cross Society of China, and Mrs. Chiang.

Copernicus, an astronomer of the late 15th and early 16th centuries was immortalized by his treatise setting forth the fact that the sun is the centre of a great system with the earth revolving about it, thus sweeping away at one stroke all prevalent hypotheses of that time based on the mistaken belief the reverse of his. It is upon his theory which is now known as the Copernican System, that modern astronomy is built.

### Polish Circles Wish for Early Recovery of Chinese President

News about the serious illness of the venerable Chinese President Lin Sen has provoked the deepest concern among Polish circles, which are always watching with the greatest sympathy all the undeserved misfortunes of this great allied country, so hardly hit by Japanese totalitarian aggression.

For more than 10 years, 76 year old Mr. Lin Sen has been Chairman of the National Government, at which post he led, with the utmost distinction, the immense reform movement of the Kuomintang Party and the new Chinese administration, whose creative work was perpetually interrupted by foreign interference and enemy invasion.

President Lin Sen, closely united by strong bonds of friendship and estimation with Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, represents at the head of the Chinese State the traditional esteem for scholarship and intellectual achievements of the Chinese people.

As an American paper puts it : "Where in other lands the devious politician, business promoter and unscrupulous schemer more often elevate themselves to high places, China has given the world a refreshing example in honouring a man whose achievements are entirely in the realm of the mind and the spirit."

Indeed, at the time when the National Government was in Nanking, the President often gave lectures in universities and at special student meetings, imparting to Youth modern conceptions of the State, the duties of citizenship and the sublimity of social service.

He, in deed and in spirit, is a reverent follower of the doctrine of the late Father of the Republic, Dr. Sun Yat-sen, whom he supported most arduously and most fervently during the Revolution and in the early days of the Republic.

All Polish circles have nothing but best wishes for the early recovery of this wise Chinese leader and eminent personality and trust that he will recover from his present illness and greet the day of triumph of noble ideas and democratic conceptions which he has defended all his life.

## Minister J. Stanczyk in India

On his inspection tour to the various camps for the Polish refugees in different parts of the world the Polish Minister for Labour and Social Welfare, Mr. Jan Stanczyk, arrived in India during the month of June and spent several days visiting such camps in Karachi and Jamnagar. Mr. J. Stanczyk visited also the camp at Kolhapur which is under construction and will be ready for use in a few weeks' time. The latter camp will be the largest in India and will accommodate about 5,000 people.



*Mr. Stanczyk, the Polish Minister of Labour and Social Welfare in Bombay*

Mr. J. Stanczyk, when in Bombay, was entertained by the Polish Union in India in their premises at Colaba Road. He delivered there a very interesting address on the actual activities of the Polish Government in the field of the Social Welfare.

The Consul General for Poland and Madame Banasinska, Personal Secretary to the Minister and the Delegate of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare for India, were also present.

Before leaving India Mr. Stanczyk, with his retinue, was received by the Viceroy.

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Mr. Jan Stanczyk, was born in 1886 at Wola Przemkowska, near Tarnow, Poland. He has played a great role in the Polish Labour movement as Vice-President of the Polish T.U.C. and General Secretary of the Miners Federation in Poland. He was for many years Member of the Polish Parliament as representative of the Polish Socialist Party (corresponding to the British Labour Party).

For 20 years Mr. Stanczyk represented Polish labour in the International Labour Office in Geneva.

He has had many friends among the prominent American and British Labour Leaders.

### Ladies' Committee of the Polish Union in India

On the 5th June the Ladies' Committee of the Polish Union in India organized a meeting in order to acquaint the Polish Community with the latest Polish poetry. Some Polish verses and poems were recited by Mrs. H. Brunner, Mrs. L. Kleinberger, Mrs. W. Knoff, Mrs. L. Kremnizer, Mrs. L. Norblin and Mrs. M. Osnos.

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On the 12th June the Ladies' Committee of the Polish Union in India organised a bridge party. The whole income of Rs. 250/- is destined for toys and games for Polish children in India.