



Mr. Philip Griffin
Chief Executive Officer
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Dear Mr. Griffin,

As Director of Policy Planning of Polish America's oldest and largest issue advocacy organization, the Polish American Congress, I was shocked and dismayed by the falsehoods broadcast from Warsaw, Poland on February 13, 2019 by Ms. Andrea Mitchell. She should be ashamed of herself, because as a journalist at MSNBC, the public will believe her falsehoods to be true. Her wrong statement that Poles worked in partnership with Nazi German soldiers to liquidate the Warsaw Jewish Ghetto in April 1943 is not true, and her false report triggered an avalanche of emails and phone calls to our Polish American Congress national offices in both Chicago and Washington, DC.

Mitchell publicized this egregious falsehood while covering the Warsaw conference on the Middle East, which was hosted by the Polish Government. This conference, largely devoted to mustering support to punish Iran, did not go well for the United States and Israel. Perhaps Mitchell felt frustrated by this and decided to vent her anti-Polonism, a form of racism based on the bogus claims that Poles are biologically predisposed to anti-Semitism and are co-responsible with Nazi Germans for perpetrating the mass murder of Polish and European Jewry during World War II.

The comment made by her in Poland on Wednesday, February 13th, 2019 violates the truth about Poland and the Poles during World War II, and it degrades the reputation of the best NATO ally which the United States has in Eastern Europe. Please see the attached/enclosed POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS STATEMENT ON POLAND AND THE POLES DURING WORLD WAR II.

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As an experienced journalist, Mitchell should know the elementary facts of history. She is not a novice in her field. Mitchell should not flagrantly disregard the facts of World War II's history to muster pressure on today's Poles to pay Israel and transnational Jewish organizations extravagant compensation, \$365 billion is the most recent demand, for crimes perpetrated by Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union against private property owned by Jews on conquered Polish territory.

Mitchell's wrong report had immediate and direct consequences. Yesterday, in Washington, DC a Polish American school boy was assaulted by his school mates on a school bus and called a Polish Nazi by those influenced by Mitchell's wrong report. You should not permit individuals, such as Mitchell, who has been admired as a respected journalist for so many decades, to continue her role as a senior journalist, since she reports falsehoods about Poland, an important ally of the United States.

As Director of Policy Planning of the Polish American Congress, I request two actions to redress Mitchell's wrong report. First, Mitchell promptly must broadcast a correction on her program, "Andrea Mitchell Reports". Second, I request that you, on behalf of MSNBC, send to me a written correction which I will ask the mass media to publish.

Sincerely,

John Czop

Director of Policy Planning

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POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS STATEMENT ON POLAND AND THE POLES DURING WORLD WAR II

Voted up without opposition on September 17, 2016 at the Polish American Congress Council of National Directors meeting in Chicago.

On 17 March 2011, the Polish Government announced that it will suspend work on drafting a law on World War II era private property lump-sum compensation, or rough justice, a term coined by its principal advocate Ambassador Stuart Eizenstat, first head, and presently top adviser, to the United States State Department's Office of Holocaust Issues, which was established by President Clinton in tandem with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Resolutions enacted by both the Senate (2008) and the House (2005 and 2008) have demanded that Poland promptly enact lump-sum compensation legislation for two reasons. First, all the other European countries occupied by, or allied with, Nazi Germany have private property compensation laws. Second, the Polish Courts move too slowly in their adjudication of World War II era private property compensation claims cases.

Moreover, measured by money, World War II era private property compensation is the top contentious issue in United States relations with Poland. International Jewish organizations want today's Polish taxpayers to pay at least \$50 billion for private property formerly owned by Jews, which amounts to approximately 20% of the total. If all claimants are compensated at this rate, then today's Polish taxpayers are expected to pay \$250 billion, which amounts to approximately half of Poland's GDP.

The PAC is on record against United States Government pressure on Poland to pay such extravagant lump-sum compensation. PAC national president Frank J. Spula's letter to three members of the Illinois Congressional Delegation, of September 2008, requested them to call for the withdrawal of the House of Representatives Resolution of that year, which demanded that Poland enact lump-sum compensation legislation.

On 17 March 2011, Poland's then Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski explained that by the terms of a 1960 treaty that was signed and ratified by the United States and Poland, the land of our ancestors satisfied all claims for restitution/compensation of private property in Poland owned, before 1 September 1939, by United States citizens. Moreover, Foreign Minister Sikorski observed that if the United States wishes to aid Polish Jews and World Jewry the time for doing so was in 1942, when Jan Karski informed President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter that German Nazis were perpetrating the mass murder of Polish and European Jewry on Nazi German occupied Polish territory.

Foreign Minister Sikorski correctly asserted that the time for "rough justice" legislation is long past, and that those who seek restitution or compensation for private property should file their claims in Polish courts since each case is different. Sikorski's observations are just as true in September 2016 as they were when he first delivered them in March 2011.

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We, PAC National Directors, want the United States Government to cease bullying Poland. This is why we continue our strong disagreement with the anti-Polish position taken by the Co- Chairmen of the United States Committee on Security and Co-Operation in Europe (Helsinki Commission), Congressman Christopher Smith (R-NJ4) and Senator Benjamin Cardin (D-MD), who condemned and deplored, in May 2011, the Polish Government's most correct decision not to enact legislation on lump-sum compensation.

This is why we require a United States Congressional Resolution on Poland and the Poles during World War II which puts forward before American public opinion the following five points:

1. Poland was a victorious World War II United Nations ally.
2. Polish armed forces were the fourth largest contingent (after the former Soviet Union, the former British Empire, and the United States of America) engaged in combat in Europe against the Axis Powers.
3. Nazi Germany did not want to set-up a collaborationist Nazi German satellite state on Nazi German conquered Polish territory.
4. Poland and the Poles were NOT partners in Nazi Germany's monstrous crime – the mass murder of European Jewry.
5. After the Soviet Union liberated Polish territory from Nazi German occupation, the Communists treated Poland, a victorious United Nations Ally, worse than defeated Axis allies also liberated by the Soviet Army, like Hungary or Romania. The Soviet Union then justified its treacherous treatment of their Polish ally on the bogus grounds that Poles needed to be restrained by Communism and Soviet military occupation, or else the Poles would continue the Judeocide which Hitler began. Many in the West believed this Stalinist propaganda at the end of World War II – far too many continue to believe it today.

Over the past several years, the continuing distortion of Poland's historical record during World War II by the mass media (especially the false claim that Poland and the Poles perpetrated the mass murder of European Jewry in partnership with Nazi Germany) has coincided with repeated requests from the Congress of the United States that Poland enact lump-sum compensation legislation for World War II Era private property.

The most recent expression of this unwarranted pressure on Poland is the letter to Secretary of State John Kerry of July 2, 2015, signed by 46 members of the House of Representatives, who want Poland to pay lump-sum compensation for private property owned by Jews that, during the World War II era, was despoiled by Nazi Germany and then nationalized by the communists on conquered Polish territory.

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This is why the false views held by American public opinion about the role of Poland and the Poles during World War II must be corrected. By registering the five points above before American and world public opinion, there will be no doubt that the Polish State, the name of the governmental authority of Poland during the World War II era, did not collaborate with Nazi Germany in the mass murder of European Jewry on conquered Polish territory, and therefore its successor state, the Third Polish Republic should not be bullied into paying compensation for crimes the Polish State did not commit.

Moscow and Berlin are the proper addresses for lump-sum compensation claims, not Warsaw. Former owners of private property and their heirs should seek compensation through the Polish Courts. Though Poles as individuals displayed a wide range of behavior toward Jews during the World War II era, the Polish State did NOT collude with the Nazi German occupiers in the persecution, or mass murder of Jews. Collaboration is always at the invitation of the stronger party, and Nazi Germany DID NOT want collaboration with Poland. What Nazi Germany DID want was the elimination of Poland. Most of the countries in both eastern Europe and western Europe set-up collaborationist pro-Nazi German governments; Poland did not. Americans need to understand this especially in the present context of resurgent Russian imperialism.

The prevailing wrong views about Poland's World War II record will likely affect American public opinion's willingness to honor NATO commitments if Poland is attacked from the east. Wrong views about Poland's World War II record legitimize pressure by the United States Government on Poland to enact lump-sum compensation. Numerous insiders say that Poland's refusal to enact lump-sum compensation legislation underlies United States Government opposition to Poland's accession to the State Department's Visa Waiver Program.

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