

# FREE WORLD

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*devoted to*

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## Secret Europe to America

### POLAND

IN my capacity of Chairman of the Committee of the Polish Socialist Party Abroad, which represents the Polish Underground Labor Movement outside Poland, I take great pleasure in addressing a message to the readers of *FREE WORLD* magazine.

THE *FREE WORLD* magazine and the activities of the Free World Association are known to the Polish Underground fighters. The ideas of democracy, international organization and social justice, so eloquently voiced by *FREE WORLD*, are shared fully by the Polish Labor Underground. The "Program for a People's Poland," Polish Labor's most recent and fullest ideological pronouncement, bears witness to that fact.

IN the midst of a most cruel persecution, aimed at reducing the Polish nation to a slave status, the Polish Labor Movement works at shaping Poland's future. For us the struggle waged by the Polish people at home and abroad—in the darkness of underground conspiracy, in the dashing audacity of our airmen, in the concealed hide-outs of our guerilla fighters and on board our warships—is an indivisible fight for freedom. It is a struggle, first of all, against the nazi machine of extermination, but it is also a fight for our nation's free and untrammelled development and for our people's eventual and complete freedom from any kind of dictatorship.

WE do not fight merely to exchange nazi oppression for another kind of dictatorship, whether it be domestic or foreign. President Roosevelt's Four Freedoms are understood well in Poland, for, as our famous

poet Mickiewicz put it in another connection, "Only those who have lost their country (and their freedom) can really appreciate it."

**POLAND** will have an immense task after the war. While physical destruction of buildings and entire cities will probably be matched by that in many other European countries Poland's cultural and human losses will be greater than anybody else's. It is our country that has been singled out by the Nazis for particularly harsh treatment.

**THROUGHOUT** all nazi statements concerning Poland and the Polish people one argument is hammered constantly at the readers: "The Poles bear the guilt for this war. The Poles started it." Yes, the Polish people were unanimous in resisting the Nazis; we were the first to try to thwart Hitler's hitherto unopposed march across Central Europe. It is because of that attitude that the Nazis are taking vengeance.

**IT IS** useless to describe the persecutions, "extermination," deportation by the millions, concentration camps for hundreds of thousands, executions by the tens of thousands; it is useless to repeat again what the Nazis have done to our economic life, to our educational system, to our monuments of art and culture. **FREE WORLD** has described these facts countless times.

**WHAT I** wish to emphasize is the immensity of the task that will face us when we undertake the rebuilding of what the Nazis have destroyed. We shall rebuild a democratic Poland that will enjoy a "government of the people, by the people, and for the people." We shall rebuild our economic life in order to secure full employment and a higher standard of life for everybody.

**WE** shall rebuild a Poland that will take its place in a world that is just, equally, to big and to small nations.

**IN** our task of rehabilitation and reconstruction we shall need assistance and help from abroad. The results of the recent UNRRA Conference can certainly be interpreted as meaning that such help will be forthcoming. But what we need, above all, is the sympathy of liberals, democrats and labor men throughout the world for our task of political and social reorganization.

**WE** all know that **FREE WORLD** desires to be instrumental in "making the world safe for democracy," to quote an old phrase. Let us hope that, after another grueling experience, mankind will achieve better results by following the way of democracy, progress and social justice.

Signed

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