



# POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS

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September 19, 2008

Congressman Rahm Emanuel  
U.S. House of Representatives  
3742 West Irving Park Road  
Chicago, IL 60618

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Dear Congressman Emanuel,

As the president of the Polish American Congress, one of the largest and oldest Polish ethnic organizations in the United States, I urge you to strongly oppose the H.Res.371, which is set for a vote on the House floor during the week of September 22 and which unduly criticizes Poland for failing to enact legislation regarding the private property restitution seized by the Nazi and/or nationalized by the Communist regime.

As you may know, Mr. Donald Tusk, the Polish Prime Minister, during his visit to the United States in March, 2008, made a strong public commitment to advance the legislation addressing the issue of compensation to all victims whose private property was initially confiscated by Nazi Germany and/or later nationalized by the Communist regime.

Delivering on his promises, the Polish government is currently very close to completing the draft legislation that is envisioned to finally settle the issue of property compensation in a fair and non-discriminatory manner. The bill is scheduled to be submitted before the Polish Parliament this October.

For that and other reasons, mostly stemming from the consistently declared and manifested good will on the part of Poland and its people in cooperating with the United States in many theatres, I strongly believe that the House resolution comes at the worst possible time.

The language and timing of H.Res.371 has serious potential to harm the image of Poland and may complicate the legislative process in Warsaw.

Furthermore, it could lead to generating unnecessary political controversies and upset Polish public opinion since the House draft resolution does not clearly define the responsibility for the confiscation of the properties under the Nazi and Communist regimes.

I am also concerned that the unfair and unjustifiable criticism of Poland, especially when Poland is seriously striving to address the issues reflected by the resolution, may additionally result in hurting the image of the United States in Poland.

Please help us to stop H.Con.Res.371 from any further consideration, before it causes more damage.

Sincerely yours,



Frank J. Spula  
President