

John Czop from 2

President Obama took this honorable position before consulting with his advisers.

What progress has been made since October 2009 when President Obama ordered the drafting of NATO contingency plans for Poland's defense? This writer asked Poland's Ambassador Robert Kupiecki this question at the 30 September 2010 Decoration Ceremony for General Colin L. Powell at the Polish Embassy in Washington, DC. Poland's Minister of Defense, Bogdan Klich, decorated General Powell with the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland after, earlier that very day, Klich and Kupiecki met with United States Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates. The stated purpose of this meeting was to discuss a more important role for Poland in NATO. Ambassador Kupiecki's response to my question about progress in drafting NATO contingency plans for Poland suggested a guarded optimism.

Professor Marek Jan Chodakiewicz, who holds the Kościuszko Chair in Polish Studies at the Institute of World Politics in Washington, DC doubted if these contingency plans would ever be prepared. Moreover, the December 8, 2010 brief morning meeting between Poland's President Komorowski and President Obama yielded nothing for Poland's security. President Obama did mention that the two nations are good allies, and share a commitment to democratic values. Moreover, Polish Americans count because only Warsaw has more Poles than the President's hometown, Chicago. Cheerful professions of mutual esteem combined with acknowledgement of the power of the Polish American vote are not enough in the face of a resurgent Russia that wants to exercise a sphere of influence over Poland and all of the former Soviet space.

The results of NATO's Lisbon Summit, 19-20 November 2010, were meager for Poland (no broader role for Poland in NATO and no Patriot Missiles for Poland), but outstanding for the Russian Federation which is now a valued partner in the defense of Europe from missile attacks which may come from Iran. But readers recall that it was Russia that by force of arms changed internationally recognized borders by invading Georgia in August 2008 and thereby committed a crime against world order. President Komorowski's 8 December visit to the White House did not succeed in getting either Patriot Missiles, or better security guarantees from America for Poland. It is likely that Poland's Foreign Minister Radosław Sikorski anticipated the negative response of the United States and NATO to Poland's quest for security.

That is why Sikorski wrote "Pivotal Poland" which was published in the 22 November 2010 print edition of THE ECONOMIST, an influential weekly newspaper published in London. Several of Sikorski's predecessors frequently compared Poland to a bridge between East and West. These past Polish Foreign Ministers viewed the values and practices of democratic government and free enterprise spontaneously moving over bridge-like Poland to her Eastern neighbors by force of example alone. In fact this has not occurred to a large extent because a bridge is something to walk on that is passive; a pivot is purposeful.

The Swedish-Polish initiative within the European Union (EU), the Eastern Partnership, is this pivot. In a systematic and purposeful way, the Eastern Partnership directs the EU's efforts toward the East in order to link Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus, Armenia, Georgia, and Azerbaijan with the functioning economic and emerging defense institutions of the EU. The word "pivotal" in the title of Sikorski's article describes the role of Poland as the key country on which the direction of future events depends, that is

Poland will be the country around which other countries in the EU, and by extension in the West, change front or direction in a manner similar to the way an infantry formation wheels to carry out a different or new maneuver.

This pivot, the Eastern Partnership, was developed by Sweden (which is not a member of NATO, but which has superb armed forces) and Poland BEFORE the August 2008 Russian invasion of Georgia (an independent country which was a former component of the USSR and which was aspiring to join NATO). Sikorski sees the Eastern Partnership as encouraging Russia to embark on the wholehearted reform of its political and social institutions so Russia can join a broadly defined West. Moreover, the Foreign Minister thinks Russia will choose this wholesome option because Russia faces an "existential challenge" on its southern and eastern borders.

This is how the Foreign Minister starts his article "Pivotal Poland": "Let me begin with a prediction. In 2011 the world will finally wake up and realize that Poland has become a country to reckon with in Europe." Sikorski then asks readers to recall that for the first time Poland will, during the second half of 2011, take over the presidency of the EU. Poland's presidency will concentrate on propelling the Eastern Partnership, and on developing armed forces for European defense.

According to the Foreign Minister: "In 2011 European relations with the United States will continue to be polite but unexciting." He goes on to observe that: "America will be too consumed with its internal problems to pay the kind of attention to its European allies that they have come to expect, and there may be some hurt feelings. For that reason, another priority of our EU presidency will be European defence. Polish troops have gained invaluable experience through our participation in Iraq and in the NATO force in Afghanistan. We have also learned that the Western military alliance doesn't work as well as it should." Sikorski's use of the term "Western military alliance" refers to NATO.

Poland's Foreign Minister concludes by asserting that 2011 is "Europe's moment" to take charge of its own defense. He writes that: "America no longer fears that a European defence identity would undermine NATO." To the contrary, America needs to make deep cuts in its defense budget and would welcome the day when Europe can assure its own security on the periphery of the continent. According to Sikorski, 2011 is an excellent year to begin greater coordination among European states.

If Sikorski is correct, then emerging EU defense institutions rather than NATO will play a key role in Poland's security within Europe. NATO is likely to continue to assume security tasks outside of Europe, as it now is doing in Afghanistan. The armed forces of the United States, and NATO, will play a much more limited role in Europe.

Polish Americans should hope that Poland succeeds in persuading the EU to implement the Eastern Partnership, because both NATO's Lisbon Summit and President Komorowski's meeting with President Obama show that Poland's quest for security will not be accommodated by the United States as the leader of NATO. No patriot missiles for Poland; no NATO contingency plans to defend Poland from military attack.

Polish Americans acting through their kin country lobby for Poland need to persuade American public opinion that Poland is indeed the pivotal country of the intermarium region, the lands stretching from the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea, which approximate the territory of the First Polish Republic, or Res Publica, and United States policy toward the Third Polish Republic affects not only Poland, but the entire intermarium region which is as vital for America's security as it is for Poland's. □

Music News from 3

After preliminary auditions in Moscow, Hanover, London, New York, Warsaw, Tokyo, Seoul and Shenzhen throughout May and June 2010, the Competition invited 46 pianists from 13 countries to Bydgoszcz for the final stages. From among these participants, the Jury — Piotr Paleczny (Poland), Alexander Braginsky (USA), Andrea Bonatta (Italy), Peter Frankl (UK), Bernd Goetzke (Germany), Choong-Mo Kang (Korea), Heinz Medjimorec (Austria), Noriko Ogawa (Japan), Katarzyna Popowa-Zydroń (Poland), Wojciech Świtłała (Poland) and Michail Voskresenskiy (Russia)—awarded the following prizes: First Prize: Eduard Kunz [30,000 Euros] Second Prize: Hyun Jung Kim Third Prize (*ex-aequo*): Michał Szymanowski and Sergey Redkin Honorable Mention: Denis Evstyukhin

As in past years, winners of the International Paderewski Piano Competition will be considered for invitation to perform the Gala Concert of the Paderewski Festival in Paso Robles, California. □

Karp - My friend Zdzislaw from 4

Since he was familiar with trains and the train yard, he and a fellow prisoner decided to escape by rigging the underside of a freight car so as to provide a space for them to hide. Unfortunately, his companion wired the platform contraption to an axle thinking that they did not rotate with the wheels.

Discarding that route they went to "plan B", which consisted simply of hopping on to a train during the night as it left the station. Once on board they realized that it was a German troop train, but luckily everyone was sleeping. At one point, a German military policeman shined a light into his eyes and challenged him. Zdzisław, who had a knack for languages, responded in fluent German that he had been put off on one train and then got on to this train for Dresden. The MP said that he was not permitted on the troop train so he would have to get off when it stopped. By being unobtrusive, he stayed aboard until Dresden. Once there, however, he was taken to a nearby labor camp, which refused to admit him because it was too overcrowded. Left to himself, he boarded a train heading for Czechoslovakia. At the border, he again was arrested, taken to prison, had his hair shaved, and given a striped uniform. Shortly he was turned over to the German Gestapo who interrogated him for some time. He wove together a story, telling them that he left Berlin to escape the Russians, that he had gone to Dresden on a troop train and that he was allowed to transfer there to the train for Czechoslovakia. As the questioning went on, he realized that they suspected that he was on a mission to organize an underground movement in Czechoslovakia. In the end, they sent him by train to Vienna.

When he arrived in Vienna, he was told to report directly to the labor camp. Instead he went to a refugee camp from where he eventually managed to get to Italy by midyear 1945 and joined the Polish Forces under General Władysław Anders, attached to the British Command. He served in the occupation of Italy until early 1947, at which time he was assigned to service with the Polish Resettlement Corps in England where he served through February 1949. In 1948 he was awarded the degree of Technician in Electrical Engineering from the Electrical College in London. He worked in London as a painter, a hospital attendant, and after his degree, as an electrician. When pressured by the British Government, which was overwhelmed with refugees and British veterans, he refused to return to Poland because it was occupied by Russia. He chose, instead, to emigrate to the United States. Sponsored by an aunt,

Investments from 3

For example, investment products in an employer plan are usually limited to mutual funds and company stock. With a self-directed Rollover IRA, you can work with your financial professional to structure a portfolio using stocks, bonds, annuities and other investments utilizing an asset allocation¹ that is customized to help you meet your retirement investment objectives. And your retirement strategy can be further tailored with a wider range of beneficiary selection and distribution choices.

Consider Consolidation

This may also be an excellent time to deal with multiple IRAs you may have opened over the years, and with account balances you may have left in the plans of former employers. Together, these assets may represent a significant sum. There are good reasons to consider consolidating them all in a Rollover IRA:

Comprehensive investment strategy—It can be difficult to maintain an effective investment strategy—one that accurately reflects your goals, timing and risk tolerance—when assets are spread among multiple financial institutions. When you consolidate, your financial professional can help you ensure that these assets are part of your overall asset allocation strategy that is reflective of your current financial situation and long-term retirement goals.

Greater investment flexibility—A self-directed IRA generally offers you the ability to choose from a wide range of investment products, including stocks, bonds, mutual funds, annuities and more.

Simplified tracking—It is easier to monitor your progress and investment results when all your retirement savings are in one place, because you will receive one statement instead of several. That simplifies your life while protecting the environment.

Lower costs—Reducing the number of accounts may also reduce your account fees and other investment-related charges.

Dealing with one account rather than several also simplifies the distribution process—including complying with complex minimum distribution rules when you reach age 70½. And you avoid the risk of losing track of your retirement accounts or access to the account assets should your former employer merge with another company or go out of business. Your financial professional can help you assess your alternatives so you can make decisions based on what's best for you. You may find that this time of transition holds benefits for your retirement assets.

For more information, please contact **Joanna Moran** is a Financial Advisor and may be reached at **619-236-1331** or www.morganstanley.com/fa/joanna.moran □

in February 1952, Zdzisław arrived in Boston. There he worked in the electrical field and subsequently earned an Associate Degree in Electrical Engineering from Lincoln Institute and a Bachelors Degree with honors from Northeastern University. He was named Outstanding Student at Northeastern in 1961, his senior year, and featured in the Boston Globe. When asked what advice he might give to entering students, his response was, "Have faith in your purpose and you will somehow overcome all obstacles."

At the time of his graduation he was employed as an electrical designer for a consulting engineering firm where he designed generator equipment such as circuit breakers, switchgear, and synchro-mechanisms.

**My friend Zdzislaw
continued in the
January issue**