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### REPUBLIC OF POLAND COMING IN NEAR FUTURE

Dismembered Poland presents much more of a problem than independent Poland possibly could, on account of its revolutionary propaganda and its growing strength. The Poles are more numerous than ever before and their increase is rapid. Furthermore there now exists among all classes of Poles—nobles, clergy, bourgeoisie and peasants—a sympathy and sense of unity unprecedented in the Polish history. Even with the Polish socialists the first aim is to secure Polish independence. All three empires among which Poland was divided have mistrusted one another because of their common guilt. Each lives in fear of encroachment. Especially are Austria and Russia suspicious of Germany because of the well-known German ambition for the Drang nach Osten.

From all these considerations the Poles reason that Austria will take the first step toward the restoration of Polish independence, for the sake of having a buffer state to serve as a safeguard against encroachment. It is expected that Austria will first propose the move to Russia and that the two will then bring diplomatic influence to bear on Germany, with the result that each power will restore its share of Poland, to reduce the number of its domestic and frontier problems.

How soon the Poles expect this hope to be realized depends on the extent of the disasters to Russia in the Far East, on the Polish political influence in Austria and on the continued isolation of Germany. Even a Balkan crisis involving two or more of the great powers would be to Poland's advantage. In the meanwhile the Poles are making every effort to avail themselves of their approaching opportunities. They are conscious as a people that they are fitted for self-government and independence as they never were before, because they have learned the lessons of modern civilization.

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