

SECURITY OF POLAND AND EASTERN EUROPE, JUNE 12, 2019

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen. I thank the organizers of today's, "All American Rally for the Security of Poland and East Central Europe" for inviting me to speak. It's encouraging to see individuals from various parts of the country here this morning.

Earlier this year, we celebrated the 20th anniversary of Poland's membership in North Atlantic Treaty Alliance, which also, marked the 70th anniversary of NATO

During the last twenty years, Poland has come a long way in becoming one of the leaders in the Alliance. Since that time it has become more skilled and experienced.

By being part of NATO, it has considerably enhanced Poland's security. Poland has developed a strong position within the NATO Alliance over this period of time.

Ever since the first arrival of Poles on the North American continent, Poles have been part and parcel of this great land. General Casimir Pulaski was a prime model of this, he embracing the love of America and Poland. The same holds true for many Polish Americans, we embrace our culture and heritage, and at the same time being true American patriots.

That's what brings us here today, our concern for safety of our homeland, Poland.

It is in Poland's best interest to strengthen military presence in the eastern border of the North Atlantic Alliance, especially enhancing the military cooperation of Poland with the United States.

NATO stands strong and united, but does not need to seek confrontation with any adversaries, primarily Russia. NATO has played a key role in the fight against terrorism over the years.

NATO is necessary, but NOT sufficient alone to make Europe whole, prosperous, and free. The cooperation of the European Union is needed and foremost. This kind of Europe will support both United States national security and promote the American values of political freedom and free enterprise.

NATO is good for Poland as well as the other countries belonging to the transatlantic bond.

The Polish American Congress was instrumental in its efforts in making sure that Poland was part of the NATO Alliance by writing letters to legislators, meeting with elected officials and speaking in one voice.

The POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS is convinced that the Kremlin poses an existential threat to Poland. Vladimir Dugin, Putin's trusted adviser has threatened to incinerate Warsaw with nuclear weapons a number of times since the Kremlin invaded Georgia in the summer of 2008. The Kremlin is undermining the established international order set up by the United States after World War II. The Kremlin has used armed force to change internationally recognized borders in Georgia and Ukraine NATO prevents Moscow from doing so.

This is why the POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS, an umbrella organization, which represents 10 million Polish Americans, will try to persuade United States governmental officials and the American public opinion that the THREE SEAS INITIATIVE (3SI) must move from rhetoric into action.

The Three Seas Initiative, a forum created to strengthen is the economic and social component of security for East and Central Europe. Poland is the key country in the northern tier of this area. Croatia spearheads this initiative in the southern tier of East Central Europe. The Three Seas Initiative offers an opportunity to strengthen the economies of US allies in Central and Eastern Europe and reduce their dependence on Moscow and Beijing's economic overtures.

The Three Seas Initiative will make the countries of East Central Europe, which border the Baltic, Black, and Adriatic Seas which were in the former Soviet space, independent of Kremlin controlled natural gas.

Liquefied natural gas is being exported to Poland from Texas due to these efforts.

The second component of the initiative is to make these countries prosperous by renewing the infrastructure, and especially transportation by roads from north - to-south and telecommunications.

For many years, these countries were divided against each other when they were dominated by the Soviet empire. The Soviets had no interest in up-dating the economic infrastructure of these countries. The Soviets wanted to make these countries poor, dependent, and subservient to the Kremlin.

This initiative creates a political platform to promote a connection between nations in Central and Eastern Europe by supporting infrastructure, energy and digital interconnectivity projects.

Another major component be digital and telecommunications implementation, which will link communication through fiber optics.

These countries feel threatened by Russia, so they seek NATO and US protection.

Today, at the Reception for Polish Americans at the White House, hopefully, I will be able to congratulate President Trump for his strong support of Poland in NATO and for his speech in July 2017 at the opening of the THREE SEAS SUMMIT in Warsaw. In this speech, President Trump made clear the honorable role of Poland and the Poles during World War II and he gave America's support to the THREE SEAS INITIATIVE. The THREE SEAS INITIATIVE will allow Poland and the other countries in East Central Europe to improve European and US cooperation and bolster the economies. The United States will be stronger with loyal allies, and Poland is America's most stalwart ally in Europe.

As a Polish American community, we're delighted and encouraged to have President Duda and his wife visiting our country and being hosted by President Trump. I hope their discussions are fruitful concerning security for Poland as well as enhancing economic projects between the two countries.

In closing, let me thank you for your time and love of our country and that of Poland. We share the same loves as General Pulaski had, one for Poland and the other for the United States.

God Bless you All !

United We Stand !

Now I would like to say more about the goals of the THREE SEAS INITIATIVE and how the POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS plans to help to put this project into practice..

At the POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS'S 20 May 2019 Congressional Briefing, *POLAND'S PAINFUL PAST AND PROMISING FUTURE*, Mr. Ian Brzezinski, Senior resident fellow at the Atlantic Council, delivered a briefing on Poland's promising future through the THREE SEAS INITIATIVE. Croatia and Poland launched this initiative in 2015 for the purpose of integrating, on a north-to-south axis, the economies of the countries bordering the Baltic, Black, and Adriatic Seas. Brzezinski explained that the goal is to complete the project of making Europe whole, prosperous and free and by doing for East Central Europe what Western Europe already achieved in the 1950s. Improvements in infrastructure, transportation, especially better north-to-south roads, and telecommunications are at the heart of this initiative. Moreover, the THREE SEAS AREA needs to be energy independent, which means that it can no longer rely on the Kremlin's natural gas which carries a heavy political price. The economic infrastructure in this part of the former Soviet space was deliberately neglected to make this zone dependent on the Kremlin. A prosperous THREE SEAS AREA will benefit American business; Poland already is a top customer of liquefied natural gas produced in Texas. President Donald Trump's administration strongly supports the Three Seas Initiative. WE recall President Trump's pro-Polish speech at the opening of the July 2017 THREE SEAS SUMMIT in Warsaw. It was good to see so many Democrat members of Congress at the Briefing because the THREE SEAS INITIATIVE is a win-win opportunity and well merits bi-partisan support.

The POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS is working to raise public awareness of the opportunities presented by the THREE SEAS INITIATIVE for American business people. We are especially interested in involving entrepreneurs in the field of renewable energy. Soon after Secretary of Energy Rick Perry returned from his visit to the THREE SEAS INITIATIVE countries in December 2018, his office reached -out to Dr. Mark Pienkos, Vice-President for Public Relations of the Polish American Congress, to discuss raising awareness of the need for East Central Europe to be independent of Kremlin natural gas. The POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS is proud to help in this effort.

