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*Press Release I*

Jan CWIKLINSKI -

Attorney General, Herbert Brownell, Jr., announced today that Jan Cwiklinski, the former Captain of the Polish liner, Batory, who defected in the United Kingdom on July 20 of last year, is coming to the United States as a temporary visitor. The alien is sailing on the S. S. Mauretania, which arrives in New York on the 26th of this month. His entry is being authorized under the discretionary powers granted to the Attorney General under the Immigration and Nationality Act. While here, Cwiklinski will make a lecture tour under the sponsorship of the Polish American Congress, a patriotic organization with headquarters in Chicago. His first appearance will be in Chicago on February 7th. Subsequently, he will speak to members of the Polish American Congress in Cambridge Springs, Pennsylvania and to Polish Americans in Orchard Lake, Michigan.

Capt. Cwiklinski left his ship in England on July 20, 1953 when he requested and was granted political asylum by the British. He stated that, at that time, he feared arrest if he returned to Poland. Capt. Cwiklinski has been Captain of the Batory since 1947, when she was returned to civilian service by the Poles. It was on this vessel that Gerhart Eisler fled from the United States in 1949 as a stowaway to escape imprisonment following his conviction for false swearing.

When World War II broke out Captain Cwiklinski was commanding the Polish cargo vessel the SS Warsawa. He was sent to Dunkirk to load ammunition for trans-shipment to Poland, but was forced to deliver his cargo at Brest when Poland was occupied by the Germans. For a time he carried escaping Polish refugees from Athens to Marseilles. In 1940 he went to Holland for the Ministry of War Transport to pick up a ship which was just being completed. He was interned in Holland when the Germans over ran the country. After the

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Jan CWIKLINSKI - continued

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war he was awarded the OBE for his services to the allies.

Captain Cwiklinski has described the Batory as a "floating nest of Communist political officers - ready to inform on anyone and everyone". He himself was suspect because of his friendliness to English speaking passengers; during three and one-half years he carried sixty-five thousand Americans across the Atlantic. Captain Cwiklinski has stated that his crew was purged repeatedly of politically unreliable elements who were replaced by card carrying members of the Communist Party. Despite such precautions, over one hundred men from the Batory have jumped ship in free ports rather than return to their Communist dominated homeland.