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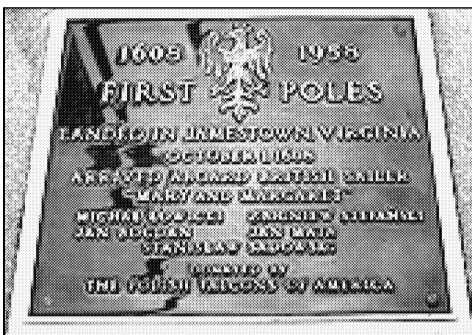
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400th Anniversary of Poles in Jamestown

By: *Betsy Cepielik*



On October 1, 2008 Poles and Polish Americans gathered in Jamestown, Virginia to celebrate the arrival of the first Poles, who arrived there 400 years ago.

As flocks of birds flew overhead, event chairperson and Polish American Congress (PAC) VP of Culture Debbie Majka welcomed those who gathered for this great event.

After rain the previous day and cloudy skies, the weather fortunately cooperated. (Later it was said that PAC President Spula said a prayer, and the clouds parted.) The event was held outdoors, near the entrance to the museum.

The singing of the Polish and American National Anthems was led by the Polish Singers Alliance. Father Carl Urban of Schenectady, New York led the group in prayer.

Mrs. Majka then gave a brief history of the first Poles in Jamestown. She then introduced PAC President Frank Spula.

Mr. Spula welcomed all who were present - from many parts of the US and Europe. He thanked Debbie Majka and her committee for all of their hard work in planning the event. "The US and Poland have had 400 years of shared history and friendship. The glassmaking, soap and tar making were the beginning of industry in America. Glass was the first export to Europe." History has

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The Role and Accomplishments of Polish Pioneers in the Jamestown Colony

By: *Joshua D. Holshouser, Lucyna Brylińska-Pandey, Katarzyna Kielbasa*

Interns at the PAC Washington Office
July 2007

The number of early immigrants from 17th-century Poland to America was minimal. In fact, Poland served as a destination for immigrants from both Western and Eastern Europe. Other nations in Europe were wasting no time in exploring and colonizing the new lands across the Atlantic Ocean. Spain and Portugal had taken an early lead over Britain and France, but Britain was determined to make up for lost time. Its own society being split along religious lines, Britain had no shortage of individuals looking for a new start and freedom from religious oppression.

On April 26, 1607, the first British settlers arrived in Jamestown in the hope of finding natural resources such as gold, lumber and herbs, carrying with them their ultimate goal - profit. Sent by the Virginia Company of London, they arrived with large expectations. However, their inability to settle a colony was larger. Two problems immediately beset the colonists. First, some of the colonists were English noblemen with no experience either in the military or in manual labor. Thus, the colony found itself without skilled craftsmen or soldiers; worse, many of the colonists outright refused to engage in work that they felt was beneath them. Second, the physical location chosen for the site of Jamestown proved to be a poor one. The land was swampy (making it a veritable breeding ground of disease), the water supply was poor and relations with the local indigenous Indian tribes were rocky at best. Within less than a year, the colony was in danger of failure. No profits were heading back to England; disease ran rampant due to the lack of fresh water, food supplies were low, and little to no work had been done to establish an industrial base. In fact, much of the time had been spent panning for gold rather unsuccessfully in Virginia's rivers.

The Virginia Company of London had nothing to show for its investment and a small prospect for future returns.

To salvage their colony, the Virginia Company hired a group of Poles, known for their reputation and valuable expertise in the lumber and other manufacturing industries. Captain John Smith had first-hand experience dealing with Polish manufacturers through his work with the Virginia Company of London, in addition to his experience traveling through Poland on his return from the Middle East. Before his travels to America, John Smith had been a Turkish prisoner. Poland provided Captain Smith with his first Christian refuge following his escape.

The first Poles who arrived at Jamestown came aboard the British ship Mary and Margaret on October 1, 1608 under the command of Captain Christopher Newport. Bringing skilled labor and military experience lacking among the original colonists, the Poles were engaged in the

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The Institute for Human Resources at Boston University announcement

Sunday, November 2, 2008

The US Elections: What Is at Stake for Europe and the World?

Aleksander Kwaśniewski, former President of Poland (1995-2005)

5:00 PM
School of Management
Boston University
595 Commonwealth Avenue,
4th Floor

In cooperation with the Polish American Networking Organization and the White Eagle Newspaper

Free and open to the public
Reception to follow

More Info: 617-358-2778 or ihs@bu.edu

Dr C: Kwaśniewski's chekist service killed his chance to head UN

By: *Marek Jan Chodakiewicz*
PAPERS & STUDIES

World Politics Watch (Washington)
Publication Date: November 16, 2006

It wasn't realpolitik that prompted the United States to pull back from supporting former Polish President Kwaśniewski's bid to become United Nations Secretary General. As Professor Marek Chodakiewicz explains in a November 16 World Politics Watch essay, it was Kwaśniewski's secret past as a KGB collaborator that killed his chances:

When Poland's president and prime minister, the Kaczyński twins, visited Washington, D.C., in September 2006, they both voiced their support for former Polish chief of state, the post-Communist Aleksander Kwaśniewski, who aspired to be the new secretary general, or gensek, of the United Nations. The White House responded with an embarrassing silence. Although George W. Bush had earlier supported Kwaśniewski, the United States resolved to back the Korean foreign minister, Ban Ki-moon.

Many assumed that Bush discarded Kwaśniewski because the Pole could no longer deliver for the United States, as he had by committing Polish troops to the invasion and occupation of Iraq. That was to be his stepping stone to the top post at the U.N. Now, however, Kwaśniewski is old news. South Korea is more important, particularly in light of its northern neighbor's nuclear threats. Realpolitik thus derailed the chances of the Polish candidate.

At least that is the official story. Perhaps, however, there was another factor. Perhaps the American President knew more than he wanted to let on. Perhaps George W. Bush wanted to avoid a serious embarrassment.

After all, there have long been rumors about Kwaśniewski's unsavory past. It may very well be then that the United States wanted to prevent a major scandal. Let's call it containment of the Kurt Waldheim syndrome. The Austrian served as general secretary of the United Nations between 1972 and 1981. In his case, wanton disregard for history resulted in explosive revelations about the U.N. gensek's Nazi activities before and during the Second World War. More seriously, this led to the allegations that the Soviets, privy to Waldheim's past, had been blackmailing him to assure the U.N.'s anti-U.S. and anti-Israel stance.

Kwaśniewski's ugly secrets may have

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Visa Waiver Ceremony Reflections

By: *Barbara B. Andersen, Ph.D.*

Director of Research
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On October 17, 2008 a unique ceremony took place in the Rose Garden of the White House. President Bush invited representatives of several nations, mostly from Central and Eastern Europe to - in brief remarks - recognize seven countries (the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and South Korea) that recently met the requirements to join the Visa Waiver Program.

Approximately 100 guests were sitting facing the sun as the President spoke before a background of the flags of the seven fortunate states, with their respective Ambassadors lined up right behind him, flanked by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on one side, and Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff on the other. Representatives of several other nations were also invited.

The President addressed the group by saying: "This is a significant achievement, but it is only the start. A number of America's other close friends are participating in a process called the "visa waiver road map" that is helping them qualify for the Visa Waiver Program. I welcome the ambassadors from these "road map" countries -- Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Malta, Poland, and Romania. We thank you for coming today. We thank you for your friendship. And we look forward to the day when your countries join the Visa Waiver Program."

And this is it - this was the only moment when Poland was mentioned.

The entire remarks did not last longer than 10-15 minutes, after which the President and the two cabinet secretaries left the garden and the gathered guests shared the joy and self-congratulations of this big moment for their counties. Their happiness was certainly justified - it was a great moment, for any nation.

For the Polish and Polish American representatives, however, the moment was not as happy. It was good to see our friends from the region to join the Program, yet still in the back of one's mind there was this nagging thought that if it was not for the Polish American Community, none of those countries would be uncorking their champagne bottles.

According to Wikipedia: "The visa waiver program was introduced in 1986 with the aim of facilitating tourism and short term business visits to the United States, and allowing the Department of State to focus consular resources on addressing higher risks to the U.S."

Until very recently there were 27 countries that enjoyed the privilege. From Europe, there were 22: Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France (including French overseas territories), Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom. From Asia, three: Brunei, Japan, Singapore; and Oceania, two: Australia, and New Zealand.

Over the years there were also many legislative initiatives attempting to expand the membership base of the Program and enable other counties to join. Interestingly, when compared, a number of legislative initiatives that proposed inclusion of a single country, two counties have the largest numbers: Korea and Poland.

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