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## *The Polish Question*

I agree with much that Peter Mroczyk and Stefan Niesiolowski said in "Talk About Poland" [op-ed, May 27], but they were inaccurate about the Yalta agreements. No "decision was made to incorporate Poland into the Soviet sphere of influence."

A complicated accord was reached after difficult negotiations. It called for a committee that would form a provisional government, which would in turn hold elections for a permanent government. Immediately after the conference, however, disagreement broke out over each step simultaneously. The Polish question quickly became the cause of harsh diplomatic confrontations and angry telegrams between the Western leaders and Stalin. It caused a famous spat between Harry Truman and V. M. Molotov, in which, at least according to Mr. Truman, Mr. Molotov said, "I have never been talked to like that in my life,"

and Mr. Truman replied, referring to Yalta, "Carry out your agreements and you won't get talked to like that." Indeed, battles over this issue were among the first of the Cold War.

Furthermore, the idea of any spheres of influence (except perhaps ours in this hemisphere) was anathema to FDR, who still hoped great power cooperation in a world organization would render them obsolete.

What was agreed to at Yalta, which the Poles never accepted, was an eastern boundary much farther west than they wanted, but similar to one suggested by the allies after World War I. To compensate, Poland's western boundary was moved well inside former German territory.

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