

Mr. Roosevelt Reports

Mr. Roosevelt's report to Congress and to the American people on the results of his recent conferences with Prime Minister Churchill and Marshal Stalin at Yalta was a message of hope and good cheer. Its tone was one of confidence and reassurance. The manner of delivery was vigorous and vibrant and seemed to bear out recent statements of his aides that the President is in the best of health. The report was made in the House of Representatives to a joint session of Congress, the President's first appearance at the capitol in more than two years.

With no preoccupation other than winning the war and organizing the world for peace and security, Mr. Roosevelt was able to win some notable victories at Yalta, and he obviously was elated over the results. And well may he be, inasmuch as the meeting, he said, found common ground for peace and spelled "the end of the system of unilateral action and exclusive alliances and spheres of influence and balance of power and all other expedients which have been tried for centuries and have failed."

At one point in his address the President expressed "firm belief that we have made a good start on the road to world peace," and at another point he declared that "a tremendous stride was made."

One of the most complex problems which faced the conference in the Crimea was that of Polish boundaries. The decision arrived at, he said, was a compromise, but it was one in which Poles will lose nothing. He justified the decision on ethnological grounds, citing the well-known fact that the people east of the Curzon Line are predominantly White Russians and Ukrainians and those west of the line are predominantly Polish. He also recalled that the Curzon line was the boundary agreed upon by the Allies after World War I and stated unequivocally that Poland will be compensated for her territorial losses with territory in the north and west of Germany.

Majority of the American people undoubtedly will accept the Polish settlement as fair and just and the best solution possible under existing conditions. It is noteworthy in this connection that the British House of Commons already has given Mr. Churchill an overwhelming vote of confidence on exactly this point.

If the President felt that the refusal of General de Gaulle to meet him at Algiers was a personal affront he did not give the slightest indication of it in his discussion of the present and future roles of France in the family of nations of the world.

The President's reiteration of the meaning of unconditional surrender to Germany was timely, and it is to be hoped that means will be found of getting at least this portion of his message to the German people.