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# Speech of Paul C. Kazimer on the Slovak Nation's Sacrifice for Freedom

### EXTENSION OF REMARKS

## HON: CHARLES J. KERSTEN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Wednesday, March 26, 1952

Mr. KERSTEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I want to include with my remarks the very excellent speech made by Mr. Paul C. Kazimer at the conference on psychological warfare held in Washington, D. C., on February 22 and 23, 1952.

Text of the speech follows:

SLOVAR NATION'S SACEDICE FOR FREEDOM Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests, I think that the sponsors of this conference, and especially the Honorable Congressman O. K. ARMSTRONG and the HONORABLE CONGRESSMAN CHARLES KERSTEN, Could not have selected a better day for this conference than the birthday of the Father of our Country, George Washington, who was first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen. When I rise to address you as a former GI.

When I rise to address you as a former GI, who served with my son in World War II, I visualize a picture of a Valley Forge over in the Tatra and Carpathian Mountains in Slovakia, where today, just like during the war for our American independence the Father of our Country prayed, there in a deep snow, leaders of the Slovak underground imbued with the same democratic spirit of George Washington are praying and fighting communism.

As an American of Slovak extraction, whose parents were born in Slovakia. I am greatly honored to address you at this most important psychological strategy conference on cold war. I was deeply touched by the remarks of my good friend Displaced Persons <u>Commissioner Edward O'Connor</u>, who covered the importance and significance of this conference in his keynote remarks most admirably.

My remarks are limited to some 15 minutes and therefore I shall try hard to utilize every moment of the time allotted to me. I am a spokesman today for the people of Slovakia who unfortunately cannot speak for themselves. It is a great honor and privllege which I cherish most highly. In order to appreciate the plight of the brave people of Slovakia, permit me to give the following facts.

The Slovak Nation has an ancient history which begins in the eighth century, A. D.

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At that time Slovabla was an important independent nation in the heart of Europe. It is often referred to as a country on the crossroads of Europe. Slovaks are a devout Christian, democratic psople, whose brief history was recently registered in the Condemostronal Record by the Honorable PAUL DOUGLAS, United States Senator from Illinois, proving that democracy is not new to the Slovak nation.

The Slovaks were the first to turn to Christianity of the central European peoples. The first Christian church in Slovakia was consecrated in 830 A. D. in the historical city of Nitra, where today rule the godless tryants of Kremlin. The advent of the apostles of Saints Cyril

The advent of the apostles of **Saints** Cyrli and Methodius to the Slovaks in 863 marked a new epoch of the cultural enlightenment not only for the Slovaks but entire Slovanic nations and their neighbors.

The Slovaks have been dominated by foreign powers for centuries but despite alien domination they have not lost their national characteristics and national spirit. This national spirit was demonstrated dur World War I, when the Austria-Hungaria Empire was crushed. The Slovak patriotic movement demanded independence for the Slovak nation. These leaders were banking on the Wilsonian principles of self-determination which were unfortunately disregarded in the peace settlement following the World War. Those interested in history of this period should read the late Col. Stephen Bonsel's works, dealing with this catastrophe and called by him as the Unfinished Business, in his book published under the same title, a Pulitzer prize winner, and also his book Suitors and Suppliants. The Slovak nation became thus a part of the Czechoslovak Republic. In this relationship the Slovaks looked forward to promises of autonomy within a federation under the direct sponsorship of the United States Peace Delegation at Versailles headed by President Woodrow Wilson.

Unfortunately the pledges given to the Slovaks by T. G. Masaryk were not kept and, therefore, with the outbreak of World War II the Slovaks were caught between the powerful pincers of the two tyrants, Hitler and Stalin. Hitler began the dismemberment of the Czechoslovak Republic by declaring a protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia. Once again the Slovak people had to fight for preservation on one hand against Hitler and on the other against Stalin. It was in these circumstances that the Slovak Republic was proclaimed on March 14, 1939.

In this conflict between Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union there were no neutrais—the Slovaks because of their natural

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hatred for the godless philosophy of communism attempted to defend its borders against the Soviets. With the end of World War II, the Slo-

With the end of World War II, the Slovaks suffered persecution from the agents of the Kremlin long before the Communists took over completely in Prague. Few people realized that long before the Communist coup in February 1948, Slovakia had many Lidices—yes; many towns and villages were razed to the ground not only by the Nazis but also by the Reds and their agents. Slovak women, including nuns, were raped by the "big brothers from Russia" long before the wast American and western press woke up to the bestialities of our so-called allies the Red Army. It was no wonder that when the people of Slovakia were given the opportunity to exercise their free vote, they made it clear how much they despised communism by voting over 70 percent against Communists in the first postwar election of May 26, 1946.

But despite the Slovak protests against the Reds, and despite the majority ballots cast against the Reds, the Reds nevertheless took over entire Czechoslovakia in February 1948. This was no news to us Americans of Slovak extraction who have diligently followed the course of events in the country of our forefathers and witnessed the massacre and murder of the Slovak people by the so-called people's courts.

The Slovaks were among the first to be forcefully dragged off to Siberia, where over 30,000 of them perished. Thousands of them field into voluntary exile. I had the rare opportunity to see with my own eyes, during my 5-month tour in various countries of Europe in 1949, just how the people of Slovakia and its neighbors have suffered and what the Soviet occupation of their homelands brought them. It was then, in the many displaced-persons camps, after seeing their misery and listening to their true stories of persecution, that I vowed to devote all my energies to the liberation of the peoples of the oppressed nations.

Way back since 1946 the Slovak people had to confine their activities to the underground (which was ably described in an article "Stalin's Troubles With the Underground", published in the Saturday Evening Post on December 29, 1951, by Dr. V. Stefan Krajcovic and reprinted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of January 17, 1952, by Congressman MELVIN PRICE, of Illinois).

The reason I mention this article is because I had an opportunity to meet during my sojourn in Germany in 1949 a Slovak hero mentioned in underground exploits, one Alois Sutty, who will go down in history as a martyr of the Slovakian underground. Sutty

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was a courier between the underground in Slovakia and its free representatives in exile. Since I met and spoke to thousands of exiles in those DP camps, I can summarize

their aims and desires with these sentences: "If America fails us, then we and our compatriots in the countries behind the iron

curtain countries are doomed forever. America is our only hope. Please, do not fail us." It is their cry to us, to us Americans, whose

country was founded by the DP's and the

refugees of another century. When we analyze the strategy of Soviet Russia, we can see that she is playing for time and although peace is her slogan, we know that wherever Soviet soldiers move in there is no peace. There is a saying in Slo-vakia that the Sloraks waited several hundred years to see the Russians and then in a short period of a few weeks experienced centuries.

I am very happy that this conference was called because we must act in unison. Our United States Government does not want war and has never been an aggressor. Franklin D. Roocevelt assured us that every nation, no matter how small, is entitled to its statehood. The great stateman, Thomas Jeffer-son, has proclaimed in this eity, the great Capital of our country, that "God who gave us life, gave us liberty at the same time." This also pertains to the peoples of all oppressed and enslaved countries.

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The Americans of Sloyak descent and those democracy-loving extles who have chosen the barren DP camps instead of their homes, today condemn the brutalities of the Reds in Slovakia and other satellite countries. They are ashamed that the unworthy Cains have chosen to murder their brothers. They voice their protests against Gottwald, Stalin's stooge in Ozechoslovakia, whose greatness has imprisoned American newspaper Correspondent William N. Oatis and Johnny Hvasta, an American GI of Slovakian parentage from Hillside, N. J., who is languishing in a Czech prison for the past 3 years and whose case was brought to the attention of American press on several occasions. Al-though President Harry S. Truman has assured the parents of Johnny Hvasta through Congressman PETER W. RODINO, JR., of Newark, N. J., that he is not a forgotten man, nevertheless, he is still a prisoner in Leopoldov, the same prison which holds the three bishops of Slovakia and thousands of democracyloving Slovak patriots.

According to our program, we will hear Mr. Robert A. Vogeler, fortunately a living example of the Communist brutalities. We will also hear United States Senator Par Mc-We will CASEAN, to whom I pay great tribute for his untiring efforts in ridding this country of the great menace of communism. I salute you, Senator MCCARRAN on behalf of the Slovak people.

I express the deep appreciation and thanks of those brave and oppressed Blovak people

to the present administration for its firm stand against communism and its realistic program of appropriating the \$100,000,000 aid to the recognized underground movements behind the iron curtain. At this time I heartily endorse the keynote address of the Honorable Commissioner Edward O'Conner, in which he presented a practical plan which would rock the Soviet conspirators to their heels. Every moment of delay means more suffering to the oppressed people behind the iron curtain. To us Americans it is a great loss because our procrastination is only strengthening the position of our enemy in this cold war.

There is one thing I am sure of, and that is that the Slovak people will never accept the doctrines of communism. I am equally certain they will resist to their death all encroachments of the Soviet Union.

The Slovaks are our unquestioned and loyal allies in the common struggle against the dictatorship of communism.

In conclusion, on this birthday of the father of our country, I want to leave these prayerful thoughts with you: Let us make this February 22 the day of the rededication of our efforts to crush communism, the worst plague the world has ever known. Let us put our words into action that the people of the oppressed nations may soon joyfully sing with us: "Let freedom ring from every mountain side-God bless America, and damn communism."

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