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*Speeches - House of Rep.*  
MR. FORD OF MICHIGAN

MR. SPEAKER - Since its inception as a national group, the Polish nation has been subjected to the expansionist designs of various peoples. Today on the 11th anniversary of the invasion of Poland by Germany, eventually culminating in World War II, it would benefit all of us here to recall and bear in mind the excruciating pain and suffering to which the people of Poland were, and still are, forced to endure.

The seeds of democracy were implanted in Poland over 150 years ago - relatively the same period in which America proclaimed to the world principles which have inspired all men. We were permitted a long period in which to develop those concepts of the dignity of man and freedom from tyranny. Poland, on the contrary, suffered a far different fate. The despotic nations surrounding her on all sides refused to countenance a nation dedicated to a mode of living which gave to the individual the smallest semblance of liberty. They denied her the right to political, economic, and cultural self-determination. Conquest and partition followed. This has been the lot of Poland to this very hour.

On the first of September, 1939, Germany launched the world upon another global conflict with the invasion of Poland. The full impact of



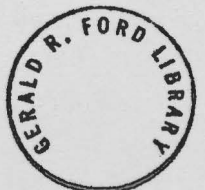
the aftermath of this great struggle is still not crystalized. The blood of Polish youth was the first shed in the defense of those ideals and principles which motivated the world to take up arms against National Socialism and its degenerate philosophy. This defense of their homeland by the Polish people against overwhelming odds provided the larger Continental powers with time to prepare themselves for the imminent struggle with Nazism and at the same time to rid themselves of their previous general apathy with regard to German aggression. However, the valiant effort of the Poles - their inspired opposition, was soon overcome by sheer weight of force and they were forced to technically capitulate. Technical capitulation in the exact sense, for thousands fled their homeland to take up the struggle in strange countries. Unfortunately, the end of the war failed to bring the desired results to the Polish people. The courageous fight to free herself from one tyrant has merely resulted in a substitution of ideologies. Communism for Nazism is no improvement.

Is there any hope for a free Poland? Few of the members here doubt the resurgence of Poland as an independent nation. I strongly believe that no nation on earth, with the exception of our own, has demonstrated so convincingly



as Poland its desire to enjoy the fruits of democracy and self-determination. These are not hollow sounding platitudes without force or effect; the people of Poland have dispelled that conception by their contribution to the common struggle in the last great conflict. Such is the spirit which prevails in that stricken land today - such is the spirit which prevails in any land where man attempts to impose his will upon his fellowman without concurrence. Certainly no one would be sufficiently naive to assume that the Polish people have embraced the tenets of Communism, nor would any of us further assume that the country has resigned itself to domination by Soviet Russia. To do so would belie facts and mock history.

In this country today, there are millions of Americans of Polish descent. These people exemplify the traditional desire for freedom that is part of the Polish character. Poland will never submit nor long remain dormant so long as hope remains. It is the solemn responsibility of America to assist in every way possible the Polish people who believe in liberty and freedom.



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Our faith in her has not waned. It remains steadfast in the hope that this great nation will take her place once again alongside the other nations of the world. To this end the other countries of the world besides the United States must devote their full resources and energy.

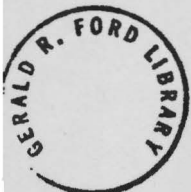


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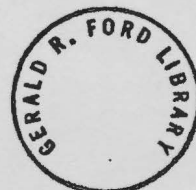
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