



## **POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS**

### **Resolutions passed at the Council of National Directors, assembled in Chicago, IL on May 17-18, 2012.**

#### **RESOLUTION #1**

WHEREAS, in order to apply for a United States visa, the applicant must pay a high non-refundable fee, and

WHEREAS, decisions regarding the granting or refusal of visas are made arbitrarily, and

WHEREAS, even though fees are paid, there is no guarantee that a visa will be granted,

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Council of National Directors of the Polish American Congress call on the United States Department of State to change their policies in such ways that any visa refusal results in reduction or full refund of paid fees.

#### **RESOLUTION #2**

WHEREAS, the Polish American Congress agrees that the mandate imposed on the Catholic Church and other religious organizations in the United States is an attack on religious freedom in the United States of America in general and the Catholic Church in particular,

THEREFORE, the Polish American Congress fully supports positions of the United States Conference of Bishops as expressed in their statements from February and March, 2012.

#### **RESOLUTION #3**

WHEREAS, public opinion on both sides of the Atlantic recently has become engaged in the controversy involving a Polish governmental regulatory agency, the National Broadcasting Council (KRRiT) versus Television TRWAM, a broadcasting service which expresses Roman Catholic and conservative opinion,

THEREFORE, the Polish American Congress encourages the Polish government to remember that freedom of the press is an indispensable component of an effective and efficient democratic republic.

#### **RESOLUTION #4**

WHEREAS, new scientific evidence has come to light which challenges the conclusions of the Russian MAC (IAC) report and the Polish Miller Commission report on the disaster at Smolensk Severny Airfield on April 10, 2010 which resulted in the death of former President of Poland Lech Kaczynski and 95 other high governmental and cultural officials, including nine Polish/NATO generals, and

WHEREAS, the United States government clearly stated that it will defer to the Polish government in the decision to call for an independent international commission to investigate this disaster, and

WHEREAS, the United States government will give the Polish government evidence of the Smolensk disaster, including satellite photographs, upon request by the Polish Government,

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Polish American Congress calls on the government of the Republic of Poland to take the initiative and move to convene an independent international investigation.

#### **RESOLUTION #5**

WHEREAS, the *Seimas* (Parliament) of the Republic of Lithuania adopted on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011 a new Education Bill, later signed into law by the President of the Republic of Lithuania, and

WHEREAS, the Education Bill introduces drastic changes in the education process of national minorities in Lithuania and, as such, has caused great concern that the new law limits and diminishes rights of the Polish minority by continuous attempts to assimilate Polish communities by Lithuanian authorities, and

WHEREAS, despite Polish minority and international protests, the Lithuanian government has not responded to requests for restoring these rights of minority children's education,

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Council of National Directors of the Polish American Congress again fully supports its October, 2011 resolution and again asks that the governments of the United States and the Republic of Poland, as well as the European Commission, take necessary actions to protect basic human rights and fundamental freedom of the Polish minority in Lithuania, especially educational rights.

## **RESOLUTION #6**

WHEREAS, the United States House of Representatives has acted to eliminate funding for and discontinue the American Community Survey (ACS) conducted by the United States Census Bureau, and

WHEREAS, the National Directors of the Polish American Congress deem the ACS vital for the United States Polish-American community and for the health and prosperity of our organizations and our business, religious, educational, charitable, health and social services institutions, and

WHEREAS, the discontinuance of collection of ethnic data in decennial United States censuses as of 2012 left the ACS as the sole official source for data about developments in the Polish-American community,

THEREFORE, the Polish American Congress Council of National Directors strongly urges the United States Senate to reject the proposed discontinuance of the ACS and to ensure that adequate funding for the vital ACS program is included in the final budget allocation for the United States Bureau of the Census, and

THEREFORE, the Polish American Congress also requests President Obama and the United States Secretary of Commerce to work with the Congress to maintain a vigorous ACS and that the ACS continue to collect the ethnic origin information vital for the Polish-American and all other ethnic communities.

Two other resolutions submitted were not presented to the Council of National Directors. One was a grievance and the other a matter for new business.

## **RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE**

Frances X. Gates, Chairman  
John Czop  
Z. Jeffrey Karas  
Camille Kopielski  
Wanda Penar