

PRIVATE MESSAGE SENT: POLISH AMERICAN COUNCIL

000921

AUG 11 1944

Dear Dr. Swietlik:

The following confidential message for you from Florian Piskorski was received from Lisbon under date of August 7, 1944:

"Assume Council giving thought to alleviation suffering Poles in liberated areas Poland where urgent need relief agency activity exists. I believe official step should be taken immediately by Council to send field operating units to Poland composed of American citizens preferably Polish-speaking if possible with social work background, non-Partisan approach and without political bias. These units should give all of the necessary direct aid, such as feeding, medical attention, reuniting families and establishing contacts for Poles in America. Polish American Council representing six million Americans of Polish origin has already given aid to Poles in all parts of the world since beginning of hostilities and has been active over three years from Lisbon giving direct relief to Poles in occupied countries and aid to Poland. This work probably ending because of recent events. Council has now arrived at point which should permit its activities being carried into Poland itself where there has never been such suffering as at present. Suffering will certainly be augmented with approach of sixth war winter. Polish American Council plans should be presented in person by Council's president to UNRRA's director general to obtain UNRRA's approval and assurance of material assistance.

"During its three years of activity in London European office has compiled lists of names and addresses of Polish civilians, war prisoners and internees assisted which could act as basis for direct activities in Poland! 80,000 Polish war prisoners and internees in Germany have requested us through their camp leaders to assist their families from whom they are now cut off and who depend entirely on our care.

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"If this suggested program is approved proper steps should be taken through governmental channels for official recognition of Mission by the Soviet Government. Also authorization should be sought and issuance of visas and travel priorities for me for exploratory trip to Poland.

"Have consulted WRB representative Amembassy, Lisbon, and he urges immediate action your part to prevent suffering and to give expression to America's interest in Polish people."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Dr. Francis X. Swietlik,  
National President,  
Polish American Council,  
Marquette University,  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

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P.M. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

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PLAIN

Lisbon

Dated August 7, 1944

MJB-502

Rec'd 4 a.m., 8th  
AUG 8 1944

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

5 - Way Ref  
Bill (M)  
Rehle  
Message sent

2435, August 7, 5 p.m.

FOR DR. FRANCIS X. SWIETLIK, NATIONAL PRESIDENT  
POLISH AMERICAN COUNCIL, MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY, MILWAUKEE,  
WISCONSIN, FROM FLORIAN PISKORSKI WRB 145.

Assume Council giving thought to alleviation suffering Poles in liberated areas Poland where urgent need relief agency activity exists. I believe official step should be taken immediately by Council to send field operating units to Poland composed of American citizens preferably Polish-speaking if possible with social work background, non-partisan approach and without political bias. These units should give all of the necessary direct aid, such as feeding, medical attention, reuniting families and establishing contacts for Poles in America. Polish American Council representing six million Americans of Polish origin has already given aid to Poles in all parts of the world since beginning of hostilities and has been

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-2-#2435, August 7, 5 p.m., from Lisbon

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During its three years of activity in Lisbon European office has compiled lists of names and addresses of Polish civilians, war prisoners and internees assisted which could act as basis for direct activities in Poland. 80,000 Polish war prisoners and internees in Germany have requested us through their camp leaders to assist their families from whom they are now cut off and who depend entirely on our care.

If this suggested program is approved proper steps should be taken through governmental channels for official recognition of Mission by the Soviet Government. Also authorization

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-3-#2435, August 7, 5 p.m., from Lisbon

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Have consulted WRB representative Amembassy, Lisbon, and he urges immediate action your part to prevent suffering and to give expression to America's interest in Polish people.

NORWEB

WSB

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