



Fundacja Polonia
INTERNATIONAL

To the personal attention of Mr. Barack OBAMA
Senator, Candidate to the Presidency of
the United States of America
Obama for America
P.O. Box 8102
Chicago, IL 60680
USA

Brussels, September 17th, 2008

Dear Mr. Senator,

In the name of the Executive Committee of the Fundacja Polonia International and its members, we are honored to congratulate you upon your nomination as a Candidate in the upcoming Presidential Elections in the United States of America. This nomination is especially commendable given the high quality of your political opponents. We wish you the very best.

The Fundacja Polonia International is a Brussels-based foundation with members all over the world. They are predominantly of Polish nationality, of Polish origin, or otherwise connected to Poland. Members share a common profile of being humanists motivated by the spirit of intellectual ethics.

The mission of the Fundacja Polonia International is the safeguarding of, and active support for the development of the rights, values and dignity related to peoples, the human being, all forms of life, beliefs, cultures, thought and remembrance.

The foundation also works towards mutual understanding between the States and nations and bringing them closer to Poland and the Polish people.

The Fundacja Polonia International is not associated in any way with any ideology, pressure group, or State.

Based on its mission, the Foundation also works toward illuminating the historical truth of nations, and this is the reason which brings us to address you today.

La Fundacja Polonia International a pour mission de veiller et d'agir dans le sens de l'épanouissement des droits, valeurs et de la dignité liés aux peuples, à l'être humain, à toute forme de vie, aux croyances, aux cultures, à la pensée et à la mémoire. Ainsi, la Fundacja Polonia International se sent solidaire des organisations ou initiatives de lutte pour le bien-être, le respect et la justice.

La Fondation œuvre aussi pour l'entente et le rapprochement des Etats et des Nations avec la Pologne et les Polonais.

La Fundacja Polonia International n'est liée à aucune idéologie, ni groupe de pression, ni à aucun Etat.

Galerie de Waterloo, 2 - 1050 Bruxelles - Belgium

t: +32-(0)2 344 66 56 - f: +32-(0)2 344 28 14 - info@fundaciapoloniainternational.org

Audio-videoconference : MSN Messenger : andrzej.pakulski@hotmail.com - Skype : Pakulski André (Bxl)

Banque de la Poste : 000-3256285-92

The United States of America plays a major role in the world's affairs, contributing to its political and economical equilibrium, and it sees itself as the guarantor of global democracy and peace.

Mr. Senator, we would love to know your position on many subjects. However we will limit ourselves to the three questions below, which, from our perspective, cover the issues which remained unanswered and/or escaped justice, and which concern crimes against humanity, the wrongful acquisition of goods, territories and people through war and by force, and the strategic use of oblivion of the historical truth.

For example, the coverage of certain historical facts concerning Poland has not always reflected the reality. This has weakened Poland's position in many circumstances, diverted the country on several occasions from the historical path it was following, and still influences its present and future.

Moreover similar situations exist for other countries of Eastern Europe and elsewhere in the world...

We would be grateful to know your personal, frank and accurate point of view on the following facts forming a part of our recent history.

1. *The genocide of a part of the Polish Intelligentsia (professional and reservist officer prisoners of war) conducted by the Soviets in the forest of Katyn and other places of extermination in the spring of 1940, at the start of the Second World War, was kept in the shadows for more than half a century and still remains unpunished. (We remind you that the Soviets, at the time Nazi partners, and later Allied partners including the United States, had planned these massive executions outside military combat, and subsequently coldly and systematically ordered these, for the purpose of beheading the Polish nation by eliminating its elite. Simultaneously, millions of Poles were deported to Siberia, Kazakhstan and other areas of Soviet 'repopulation').*

Mr. Senator, on one hand, do you consider what happened in Katyn as an act of genocide, and, on the other hand, do you think this act requires justice to be done ?

2. *The division of the world based on the unfair accords of Teheran and Yalta have plunged the 'satellite' countries of the Eastern Block, including Poland, into an era of subjugation and nearly 50 years of occupation (two to three generations), as a result of a decision of three people including the then President of the United States. We should remember that Poland did not provoke the Second World War, nor did it wish for it. In the years 1939-45, Poland always loyally and unambiguously fought on all the war fronts in the service of democracy. The Polish soldiers represented, after the United States and the United Kingdom, the third largest democratic armed force against Nazism. Although part of the victorious party, the above-mentioned three deciders, delivered Poland to a new occupier, thus causing the loss of Poland's independence and liberty. A large part of the Polish Diaspora was uprooted, and still today suffers from the results of this rupture.*

Mr. Senator, in the context of your potential mandate as President of the United States of America, do you think it appropriate to officially and solemnly recognize these wrongs and these ills inflicted by the Allies, to which the United States belonged at the time, upon their Polish brothers-in-arms ?

3. *The Annexation (with colonization) of territories such as Kaliningrad by the Soviets/Russians including ethnic cleansing and populations' displacements is equally a taboo subject.*

Mr. Senator, do you consider this as a standard that you would support, and do you consider an end of the Russian occupation justifiable ?

These facts are not very distant in time, and they still leave open wounds in the hearts of families and individuals. Poles retain a bitter taste of immense suffering inflicted upon them, of people unjustly made to vanish and especially of the lack of recognition of the facts and their impunity to this day.

Mr. Senator, we would be very grateful for your personal view on the preceding subjects so that the Fundacja Polonia International may reassure the interested communities and especially the Polish people and the Polish Diaspora.

Indeed, we all know that oblivion, concealment, manipulation or negation, the total result of which being the non-resolution of such serious matters, leads to bitterness and desperation, and to the temptation to repeat similar events.

The same letter has been addressed to your political opponent.

Out of courtesy, we have also addressed a copy of this letter to the President, Marshal of the Senate, the Marshal of the Diet of the Republic of Poland, as well as certain Heads of States concerned with this matter, the European Parliament, Polish émigré organizations and some Human Rights organizations.

Looking forward to hearing from you, Mr. Senator, we remain,

Respectfully yours

Dr Janusz Stelmaszyk
Vice-president

Prof. Zofia Wisłocka
Vice-president

Countess Wilia Łoś
Vice-president

André Michel Pakulski
President

