

Embassy of the Republic of Poland

Washington, March 12, 2009

Mr. Frank Spula
President, Polish American Congress

Dear Mr. President:

Today, on March 12 2009, Poles in Poland and abroad observe the 10th anniversary of our country's accession to the North Atlantic Alliance. Poland's integration into NATO was the realization of one of the most important goals of Poland's foreign policy. Assuring secure development and participation in Western political and military structures was also the fulfillment of the dreams of Poles in Poland and those living beyond her borders. Today, we are proud that participation of Polish soldiers in NATO operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan proves the effectiveness and credibility of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Poland, and also serves to realize the ideals of freedom, solidarity and brotherhood among the allied armies. Poland's membership in NATO has also become an impetus in the development and deepening of Poland's relations with the United States. We view our cooperation as key in ensuring the security of the transatlantic region.

I am convinced that Poland's accession to her rightful place in the North Atlantic Alliance, and our mutual successes of the past ten years, would not have come about without the active support and engagement of American Polonia, and above all, by the Polish American Congress. A mobilization, on an unprecedented scale, of activists and organizational structures of the PAC resulted in promoting Poland's membership in NATO in the US, and in convincing skeptics as to the correctness of this decision. The overwhelming majority by which the US Senate voted on April 30, 1998, in approving the ratification of documents admitting Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary into NATO became the crowning of the strivings and activities of the Polish American Congress in this matter. As the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland in the US, I wish to relay to you, Mr. President, congratulations and expressions of gratitude for the efforts exerted by all the members of the organization you represent, and also for the many years of support for the development and deepening of the strategic cooperation of Poland with the United States.

Ten years ago, on March 12 1999, as a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I had the privilege and honor of taking part in the historical ceremony at the Harry S. Truman Library in Independence, Missouri, at which Poland was formally admitted into the Alliance. In the presence of representatives of the government of the United States, the Congress, and government officials of the Republic of Poland, I had the opportunity to meet eminent representatives of American Polonia who had played a significant role leading up to the realization of the idea of NATO enlargement. I wish to assure you, Mr. President, of our intention to continue cooperation with the Polish American Congress for the benefit of Poland, Poles in America, and the development of our relations with the United States.

Respectfully,
Robert Kupiecki, Ambassador

Translation: Thaddeus Mirecki