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Address
of
Cyrus Eaton
American Industrialist
at
Dinner Honoring
Polish Delegation
to the
Fifteenth General Assembly of the United Nations
New York City, Monday, October 3, 1960

As I greet the distinguished members of the Polish Delegation to the Fifteenth General Assembly of the United Nations, I vividly recall my visit of last June to their great country as a rich and exciting experience.

The trip provided me with a marvelous opportunity to see something of industry and agriculture, to watch the happy and industrious people at work and play, and to become acquainted with the leaders of their government. I was also able to meet and talk with leading Ambassadors to Poland from both West and East.

I should like to pay my respects to First Secretary Gomulka as a true statesman dedicated to the welfare of his country. In Warsaw, he gave me generously of his time for discussions of the industrial, agricultural and economic problems of Poland.

I likewise benefited from obtaining the views of Minister of Foreign Affairs Rapacki, who is universally acknowledged to be one of the best informed and wisest of international experts. I am indebted to his capable Deputy Minister, Mr. Winiewicz, for a most delightful and informative luncheon. There, as on several other occasions, I met Ambassador Lewandowski, Poland's able and tactful new Permanent Delegate to the United Nations. Among many others who helped to give me the Polish point of view were the Polish delegate to the Ten-Nation Disarmament Conference and the Members of Parliament, who met with me as a group at the Parliament Building.

In addition to making numerous new friends in Poland, I enjoyed delightful reunions with several old ones. I must mention particularly Professor Leopold Infeld, one of our Pugwash scientists who is well remembered on this side of the Atlantic as Albert Einstein's brilliant collaborator. The evening with Dr. and Mrs. Infeld in their home was a memorable event. I should also like to single out Professor Oskar

Lange, profound economist who now serves as Vice Chairman of the Polish State Council, but whom I first met many years ago at one of our annual University of Chicago Trustees' dinners for the Faculty.

My separate and private meetings with Eastern and Western Ambassadors to Poland were an education by themselves. One is immediately impressed with the intelligence, the energy and the effectiveness of the diplomatic representatives of the Soviet Union, the Chinese People's Republic and India. At the same time, while one is struck with the fine character and personality of the American, British and Canadian Ambassadors, there follows quickly the feeling that these emissaries from the West have been vested with little authority and maintain relatively slight contact with Polish people and events, so that they exercise small influence. I have no doubt that the U. S. Ambassador gives our State Department sound advice, but I would be equally sure that much of it falls on deaf ears in Washington.

In Warsaw, one gets a lively sense of active commercial and cultural interchange between Poland and the East, including both the Soviet Union and China. As I watch other nations, West as well as East, conducting normal relations with China, I feel the more strongly that the United States blunders in leading the opposition to admission of China into the United Nations. Last week's United Nations Steering Committee vote of 12 to 7 against China deserves careful analysis. The outcome would have been the opposite with the shift from no to yes of three votes. In other words, Panama, Costa Rica and Haiti, three small countries, with a combined population of less than 5-1/2 million, served as the barrier against China, with its population of 669 million. Does anyone honestly think that these three small, and actually unconcerned, Latin American countries would vote to exclude the world's biggest nation from membership

in a great world organization if they were not being subjected to extreme pressure by the United States?

Turning back to Poland, I entertain no doubt whatsoever, after seeing for myself, that Poland is making great progress under its socialist government. At this point, may I add that I subscribe completely and confidently to capitalism as the most desirable system for the United States. I have no wish for us to impose our system on those of other persuasion, however, nor would we welcome outside interference with our ways.

The reconstruction of Warsaw must surely rank as one of the miracles of our times. Seeing this magnificent modern city, with its excellent hotels and attractive restaurants, makes it exceedingly difficult to remember that Warsaw was destroyed almost to the point of obliteration in World War II.

Poland's industrial expansion is well illustrated by the growth of her steel industry to an annual capacity in excess of 7 million tons. In the difficult field of agriculture, which presents its problems even in the United States, I was impressed with the earnest attention that Poland is giving to the introduction of the latest farming methods and machinery and to the diversification of types of livestock.

The urgent task, as I see it, is to present the true picture of present-day Poland to the millions of Polish-Americans in the United States. If ever there were two of this world's nations that ought to cultivate close understanding and friendship, they are Poland and the United States. For almost two centuries, since the American Revolution, let us not forget that the two countries have shared Generals Kosciuszko and Pulaski as national heroes.

What we have here is a problem in public relations. Americans of Polish origin ought to be encouraged to visit the old country and to see at first hand the progress that is being made there. They would also come away with a better knowledge of Poland's venerable history and of the men and women of genius that Poland has given to many fields.

Those who are not fully familiar with American mass media may have lately been somewhat dismayed with the unreasoning anti-socialist propaganda with which the general American public is being deluged morning, noon and night. Please remember that this is not a normal hour in American affairs. We are on the eve of a national election, and it has proved to be a most unpropitious time for the United Nations General Assembly to meet, and for delegates from foreign, especially socialist, countries to be here.

Our politicians, like all politicians, are far from their best when seeking votes. Our press, radio and television are given to light-hearted exaggeration at such a time, and to the casual publication of articles and editorials that have come to be known as "campaign oratory," which is not taken seriously by most of the American public. As our wise French friend, Jules Moch, recently observed, "Man's folly today will pass," and common sense will again prevail.

Meanwhile, let me urge that Poland not only foster the greatest possible influx of American tourists, but also send all possible English-speaking representatives to visit the big American cities where people of Polish descent are centered. My own home town, Cleveland, is an example. Friendly and informative meetings should be held to provide full facts and permit frank discussion, in order to correct existing distortions and misunderstandings.

The most immediate and most promising path for improvement of Polish-American relations lies in increasing commerce between our two countries. Trade between the United States and Poland has been increasing in the past few years, and I believe there are infinite possibilities for further expansion. As far as the United States is concerned, I should like to say that we need the business. Our steel industry is operating at only 50% of capacity, while yours is running full time. The field of economics, in my view, offers the best hope for both profits and peace. Accordingly, I welcome the presence of the Polish delegation here this evening, and I know we shall have a valuable discussion of these challenging problems.

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