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UKRAINIANS HELD ENTITLED TO NATIONAL IDENTITY.  
-By Miss Eleanor O'Connor.

I have read the letter by Marian Kowalski. I am an American of Irish parentage, but I am, I believe, reasonably cognizant of the history of Polish-Ukrainian relations, and I feel that in the name of justice I cannot allow this misrepresentation to go undenied.

The writer of the letter says that the Ukrainians are much closer to the Poles than to the Russians as their language, customs and culture is the same as the Polish. My Ukrainian acquaintances speak a language which they call Ukrainian. This language is different from the Polish, which language is not generally understood, or at all spoken by Ukrainians. As to customs and culture, the Ukrainians have always had a fine culture of their own, which they have clung to steadfastly, and nurtured through centuries of suppression, and organized attempts on the part of their oppressors to destroy their national identity.

Miss Kowalski says that the Ukrainians do not want to be ceded to Russia because they are not Russian, and I might add that they also do not want to be ceded to Poland for they are not Polish.

Yes, the Ukrainians disapprove the Soviet political philosophy, but no more than they object to the imposition of Polish rule. The Ukrainians are a highly individualistic and democratic people, as Miss Kowalski admits, and I would like to see the day when their neighbors decide to stop kicking them around, and they are allowed to proudly take their place in the society of free Slav nations.



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Holds Ukrainians Would Prefer To Be With Poland.  
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by Marian Kowalski  
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I want to congratulate the editors of the World-Telegram for the excellent editorials on the Soviet-Polish dispute about boundaries. They are objective, bold and true. I also want to congratulate your collaborator, Mr. Wm. Philip Simms. He, too, defends Polish integrity with wisdom and bravery. His articles are illuminating, informative, and well documented.

Soviet Russia claims the eastern part of Poland on racial grounds. She claims the inhabitants of eastern Galicia and Volhynia are Russian, but they are not. They call themselves Ukrainians or Ruthenians. I find that many Americans see no difference between the Russians and Ruthenians, but there is a difference.

Ruthenians, or Ukrainians, if you please, are much closer to Poles than to Russians. Their language, customs, and their culture are the same as Polish. Both in Poland and in the United States, Poles and Ukrainians live together. They intermarry to such a degree that in some communities, like Detroit, for instance, wives of the Ukrainian leaders are Polish. I know of my own experience that the Polish newspapers in Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland and Buffalo are read by thousands of Ukrainian families, who frequent Polish Catholic churches, business enterprises, and Polish plays. All the Ukrainians from the provinces claimed by Russia speak, read and write the Polish language. They read Polish books, attend the Polish socials, and co-operate with Poles in politics.

The tie between the Poles and Ruthenians is so close that one of the contributing editors of the Ukrainian nationalist paper Svoboda, Prof. Nicholas Chubaty, is a member of the Polish Scientific Institute in New York. Both Ukrainian and the Polish members of the Polish Scientific Institute work together for better relations of the Slavic race.

In the territories claimed by Russia, Poles and Ukrainians live so closely and so densely that it would be hard to draw an ethnographical boundary between these two peoples.

Ukrainians do not want to be ceded to Soviet Russia because they are not Russians. I see by the Ukrainian papers published in this country that they do not like the Soviet system of government. Ukrainians are highly individualistic and democratic people.



They like Poland because Poland gave them freedom of the press, freedom of religion, and freedom of speech. Russia suppressed everything.

Ukrainian nationalist leaders and the high Catholic and Orthodox Church dignitaries in this country disapprove Soviet political philosophy. They are about to call a Second Ukrainian Congress in Philadelphia to protest the Soviet aggression and demand from the democratic countries that East Galicia and Volhynia be left outside the Soviet Union. They say that Russia has neither legal nor moral right to claim Eastern Galicia. Ukrainians would rather remain with Poland.

New York.



## Ukrainians Declared Favoring Independence.

By Prof. Nicholas Chubaty.

I appreciate very highly the courage of the New York World-Telegram for its attempt to illuminate one of the most sensitive questions of today, the problem of the so-called Polish-Russian border. The letter of M. Kowalski in the Jan. 19, 1944, issue of your newspaper, Holds Ukrainians Would Prefer To Be with Poland, has given me the opportunity also to express my opinions, especially because the author of this letter quoted my name.

In the first place, there is a slight error. I do not have the honor of being a member of the Polish Scientific Institute in New York.

I am competent to voice my opinion concerning the problem of western Ukraine because I have lived there all of my life, as have my ancestors for at least 300 years. I left western Ukraine in August, 1939, in order to take part in the Pax Romana International Conference which was held in Washington and New York. The war did not permit me to return to my prewar occupation as a professor of Ukrainian history at the Ukrainian Catholic Theological Academy at Lemberg /Lviv, Lwow/.

The author of the above mentioned letter correctly states that the Ukrainian people are an entirely different nation from the Russians, d i f f e r e n t culturally, mentally, and in their democratic way of life. However, in the same way, contrary to M. Kowalski's statement, the Ukrainians are also different from the Poles.

Knowing the sentiments of western Ukraine, the inhabitants of which number: Ukrainians, 88 per cent; Poles, 19 per cent, and Jews, 12 per cent, up until the last days before the outbreak of the war, I am deeply convinced that all the inhabitants of this country, in an overwhelming majority, are against incorporation in the Soviet Union. However, this does not mean that Ukrainians desire to be under the domination of Poland.

My countrymen desire to have a free and independent nation. In 1918 the western Ukrainians showed self-determination in such a manner that they created an independent western Ukrainian republic, to which also joined the Ukrainians from Bukovina and Carpathian Ukraine. In 1919 Poland conquered western Ukraine and annexed it to Poland proper against the will of the majority of the population. Only in 1923 the Ambassadors Council permitted the annexation of western Ukraine to Poland.

The Polish-Ukrainian relations were far from the idyllic picture presented by M. Kowalski. The deepest desire of the western Ukrainians was to unite with the eastern Ukrainians in a free and independent state. However, the Bolshevik occupation of eastern Ukraine did not permit the realization of this dream.



In the present actual problem of western Ukraine, in my opinion, the most fair step that could be taken by the democratic nations is to honor and respect the will of the majority of the population of western Ukraine and permit them to organize their own free and independent democratic state. I firmly believe that the American Ukrainians who are meeting at the 2nd Ukrainian-American Congress in Philadelphia, in the Benjamin Franklin Hotel, on Jan. 22, 1944, will not take a different stand than that of the will of their brothers in Europe.

New York.