

October 11, 1944

[Reply to Charles Rozmansk of Chicago]

FDR Speech File

I would certainly say that we talked about the whole future of Poland, that we talked about the bombing of Poland, and we are all agreed that we must reconstitute Poland, and as a great nation -- no question about that. That we over here should not -- I should say -- should not make up our minds about each event without knowing the whole thing; and that I, as President of the United States, with all the information I can get -- I don't know. As in the case, for instance, of Warsaw, I don't know what the real facts are. None of us does. But with the new light that comes to us every day, which is being worked out as fast as they will let us, we will get a clearer picture, and we are going to get a clearer picture.

And the objective, as described in this -- (the resolution, attached) -- is excellent, and world opinion, I am sure, is going to back up that objective of not merely a strong nation, but as a representative and peace-loving nation -- and I stress that, too -- a new Poland that will come out as one of the bulwarks of peace.

I think that is awfully important.

OCTOBER 11, 1944

Remarks of Charles Rozmarek of Chicago, President of the Polish American Congress, delivered on the occasion of his meeting today with the President and the following officials of Polish American organizations:

Charles Rozmarek, President, Polish National Alliance.
Mrs. Honorata B. Wolowska, President, Polish Women's Alliance of America.
Dr. Twofil Starzynski, President, Polish Falcons of America.
John J. Olejniczak, President, Polish Roman Catholic Union of America.
Walter J. Pytko, President, Polish Beneficial Society.
Thaddeus Adesko, Chicago, Illinois.
Stanislaw A. Gutowski, Executive Secretary, Polish American Congress.
John Mikuta, Treasurer, Polish National Union of America.
Dr. D. L. Gajkowski, President, Polish American Council, Dist. No. 2.

"Mr. President:--

The Americans of Polish descent have on every occasion rallied around you and proved their loyalty and their faith in your leadership. As your loyal supporters we feel it is our duty frankly to lay before you some of our doubts and fears which you alone, Mr. President, can dispel. We come here at the request of our followers to ask you to do so in a public statement.

All Americans of Polish descent greeted the noble principles laid down by you in the Atlantic Charter and in your Declaration on the Four Freedoms as war aims worthy of our beloved United States. We have fought, worked and sacrificed to help achieve these aims. In the same spirit we welcomed your great initiative of the United Nations, that Association of freedom loving peoples, great and small.

In the light of recent developments, we are apprehensive that these great American directives are being abandoned or sacrificed. These fears have been causing our people grave anxiety. We therefore most respectfully ask whether you, Mr. President, can give us the assurance that our American policy for the establishment of world peace has not departed from the principles embodied in these documents and statements of yours which we are determined firmly to support.

We, Americans of Polish descent, are deeply concerned about the fate of Poland, the country of our ancestors and our most faithful ally in this war. Her territorial integrity and her very independence are menaced. We are anxious to know if you, Mr. President, are prepared by all means at your disposal to insist upon and to defend the just principle of Poland's independence and also her territorial integrity without which the Polish Nation could not remain self-supporting and could not fail to become dependent on her powerful Eastern neighbor.

"In view of the attitude of Soviet Russia to the Polish Government we ask for your assurance, Mr. President, that you will insist that neither an alien nor a puppet system of government shall be imposed upon Poland nor that any part of her population will ever be disposed of or transferred against the really freely expressed will of the Polish people.

"Our Polish War Relief is anxious to contribute its share to the relief of the Polish Nation without delay. The urgency of Poland's need is great. However, as Americans we consider that our aid and assistance, whether it is given through UNRRA or by ourselves, must be distributed to the people of Poland under the American flag and under American supervision which, in the present circumstances, can alone prevent American gifts from becoming instruments of expansionist political pressure."

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The President said:

"I am glad of the opportunity I have had to talk about the present position of Poland in the war and about the future of Poland. You and I are all agreed that Poland must be reconstituted as a great nation. There can be no question about that.

"Of course we should all bear in mind that nobody here has accurate information about everything that is going on in Poland. Even I, as President of the United States, with access to all of the information which is available, am not fully informed of the whole story. As an example, I still do not know all the facts about the recent events in Warsaw. As new information comes every day, we will get a clearer picture about the whole situation.

"The broad objective which we all seek is excellent. I am certain that world opinion is going to back up that objective -- not only to reconstitute Poland as a strong nation, but also as a representative and peace-loving nation. I wish to stress the latter. It is very important that the new Poland be one of the bulwarks of the structure upon which we hope to build a permanent peace."

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