

# Keynoter Assails Russia at Polish-

## Mead Answers Rozmarek Charge Of 'Pushing Millions Into Soviet Orbit'

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BUFFALO, May 29.—The "Buffalo line," designed to stop the Red Army from taking over the Western Ukraine for Stalin, was laid down here today as Charles Rozmarek, head of the Polish National Alliance, opened a three-day session of the Polish American Congress with a keynote speech attacking the USSR as an "atheistic dictatorship."

Nearly 3000 delegates, mostly from eastern and east central states, heard Rozmarek warn that "certain Americans are ready to push Poland, the Baltic countries and other democratic nations into the sphere of a dictatorial power.

"These Americans seem to forget," Rozmarek said, "that pushing millions of people into the Russian orbit means forcing them to live under an anti-democratic government with its abhorrent collectivism and with its one-party system run by a secret police force more efficient than the dreaded Gestapo."

### Mead Asks Unity

But Rozmarek's blistering attack on the USSR was offset a few minutes later when Sen. James Mead (D., N. Y.), whom Polish Americans long have considered "a friend of Poland," called for unity among all Americans as the first prerequisite of victory and urged that "as American citizens we must place our trust in the integrity and the ability of our Secretary of State acting under President Roosevelt in the handling of foreign affairs."

"It has been revealed on numerous occasions by State Dept. sources," Mead said, "that it is our wish that frontier disputes be settled amicably between the immediate parties by friendly conference and agreement, and that if complicate questions arise they should be resolved after the termination of hostilities."

Mead's speech was applauded as loudly as Rozmarek's by a crowd that numbered nearly 15,000—including guests as well as delegates.

### Lauds 'Valiant Poles'

Mead paid tribute, in the early part of his speech, to the "valiant

1944

# American Congress

Poles" who had withstood the Nazi onslaught and given England a chance to prepare in the first five weeks of the Nazi blitz. Reviewing the optimistic war picture, the Senator said:

"I am sure that I express the wish of every delegate to this Congress when I say it is to be earnestly hoped that our Allies, Poland and Soviet Russia, will settle current questions by friendly conference to their mutual satisfaction. Our sole aim in these matters is the basic necessity for agreed action and the prevention of any semblance of disunity among the members of the United Nations. Hitler must not be permitted to divide our forces."

The Congress, comprising delegates from scores of Polish-American business, religious, cultural and benevolent associations—but with no large labor union or Polish-Jewish organization represented—is expected before its close to form a permanent organization of Polish Americans to campaign for Poland's territorial integrity.

But behind the calling of the

Congress was a more fundamental issue—an attempt by a group of extreme nationalist and reactionary Polish Americans to use the natural sympathies for their homeland of 6,000,000 Americans of Polish descent as a weapon of political blackmail against the FDR Administration.

#### Publisher a Leader

Among the leaders of this extremist group are Maximilian Wegrzynek, owner of *Nowy Swiat*, Polish language daily in New York City, and Stanley A. Gutowski, director of the Pulaski Foundation of Newark, N. J. Wegrzynek is a Republican and ardent supporter of Gov. Thomas E. Dewey. Gutowski, a few weeks ago, ran in the *Pulaski Foundation Bulletin* an article by Constantine Brown, columnist of the *Washington Star*, in which the Buffalo Congress was described as a potential threat to turn the Polish American vote over to the Republicans, unless FDR repudiated Teheran and went all out for Poland's prewar boundaries.

But publicity given this scheme in the last few weeks by PM, the *Washington Post* and other newspapers, apparently has already had its effect. Rozmarek, in his keynote speech today, declared at the outset:

"Let it be distinctly understood that this is not a political gathering as certain critics have intimated. The Polish cause is too sacred to be used for partisan purposes."

Rozmarek added that the Congress expressed "unequivocal support of the American foreign policy based upon the Atlantic Charter and the Four Freedoms"—pointedly ignoring both the Teheran Conference and the Moscow Conference which preceded it. And significantly—for the Polish American vote in this country has been traditionally Democratic—Rozmarek got a lot of applause from his listeners when he said:

"As an American, I am proud that it was our President, Franklin D. Roosevelt, who formulated the Four Freedoms and the Atlantic Charter as our war aims."