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The Visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs Anna Fotyga Washington D.C. June, 18-20th 2006

On June 18th, 2006, the newly appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland Anna Fotyga arrived in Washington, D.C. for a three day visit at the invitation of United States Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

During her stay in Washington, Mrs. Anna Fotyga held extensive discussions with the representatives of the American administration and the Congress.

On Sunday, June 18th, Polish Minister met with Sigmund Rolant, the representative of the New York Museum of the History of Polish Jews. Later that day, she attended a dinner at the Polish Embassy in Washington D.C., at which she had the opportunity to meet Polish Americans.

On Monday, June 19th, Minister Fotyga met with her host, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. Later in the day, Foreign Minister Fotyga met with National Security Advisor Stephen Hadley and the Director of the National Intelligence John Negroponte. Finally, on Tuesday, she was the guest of Vice-President Dick Cheney at the White House.

Among the topics she addressed during the meetings were the broad bilateral relations between Poland and the United States, particularly in regards to trade and military cooperation, as well as political situation in Central and Eastern Europe.

The issue of American visas for Poles and the inclusion of Poland in the 'visa waiver' program were also among the Minister's priorities.

Minister Fotyga's busy schedule included visits to Capitol Hill. She was the guest of the Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Richard Lugar, the Chairman of the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives Henry Hyde, Senator Barbara Mikulski and Congressman Dan Lipinski. On Monday, she hosted a dinner for American



Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs Anna Fotyga with U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

Congressmen and intellectuals at the Polish Embassy.

In addition to spending time on Capitol Hill, Minister Fotyga visited the Holocaust Museum on Tuesday, June 20th. She had met with members of the American Jewish Committee on Monday.

As Minister Fotyga's stay in Washington came to a close, both sides pointed out an excellent atmosphere of the visit and agreed that it was a success.

The Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs invited her American counterpart to pay a visit to Poland and expressed hope that present talks would become a good foundation for future cooperation.

The trip was well received by both Polish and American media.

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**The Visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs Anna Fotyga
Washington, D.C. June 18-20th, 2006 (continued from page 1)**

**Remarks after the meeting of Foreign Affairs
Minister Anna Fotyga and Secretary of State
Condoleezza Rice.
Washington D.C. June 19, 2006**

Secretary Condoleezza Rice: Good afternoon. I am pleased to welcome my colleague, the Foreign Minister of Poland. Minister, it's wonderful to have you here. We have, indeed, met before, but well before either of us was foreign minister. And so this is our first opportunity to talk about the very broad and deep relationship that the United States and Poland enjoy, of course, a relationship that is based on common values.

The United States was a friend to Poland in difficult times. Poland has been an inspiration to Americans in difficult times and now in good times. And I thank you very much, Foreign Minister, for the good discussion that we have had, of the support to the new Iraqi Government and I thank you for your government's steadfastness in Iraq, your work in Afghanistan. We have discussed, of course, Ukraine and Belarus where we share a desire to see the people of Belarus free and, of course, our common alliance in NATO. And so thank you very much. I think our bilateral relationship is really excellent and I look forward to continuing to develop our personal relationship as well.



Minister of Foreign Affairs Anna Fotyga and Vice-President Dick Cheney (White House, June 19, 2006)

Minister of Foreign Affairs Anna Fotyga: Madame Secretary, ladies and gentlemen, it is my great pleasure to visit this friendly country, the United States of America, to talk to my great colleague about issues of common interests. We have common values. We share many beliefs and assessments concerning foreign policy.

Poland is a faithful ally to the United States and we intend to remain so. It was my pleasure to meet Dr. Rice once more and to invite her to visit Warsaw. It will be my pleasure further to discuss all issues already mentioned today. I know it is my personal experience how friendly American people were always to Poles and the Polish cause and I value very much indeed your help, assistance in a very difficult time. Probably it is easy to be friends in good times, but much more difficult is to be and remain friends in bad times; and United States of America were always, always, even in the worst time, very friendly to Polish people and to Poland. And thank you very much indeed, Secretary, thank all American people for this support. We are happy to see every member of the Administration and we also hope for full visits of President George W. Bush.

Secretary Rice: Thank you very much, and I look forward to seeing you in Warsaw very soon. Thank you.



Minister of Foreign Affairs Anna Fotyga and Senator Richard Lugar speak to the press.



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215th Anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of May 3rd

This year marked the 215th anniversary of the Polish May 3rd Constitution. The Polish Constitution of May 3, 1791 was the first constitution in Europe and the second in the world after the American Constitution.

At the end of the 18th century, three countries signed constitutions which are considered the first of their kind. The American Constitution of September 17, 1787 was the oldest. The Polish Constitution was signed in May 1791, followed by the French Constitution of September 1791.

While the American Constitution was forged in the fire of the American War of Independence and the French one was born as an outcome of the French Revolution, the Polish Constitution developed from bloodless changes. It evolved out of the discussions and debates of intellectuals, who were driven to create a new independent state of their own, one in which the Polish people's well-being was taken into account.

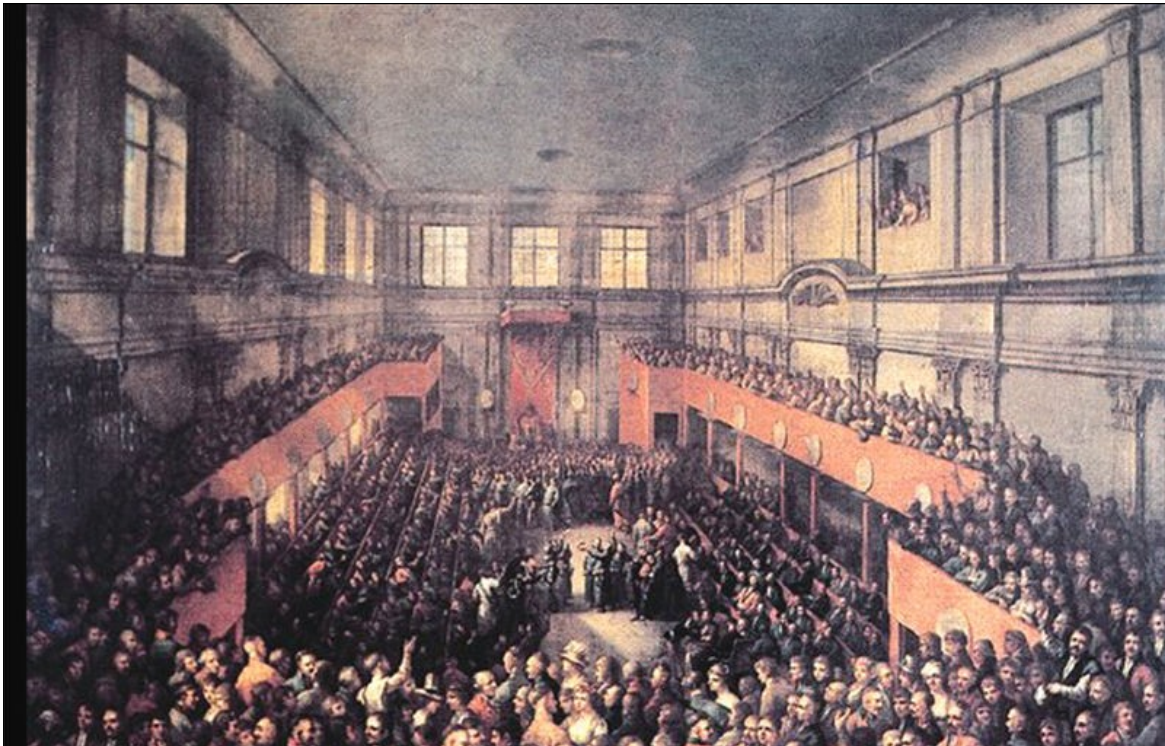
The May 3rd Constitution established a constitutional monarchy, abolished elections of kings and introduced a government council called the Guardian of Laws. The ministers of this council, though appointed by the king, were responsible to the parliament (the Polish "Sejm"). A provision declaring an obligatory review of the Bill on Government every 25 years was included. Catholicism was officially recognized as the reigning religion but other denominations were guaranteed tolerance and freedom. The gentry maintained their privileged position while burghers were granted considerable rights. Peasants were recognized as part of the nation for the first time in the Polish history. It was declared that the peasants were assured protection by law and by the country's government. These class changes paved the way for more significant developments in the future. Finally, May 3rd was declared a national holiday.

The Constitution of May 3rd spiritually united the Polish people. The existence of this all encompassing document strengthened the national consciousness and helped a nation divided among three partitioning powers to last through a 123 year long period of partitions.

On May 5, 2006, the Polish Embassy in Washington D.C. organized a luncheon to celebrate the 215th Anniversary of Constitution. Polish Ambassador Janusz Reiter, and his wife Hanna Reiter, greeted the gathered American and Polish guests. Senator Chuck Hagel from Nebraska made opening remarks.



From right: Senator Chuck Hagel, Polish Ambassador Janusz Reiter and the wife of the Polish Ambassador, Hanna Reiter.



„The Vote upon the Constitution,” oil on canvas painting from 1806 by Kazimierz Wojniakowski (1772 -1812). National Museum in Warsaw, Poland.

65th DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF IGNACY PADEREWSKI

Ignacy Jan Paderewski, a great Pole, well known composer, pianist and statesman, died in New York City on June 29, 1941. This year commemorates the 65th anniversary of his death. Ignacy Paderewski was born in Poland on November 6, 1860. He was a brilliant and popular pianist who performed hundreds of concerts in Europe and the United States during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, donating the proceeds to numerous charitable causes. During World War I, Paderewski played a central role in helping to achieve Poland's independence. He served as the first Premier of Poland from January 1919 until December 1919, when he left politics and returned to music. The German invasion of Poland in 1939 convinced Paderewski to return to politics and to fight against Nazi Germany in World War II. He helped to organized assistance for Polish forces fighting against the Nazis.

When Ignacy Paderewski died in 1941, his remains were placed alongside America's honored dead in Arlington National Cemetery, at the direction of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Paderewski did not live to see the U.S. and Allied Forces free Europe from the tyranny of Nazi and Soviet control. Yet Paderewski's legacy inspired freedom movements throughout Central Europe, including Solidarity in Poland.

In 1992, Solidarity Leader Lech Walesa, the first democratically elected President of Poland since World War II, asked U.S. President George H.W. Bush to return Paderewski's remains to his native country. On July 5, 1992, Paderewski's remains were interred in a crypt at the St. John Cathedral in Warsaw, Poland.

Ignacy Jan Paderewski's life and legacy is testimony to the enduring bonds between the United States and Poland. A number of events are being planned in both countries to commemorate this anniversary. The Polish Government is coordinating the organization of concerts, seminars and lectures throughout Poland this year.

U.S. Senators Chuck Hagel, Barbara Mikulski, Dick Durbin, Lisa Murkowski and George Voinovich recently submitted a resolution honoring Ignacy Paderewski. It was passed unanimously on June 7th of this year.

Polish Parliament also passed a proclamation honoring Ignacy Paderewski three weeks later on June 29th.

A piano concert at the Polish Embassy in Washington, D.C. on June 23rd honored the anniversary. Internationally renowned pianist John Robilette performed works by Paderewski and other contemporary composers. General Edward Rowny made introductory remarks at the event. Another commemorative concert was held in Chicago, Illinois on June 18th. The brilliant pianist Sasha Zintchenko performed pieces by Paderewski at the Polish American Museum there.



Ignacy Paderewski in later years of his life.



SENATE RESOLUTION 491
**RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF IGNACY JAN PADEREWSKI AS A MUSICIAN,
 COMPOSER, STATESMAN, AND PHILANTHROPIST, AND COMMEMORATING
 THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS DEATH ON JUNE 29, 1941**

Whereas Ignacy Jan Paderewski, born in Poland in 1860, was a brilliant and popular pianist who performed hundreds of concerts in Europe and the United States during the late 19th and early 20th centuries;

Whereas Paderewski donated the bulk of the proceeds of his concerts to charitable causes, including the establishment of the American Legion's Orphans and Veterans Fund;

Whereas, during World War I, Paderewski worked for the independence of Poland and served as the first Premier of Poland;

Whereas, in December 1919, Paderewski resigned as Premier of Poland, and in 1921 he left politics to return to his music;

Whereas the German invasion of Poland in 1939 spurred Paderewski to return to political life;

Whereas Paderewski fought against the Nazi dictatorship in World War II by joining the exiled Polish Government to mobilize the Polish forces and to urge the United States to join the Allied Forces;

Whereas, on June 29, 1941, Paderewski died in exile in the United States while all of Europe was imperiled by war and occupation;

Whereas, by the direction of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the remains of Paderewski were placed alongside the honored dead of the United States in Arlington National Cemetery, where President Roosevelt said, "He may lie there until Poland is free.";

Whereas, in 1963, President John F. Kennedy honored Paderewski by placing a plaque marking his remains at the Mast of the Maine at Arlington National Cemetery;

Whereas, in 1992, President George H.W. Bush, at the request of Lech Walesa, the first democratically elected President of Poland since World War II, ordered the remains of Paderewski to be returned to his native Poland;

Whereas, on June 26, 1992, the remains of Paderewski were removed from the Mast of the Maine at Arlington National Cemetery and returned to Poland 3 days later;

Whereas, on July 5, 1992, the remains of Paderewski were interred in a crypt at the St. John Cathedral in Warsaw, Poland; and

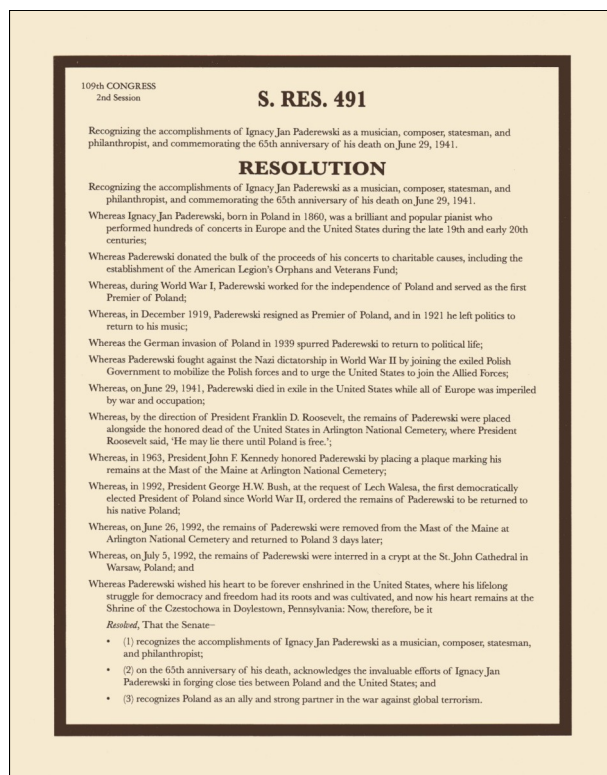
Whereas Paderewski wished his heart to be forever enshrined in the United States, where his lifelong struggle for democracy and freedom had its roots and was cultivated, and now his heart remains at the Shrine of the Czestochowa in Doylestown, Pennsylvania: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate--

(1) recognizes the accomplishments of Ignacy Jan Paderewski as a musician, composer, statesman, and philanthropist;

(2) on the 65th anniversary of his death, acknowledges the invaluable efforts of Ignacy Jan Paderewski in forging close ties between Poland and the United States; and

(3) recognizes Poland as an ally and strong partner in the war against global terrorism.



The Polish Minister of National Defense Radosław Sikorski Meets with U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld.

On May 18, 2006, the Minister of National Defense of the Republic of Poland Radosław Sikorski met with United States Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld at the Pentagon.

Among the topics the two Ministers discussed was the military situation in the Euro-Asian region. The war on terrorism and further actions in Iraq and Afghanistan were key issues. The preparations for the 2006 NATO Summit in Riga, Latvia, which is to take place in November, were also a subject of discussion. Finally, the ministers engaged in a dialogue regarding further military cooperation and possibilities of American military assistance for Poland.

Minister Radosław Sikorski invited his American counterpart to visit Poland in the near future.



U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld met with Polish Minister of National Defense Radosław Sikorski.

Poland and the “Visa Waiver Program”

On May 25, 2006, the United States Senate passed a legislation aimed at overhauling U.S. immigration policy. The bill included a provision that would enable Poland to join the Visa Waiver program. The provision was a bipartisan effort of Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) and Senator Rick Santorum (R-PA).

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland welcomed the information. It announced that it hopes the amendment will be preserved in its current form during consultations between the House of Representatives and the Senate. If the provision survives the congressional hearings, it is expected to be part of the bill signed by the President of the United States. This will allow Polish citizens to visit the U.S. as tourists without visas.

At the same time, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs appealed to Polish citizens traveling to the United States to avoid overstaying their visa limits in accordance to present regulations. These rules related to time limits will remain applicable under the Visa Waiver Program.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs Anna Fotyga discussed the matter with representatives of the U.S. administration during her recent visit in Washington, D.C. She expressed hope that the issue will be resolved soon. The issue “is very important for Poland and the Polish-American community,” said Minister Fotyga in an interview for the *Chicago Tribune*.

Poland, as a member of the European Union, supports the inclusion of all member countries in the Visa Waiver Program. Ten out of the 25 countries are not yet in the program.



A sample of an American visa from a Polish passport.

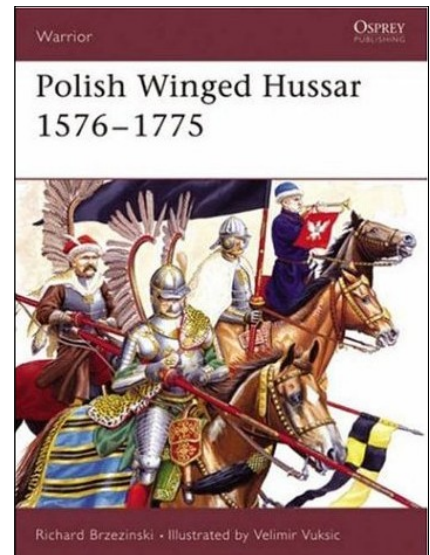


A Polish diplomatic passport with the biometric chip

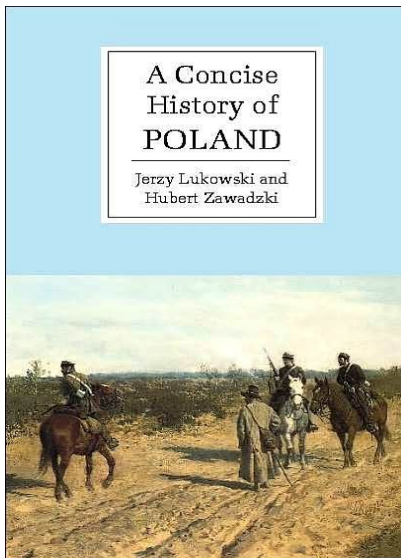
Polish Winged Hussar 1576-1775 (Warrior)

by Richard Brzezinski, Velimir Vuksic (Illustrator)

This book describes the history of the Polish 'Winged' cavalry. The author examines the origins and development of this unique Polish army formation. Many years of research and the use of unpublished Polish sources made it possible to describe the training, tactics, appearance and experiences of these legendary and fascinating warriors. The dramatic characteristic of a Hussar were the 'wings' worn on the back or on the saddle. Although not all Hussars wore them, and their purpose has been fiercely debated, they are the feature that is most recognizable. The Hussars terrified the Turks, Tatars, Muscovite boyars, Ukrainian Cossacks and Swedes, who did everything to avoid facing them directly in battle. The insights into real lives are richly illustrated to make the descriptions more realistic.

**A Concise History of Poland**

by Jerzy Łukowski and Hubert Zawadzki

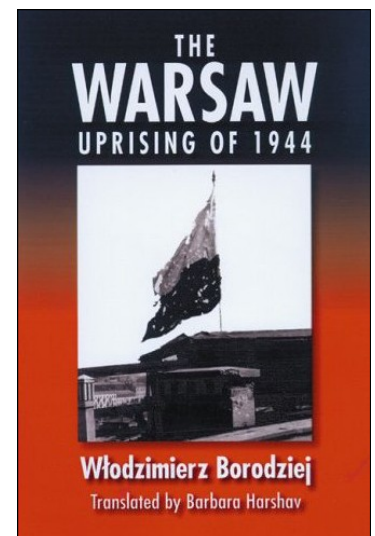


The book is a short guide to Polish history in English. It is the second edition which has been updated to take account of the years from 1989 to 2005. This period marked Poland's liberation from the Soviet Union, the birth of Poland's 'Third Republic' and, recently, its accession to the European Union in 2004. Poland's history has been marked by its resilience. Once a dominant force in Central and Eastern Europe and home to a remarkable experiment in consensual politics, it was erased from the map by its neighbors in 1795. Resurrected in 1918, partitioned afresh during the Second World War, it survived to become a satellite of the Soviet Union. Yet in the 1980s, it was Poland which blazed the trail in casting off communism, and was finally able to reassert its Christian heritage. With its updated bibliography and new chronology, the book is the ideal companion for all looking for a comprehensive survey of this fascinating country.

The Warsaw Uprising of 1944

by Włodzimierz Borodziej, Barbara Harshav (Translator)

The book is one of the most objective recounting of the ill-fated 1944 Warsaw Uprising of Polish resistance fighters. It presents information, interpretation and insights that contribute to a better understanding of this historical event. *The Warsaw Uprising of 1944* tells the largely unknown story of the Warsaw resistance movement during World War II. Włodzimierz Borodziej presents an account of what is commonly considered the most tragic chapter in Polish history during World War II. In only sixty-three days, the Germans killed approximately 200,000 people, mostly civilians. This concise account of the trauma—little known to English-speaking readers—will appeal to anyone interested in the history of World War II and is a must-read for students of Polish history in particular.



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Events

Polish Art Collectors Honored At Embassy

On Saturday, May 13th, the Polish Embassy organized an event honoring Polish art collectors in America. At 4 p.m., in the salon of the Embassy building, there was a formal presentation of the album *Kolekcje Sztuki Polskiej w Ameryce/ Polish Art Collections in America* by Czesław Czaplinski. The album contains 500 full page reproductions by Polish masters. Dr. Boguslaw Winid, outgoing Deputy Chief of Mission at the Polish Embassy in Washington, contributed to the introduction of the album. Other contributing authors were Ferdynand B. Ruszczyc, Direktor of the National Museum in Warsaw, Professor Marek Kwiatkowski, Director of the Royal Lazienki Museum in Warsaw and Dr. Jerzy Huczkowski, Editor-in-Chief of *Gazeta Antykwaryczna*.

Following the formal part of the afternoon, attendees were invited to a reception honoring Polish art collectors in America.



PIASA Annual Meeting in New York

On June 3rd and 4th, the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America (PIASA) held its annual meeting in New York City. Events took place at Hunter College City University of New York on Park Avenue.

Scholars gathered together from all over the United States and Poland to participate in two days of panel discussions on a wide range of topics from Recent Presidential Elections in Eastern Europe to Polish Art and Film to Cancer Detection and Treatment. Among the sessions was one dedicated to *President Emeritus* of PIASA, Felix Gross, to celebrate his 100th birthday.

The annual banquet of PIASA was held on the evening of Saturday, June 3rd. Polish Ambassador Janusz Reiter was the principal speaker at the event.