

Statement at Welcoming Ceremony  
at the White House

Mr. President,  
Mr. Secretary of State,  
Ladies and Gentlemen!

Thank you for the cordial words with which you, Mr. President, have greeted me, Mrs. Gierek and members of our delegation. I receive them as being directed towards the Polish nation and Polish state, in whose behalf I am visiting the United States at your invitation.

I am gladdened by this visit, as it adds new value to the friendly relations which have linked our nations since the time of George Washington and Tadeusz Kościuszko. I am convinced that it is the desire of both nations not only to maintain these traditional relations, but also to strengthen them through closer and broader contemporary cooperation. Socialist Poland, which is dynamically developing her new potential and creating new living conditions for her nation, is vitally interested in this. I believe that the talks we shall hold and the agreements we shall conclude will contribute to this and open extremely broad prospects for cooperation between the two countries.

This visit gives me great satisfaction also because it is yet another reaffirmation of the development of international détente, to which my country is attaching a basic significance and is contributing as much as possible. This process - deriving from the very essence of the contemporary

world, from the need and necessity of peaceful coexistence among states having diverse political systems - has made considerable strides in recent years. We Poles rejoice at the fact, deeming it in the interest of all nations to make that process profound, universal and irreversible. It is being acknowledged with satisfaction that you, Mr. President, conduct U.S. foreign policy in this direction of détente.

I am also delighted that my visit will enable me to become acquainted with the United States, with the great civilizational achievements of the American nation, to whose history and accomplishments Americans of Polish descent have contributed from the very beginning.

I am deeply convinced, Mr. President, that conditions are good and the time is ripe to expand Polish-American cooperation in all fields on a new scale. I am also convinced that we can also work together more closely for the great cause of peace. Such is the goal of my visit here, and I am happy that you share this aspiration.

Permit me to convey to you, Mr. President, the most cordial wishes from Poland to the United States, from Polish people to American people.