

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JULY 28, 1975

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Warsaw, Poland)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
IN A TOAST TO
EDWARD GIEREK
FIRST SECRETARY OF THE
POLISH PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC

WILANOW PALACE

9:53 P.M. (Warsaw Time)

Mr. First Secretary, Mr. Chairman
of the Council of States and Prime Minister, and your
lovely wives, ladies and gentlemen:

It is a very great privilege and pleasure
for me -- and in absentia, unfortunately, Mrs. Ford --
to tender this dinner to you in Warsaw and to be with
you, Mr. First Secretary, and your wife, and your other
top officials and your other guests.

As I indicated this afternoon and early this
morning, we have enjoyed renewing our acquaintance
and friendship with you and with Mrs. Gierek.

Mr. First Secretary, the United States is
about to enter -- in part it has entered -- its 200th
year of independence. Polish-American ties are even
older.

In the late 1500s, 200 centuries before Tadeusz
Kosciuszko arrived to offer his service to George
Washington in the American Revolution, a Polish poet
evoked an eloquent vision of the new world: "Happy Isles
-- Heroic Land of Bliss, Known to Our Country Long Ere
This."

Thus, even before our two people were
united by the cause of American liberty, a Polish-American
affinity existed. During the 200-year history of the
United States, millions of your countrymen have come to
our shores to add Polish energy and Polish genius to
the mainstream of American life.

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As in Washington last October, Mr. First Secretary, we have today had very worthwhile discussions. In Washington I said that I wanted to expand our relationship in a broader effort to improve world relations.

It is therefore extremely fitting that we meet again in Helsinki very soon as participants in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. What we do at Helsinki should contribute to an improvement in international relations.

The further development of Polish-American ties and cooperation can point the way for many, many other countries just as our determination to improve our relations helps to achieve a further relaxation of tensions in Europe and throughout the world.

Mr. First Secretary, I raise my glass to you and to your colleagues and to the Polish people who have sacrificed so much in their struggle for a better and freer world.

END (AT 9:56 P.M. WARSAW TIME)