

- THANK YOU, AL (MAZEWSKI)
- YOUR EMINENCE, CARDINAL KROL
- SENATOR SCHWEIKER
- DISTINGUISHED GUESTS
- LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS TO POLISH-AMERICAN

CONGRESS, PHILADELPHIA, SEPTEMBER 24, 1976

I AM HONORED BY YOUR INVITATION TO ADDRESS THIS

CONVENTION OF THE POLISH-AMERICAN CONGRESS•

I AM PROUD

TO BE HERE -- NOT JUST AS PRESIDENT -- BUT AS A FRIEND

OF AMERICAN POLONIA (Poh-luhn-ya)•

IT HAS BEEN THE POLICY OF MY ADMINISTRATION TO LISTEN

CAREFULLY TO THE VOICE OF POLISH AMERICA•

WHEN IT COMES TO SACRIFICE AND ACHIEVEMENT, YOU HAVE  
GIVEN MORE THAN YOUR SHARE IN MAKING THIS THE GREATEST  
COUNTRY ON EARTH•

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FIFTY-EIGHT YEARS AGO, ANOTHER POLISH-AMERICAN  
CONFERENCE WAS ADDRESSED BY THE GREAT PATRIOT  
JAN PADEREWSKI (YAHN PAH-DER-EFF-SKI)•

HIS FEATS AS AN ORATOR WERE NO LESS STUNNING THAN HIS

GENIUS AS A MUSICIAN AND AS THE LEADER OF THE POLISH

PEOPLE. HE ADDRESSED HIS AUDIENCE -- IN POLISH --

FOR OVER TWO AND A HALF HOURS. I WILL NOT TRY TO

EQUAL THAT PERFORMANCE.

HOWEVER, LET ME REPEAT A FEW OF PADEREWSKI'S

(PAH-DER-EEE-SKI'S) WORDS. HE SAID, 'THE POLES IN

AMERICA DO NOT NEED ANY AMERICANIZATION. ~~IT IS~~

*They know*  
~~SUPERFLUOUS TO EXPLAIN TO THEM WHAT ARE THE IDEALS OF~~

AMERICA. THEY KNOW THEM WELL, FOR THEY HAVE BEEN

THEIRS FOR A THOUSAND YEARS."

ANOTHER POLISH-AMERICAN LEADER PUT THE SAME THOUGHT

THIS WAY: "I FEEL I AM 200 PER CENT AMERICAN BECAUSE

I AM 100 PER CENT POLE."

MUCH OF WHAT AMERICA CELEBRATES IN ITS BICENTENNIAL

YEAR, WE OWE TO THE POLISH-AMERICANS•

BEFORE THE PILGRIMS ~~HAD~~ EVEN LANDED AT PLYMOUTH, POLES  
HAD ALREADY BUILT THE FIRST FACTORY IN AMERICA, NEAR THE  
COLONY AT JAMESTOWN. POLES HAD ALREADY PIONEERED  
AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES -- DEMANDING AND RECEIVING  
FROM THE VIRGINIA COLONY A VOICE IN THEIR OWN GOVERNMENT.

FOR MORE THAN THREE AND A HALF CENTURIES,

POLISH-AMERICANS HAVE BEEN WORKING HARD TO BUILD BETTER

LIVES FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR CHILDREN. YOU HAVE BEEN

SOLDIERS AND SETTLERS -- TEACHERS AND CLERGYMEN }

SCIENTISTS, CRAFTSMEN AND ARTISTS. YOU HAVE EARNED

AS DISTINGUISHED A PLACE IN THE NEW WORLD, AS YOUR

ANCESTORS DID IN THE OLD.

YET TODAY YOU ARE TROUBLED.

YOU LOOK ABROAD AND SEE FRIENDS AND RELATIVES WHO

DO NOT FULLY SHARE YOUR FREEDOM.

YOU LOOK AT HOME AND SEE TOO MANY OF YOUR

NEIGHBORHOODS DETERIORATING.

I SHARE YOUR CONCERN

I AM ALSO TROUBLED.

BUT THERE IS MUCH WE CAN DO - AND MUCH WE HAVE  
BEEN DOING, BOTH AT HOME AND ABROAD.

IN THE FIRST TWO YEARS OF MY ADMINISTRATION,  
I HAVE WORKED TO BUILD A POSITIVE AND EXPANDING  
RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PEOPLE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF POLAND.

A POWERFUL MOTIVATION FOR THAT POLICY HAS BEEN

THE KNOWLEDGE THAT FOR MANY AMERICANS, POLAND IS THE HOME

OF ANCESTORS AND RELATIVES•

I HAVE SOUGHT TO TIE OUR COUNTRIES CLOSER,  
ECONOMICALLY AND CULTURALLY. IN THE LAST TWO YEARS,  
TRADE BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES HAS ALMOST DOUBLED.  
FOR AMERICA THAT MEANS MORE JOBS AND MORE  
PRODUCTION. FOR POLAND THAT MEANS A HIGHER STANDARD  
OF LIVING AND GREATER EXPOSURE TO THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE.

A VALUABLE WORKER IN THIS TASK HAS BEEN THE HEAD  
OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION -- MITCHELL KOBELINSKI•  
~~KNOW~~ MITCH WANTED TO BE HERE THIS WEEKEND• THIS VERY  
WEEK HE IS IN POLAND, DISCUSSING THE EXPANSION OF TRADE  
BETWEEN OUR TWO PEOPLES•

MY MEETINGS WITH POLISH OFFICIALS -- IN WASHINGTON  
IN 1974 AND IN WARSAW AND KRAKOW IN 1975 -- HAVE LED  
TO BETTER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

IN 1974, WE SIGNED A JOINT STATEMENT ON THE  
PRINCIPLES OF POLISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS. IN THAT  
STATEMENT I REAFFIRMED FOR THE UNITED STATES THE IMPORTANCE WE  
ATTACH TO A SOVEREIGN AND INDEPENDENT POLAND.

THAT STATEMENT WAS PART OF A BROADER POLICY I HAVE

ADVOCATED THROUGHOUT MY PUBLIC LIFE.      THE UNITED STATES

MUST CONTINUE TO SUPPORT -- BY EVERY PEACEFUL AND PROPER

MEANS -- THE ASPIRATIONS FOR FREEDOM AND NATIONAL

INDEPENDENCE OF THE PEOPLES OF EASTERN EUROPE.

AS I HAVE SAID MANY TIMES BEFORE } AS I TOLD

A GROUP OF POLISH-AMERICAN LEADERS AT THE WHITE HOUSE

JUST TWO WEEKS AGO -- } THE SO-CALLED SONNENFELDT DOCTRINE

NEVER DID EXIST AND DOES NOT EXIST.

THE UNITED STATES IS TOTALLY OPPOSED TO SPHERES OF INFLUENCE

BELONGING TO ANY POWER.

THAT POLICY IS FUNDAMENTAL TO

OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH POLAND -- AND THAT POLICY WILL CONTINUE

AS LONG AS I AM PRESIDENT.

IN MY MEETINGS WITH THE POLISH LEADERSHIP, I ALSO

STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE ALL AMERICANS ATTACH TO

HUMANITARIAN ISSUES.

PEOPLE EVERYWHERE SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO EXPRESS

THEMSELVES FREELY.

PEOPLE EVERYWHERE SHOULD HAVE THE

RIGHT TO EMIGRATE AND TRAVEL FREELY.

PEOPLE EVERYWHERE

SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE UNITED WITH THEIR FAMILIES.

I WILL CONTINUE TO SEE THAT HUMANITARIAN MATTERS ARE  
TREATED WITH THE HIGHEST PRIORITY -- NOT ONLY IN OUR  
RELATIONSHIP WITH POLAND, BUT WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD.  
~~AS WELL.~~

IF WE ARE TO KEEP THE WORLD'S RESPECT, WE MUST KEEP  
AMERICA STRONG. WE MUST MAKE SURE AMERICA HAS NOT ONLY  
STRONG DEFENSES -- BUT A STRONG HEART.

POLISH-AMERICANS KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO BE STRONG•

MANY OF YOUR FAMILIES CAME HERE WITHOUT MATERIAL WEALTH•

IN THE COUNTRYSIDE -- YOU CLEARED THE LAND AND MADE

PRODUCTIVE FARMS• IN THE CITIES -- YOU BUILT

NEIGHBORHOODS YOU COULD BE PROUD OF•

YOU BUILT AND PAID FOR YOUR OWN CHURCHES --

YOU BUILT YOUR OWN SCHOOLS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS --

YOU BUILT ORPHANAGES FOR THE YOUNG AND HOSPITALS FOR THE

AGED -- YOU BUILT YOUR OWN INSTITUTIONS, THE GREAT

FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTED HERE TODAY.

WE MUST ENSURE THAT WHAT YOU HAVE DONE --

WHAT YOU HAVE EARNED -- WHAT YOU HAVE BUILT --

WILL BE HERE FOR YOUR CHILDREN TO ENJOY.

WE MUST ENSURE YOUR FAMILIES WILL HAVE THE

NEIGHBORHOODS THEY NEED TO BUILD A DECENT LIFE OF THEIR OWN.

A FAMILY NEEDS A NEIGHBORHOOD THAT IS SAFE•

A FAMILY NEEDS A NEIGHBORHOOD THAT IS STABLE•      A FAMILY

NEEDS A NEIGHBORHOOD WITH LOCAL CHURCHES -- LOCAL SHOPS --

AND LOCAL SCHOOLS•

SOME OF THE HEALTHIEST NEIGHBORHOODS IN OUR CITIES

ARE POLISH-AMERICAN NEIGHBORHOODS. BUT TODAY TOO MANY

NEIGHBORHOODS ARE THREATENED BY URBAN DECAY.

YOU ARE PAYING A TERRIBLE PRICE IN LOST PROPERTY VALUES --

PROPERTY YOU WORKED HARD TO BUY AND MAINTAIN.

~~YOU ARE PAYING AN EVEN GREATER PRICE IN LOST FAMILY~~

~~VALUES.~~

IN CITIES LIKE PHILADELPHIA / CHICAGO AND DETROIT --

TOO MANY YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN FIND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO REMAIN

IN THE NEIGHBORHOODS WHERE THEY WERE RAISED. TOO MANY

PARENTS ARE FORCED TO WATCH / HELPLESSLY / -- AS ALL THEY

HAVED WORKED AND SAVED TO BUILD UP IS EATEN AWAY.

THIS DOES NOT HAVE TO HAPPEN. I WILL CONTINUE

<sup>do</sup>  
TO DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO SEE IT DOES NOT HAPPEN.

ON THE FIRST OF THIS YEAR I SIGNED INTO LAW THE  
MORTGAGE DISCLOSURE ACT -- TO PREVENT REDLINING AND  
NEIGHBORHOOD DECLINE•

LAST MAY I MET WITH ETHNIC LEADERS TO SEE WHAT MORE  
WE COULD DO•

AS A RESULT OF THAT MEETING, I CREATED THE PRESIDENT'S

COMMITTEE ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND NEIGHBORHOOD

REVITALIZATION. I CHARGED THE COMMITTEE WITH DEVELOPING

A SOUND FEDERAL POLICY TO HELP PRESERVE OUR NEIGHBORHOODS.

THAT POLICY WILL BE BASED ON LOCAL INITIATIVE AND LOCAL

CONTROL.

REVITALIZING OUR NEIGHBORHOODS WILL HELP PRESERVE

YOUR INVESTMENTS IN HOMES AND CHURCHES AND COMMUNITY

FACILITIES. IT WILL HELP KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER --

IT WILL HELP KEEP AMERICA TOGETHER.

AMERICA ITSELF IS A FAMILY -- WE MUST KEEP THAT

FAMILY CLOSE.

*have*

*as close friends*

AS A BOY IN GRAND RAPIDS, I WAS FORTUNATE TO ~~KNOW~~

AMERICANS FROM MANY DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS. IN

HIGH SCHOOL, I WORKED AS PART-TIME WAITER AND DISHWASHER

IN A RESTAURANT OWNED BY BILL SKOUGIS, WHO WAS OF

GREEK DESCENT.

THAT WAS IN 1929 AND 1930, WHEN JOBS AND MONEY

WEREN'T EASY TO COME BY. I EARNED TWO DOLLARS A WEEK

AND MY LUNCHES -- AND BILL SKOUGIS EARNED MY ADMIRATION

AND AFFECTION.

AS A YOUNG CONGRESSMAN, MY FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE

ASSISTANT WAS MY GOOD FRIEND JOHN MILANOWSKI. JOHN

AND I WORKED TOGETHER FOR MANY YEARS AND LATER, ON MY

RECOMMENDATION, HE BECAME UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR

WESTERN MICHIGAN.

AS PRESIDENT OF ALL THE PEOPLE, I AM DETERMINED THAT  
EVERY VOICE IN THE AMERICAN FAMILY MUST BE HEARD. THE  
VOICE OF AMERICAN POLONIA (Poh-luhn-ya) WILL BE LISTENED TO --  
BECAUSE ALL OF US WHO ARE PROUD OF THE RED, WHITE AND BLUE,  
SHOULD BE PROUD OF THE GREAT HERITAGE OF THE RED AND WHITE.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

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