



ОДЪАКСЛІСНА КОМПАНИЈА. ЈЕЗУС ЈУСЕФЪ МАРИЈА Р. П. 23 АН

RESOLUTION

Fully aware of their privilege and responsibility to act at this crucial moment in world history in the interest of a just peace, outstanding leaders in the field of culture and education, presidents of cultural and educational organizations, chairmen of educational and art committees, specialists in education, art and music, meeting in the first Chicago Regional Conference of the Commission on Culture and Education of the Polish American Congress at the Woman's City Club, 410 So. Michigan Avenue on November 3, 1944 recommended that the Polish American Congress adopt the following resolution with the request that it take action on a nationwide scale to inform our fellow Americans of the following facts:

THAT—Six million Americans of Polish descent stand determined in defense of the cultural rights of Poland to her pre-war boundaries and territory.

THAT—The Polish nation created a culture during the past one thousand years which has preserved the ideals of Western European civilization and which has always been a barrier against the encroachment of barbaric influences on the European continent.

In the twentieth century, an era of great progress and the spread of the ideal of democracy, we cannot permit the destruction of the Polish nation and its rich culture, a culture which has given to the civilized world such intellects as Copernicus, Sklodowska-Curie, Sienkiewicz, Conrad, Chopin, and Paderewski.

If this tragedy is permitted to occur, it will be a disgrace and an everlasting shame to the entire civilized world. There is no historical or political foundation to support assertions that cutting off any Polish city, or any part of Polish territory from Poland is in accord with the wishes of the people who have lived there for centuries. It is significant that of Poland's most famous artists, scholars, and apostles of Christianity, forty-six percent came from that part of Poland which lies east of the Bug and Niemen Rivers—among them, Paderewski, Szymanowski, and Conrad. The people who come from the cities and rural areas of Poland which lie east of the so-called Curzon Line have been faithful throughout the centuries to Polish culture. They have preserved it in their hearts and in their homes, and when necessary, fought and died for it.

THAT—In September 1939, Poland went to war in defense of her culture and territorial integrity. The civilized world joined Poland because it realized at last that it too, faced the same danger. Their country overridden by the enemy, the gallant sons of Poland continue to fight gloriously beside their American and British allies on all fronts. Are they giving their lives that their country be sacrificed, her lands torn from her, her people intimidated and persecuted?

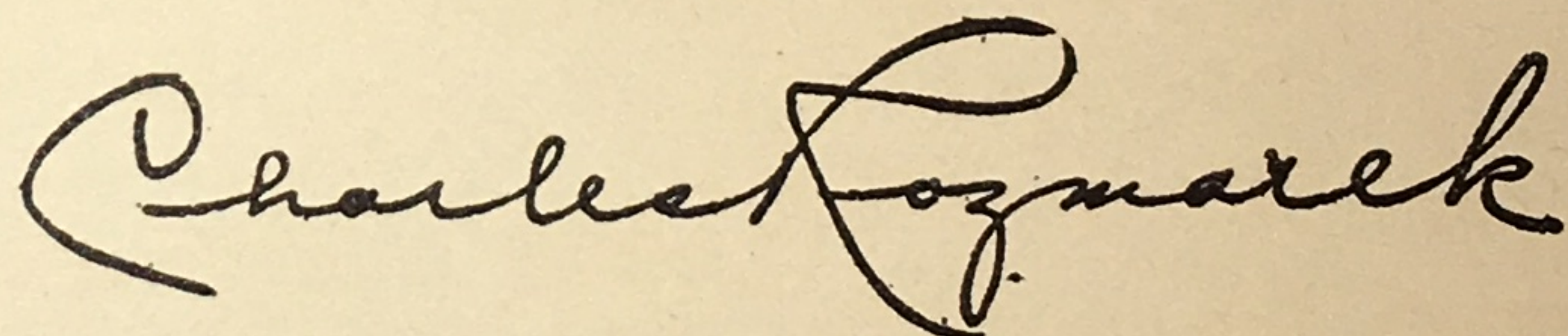
THAT — Our American boys answered the call of their country. They went to war in defense of the principles of the Atlantic Charter and of the Four Freedoms. Hundreds of thousands are shedding their blood in defense of the sacred human rights of men and nations. Are their sacrifices to be in vain and the principles and rights for which they are fighting repudiated and trampled upon? Many have already made the supreme sacrifice. Because they cannot speak for themselves, it is our sacred duty to speak for them.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT—

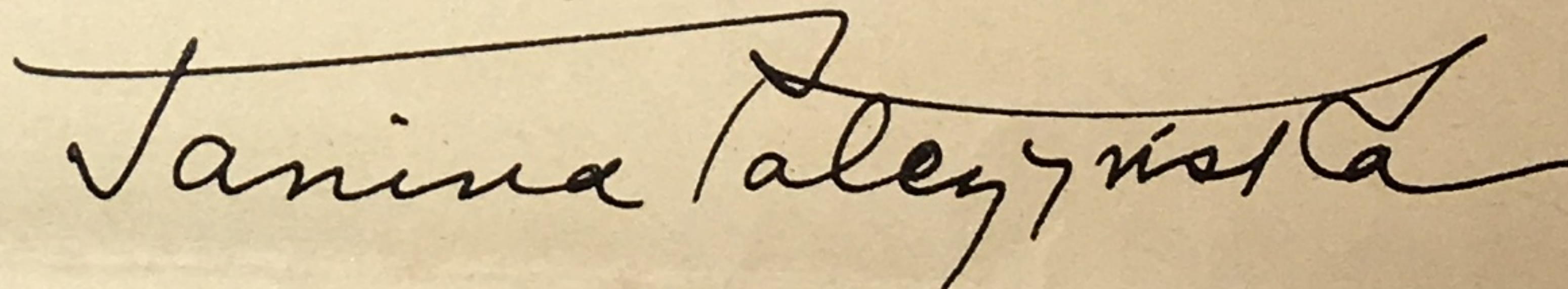
We call upon you to join us, our fighting sons, and Polish brethren in protest!

We call upon you to join us in warning the responsible leaders of the United Nations, that if they dare to subject Poland our Ally, to the humiliation and punishment that should be accorded only a vanquished enemy, their act will be forever condemned by history!

We call upon you to use your influence and power to prevent the perpetration of the greatest crime of modern times, the unjust and inhuman imposition of a foreign culture upon a great nation, a nation that has contributed so much to the culture and learning of Western and Christian civilization—OUR OWN!



Charles Rozmarek, President,
Polish American Congress



Janina Palczynska, Chairman,
Commission on Culture and Education

HOLY FAMILY
Work of An Unknown Folk Artist Exhibited at
The Art Institute of Chicago
Exhibition of Old Polish Folk Woodcuts
December 10, 1943 to January 2, 1944.
Loaned by Marya Wertén