

By Mr. Chmura of Holyoke, petition of Stephen T. Chmura, Joseph Garczynski, Jr., Stanley J. Zarod, Walter T. Kostanski and Thomas C. Wojtkowski for adoption of resolutions by the General Court congratulating the Polish American Congress, Inc., for initiating the celebration and observance of the millennium of Christianity and statehood of Poland. Constitutional Law.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty.

RESOLUTIONS CONGRATULATING THE WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS BRANCH OF THE POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS, INC., FOR INITIATING THE CELEBRATION AND OBSERVANCE OF THE MILLENNIUM OF THE ACCEPTANCE OF CHRISTIANITY BY POLAND AND THE STATEHOOD OF POLAND.

Whereas, The Western Massachusetts Branch of the Polish American Congress, Inc., has voted to observe and to fittingly celebrate the Millennium of Poland during May, 1960, in the city of Springfield; and

Whereas, The celebration of the Millennium of Poland marks the one thousandth anniversary of the acceptance of Christianity by Poland and its alignment with European civilization; and

Whereas, The cultural and historical contribution of Poland to our western civilization as well as the undying strength and moral determination of the Polish people to resist their oppressors is firmly rooted and directly attributable to their great and abiding faith in Christianity; and

Whereas, Despite the many conquests, the tyrants, and now, the Communist yoke, which Poland has had to bear over these one thousand years, her great religious conviction and unquenchable spirit have helped her to give to the world such great people as General Kosciuszko, Count Casimir Pulaski, Nicolaus Copernicus, Henryk Sienkiewicz, Joseph Conrad, Frederic Chopin, Ignace Paderewski, Madame Marie Sklodowska Curie and Maria Konopicka; and

Whereas, During the observance of the Millennium great anniversaries dear to the heart of every Pole will be observed, including

the 150th anniversary of Frederic Chopin's birth; the 550th anniversary of the Battle of Grunwald, when Polish-Lithuanian forces checked the invasion of Central and Eastern Europe by the German Teutonic order; the 600th anniversary of Cracow University; and the 100th anniversary of the birth of Ignace Paderewski, and all these anniversaries will be honored by every Pole for their great cultural and political importance in Poland's history; and

Whereas, Poland was the first country in Europe to adopt a constitution establishing a democratic form of government guaranteeing human rights and civil liberties to all while at the very moment this historic document was being written Poland was under the occupation of a foreign enemy; and

Whereas, The parallel between the Polish constitution and our national and state constitutions is very close and the underlying political philosophies expressed therein revere and cherish the same principles which we here hold so dearly; and

Whereas, Poland stands today, a shining light as it has been over the past thousand years in the midst of our enemies, who are her enemies, even though under the domination of a godless despot, as a symbol of democracy and true Christian morality; therefore be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the General Court of Massachusetts that in the next Millennium Poland will experience a re-birth; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts hereby congratulates the Western Massachusetts Branch of the Polish American Congress, Inc., for initiating the celebration and observance of the Millennium of the acceptance of Christianity by Poland and the statehood of Poland; and be it further

Resolved, That an engrossed copy of these resolutions be sent forthwith by the Secretary of the Commonwealth to the Western Massachusetts Branch of the Polish American Congress, Inc.