



June 1, 2020

Honorable Senator Bob Menendez
528 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Senator James E Risch
483 Russell Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Senator Dick Durbin
711 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Request to amend the wording of Senate Resolution 566

While we support the idea of a resolution commemorating the victims of The Katyń Genocide as submitted by Sen. Menendez, Sen. Risch, and Sen. Durbin on May 7, 2020, we strongly oppose specific fragments of its current version. As is, S. Res. 566 strips Polish citizens murdered by the Soviet Russia of their citizenship and incorporates them into a vaguely defined mass of communist atrocities. It looks more like an attempt of genocide denial than an honest interpretation of historic events verified by the 1952 report of The Rep. Ray J. Madden Commission.* The United States government owes Poland and Polish Americans a clear and unequivocal declaration to distance itself from the shameful decision of President Roosevelt who gave a written order to Capt. George Earle to suppress his 1944 report on the Katyń genocide in order not to embarrass an ally.

Polish American Strategic Initiative, Inc. (PASI) suggests the following changes:

Current wording:

“Whereas the Katyń Massacre fits into a larger pattern of Communist governments around the world persecuting their citizens and denying their people freedom, which has resulted in the deaths of up to 100,000,000 people since the Russian Revolution of 1917.”

Replace by:

POLISH AMERICAN STRATEGIC INITIATIVE, INC.
P.O.Box 2771, New Britain, CT 06050
Phone: (310) 291-2681 E-mail: ejesman@pasius.org

“Whereas the Katyn Massacre was a systematic mass murder of Polish citizens perpetrated pursuant to March 5, 1940 order issued by the Soviet Politburo, it rises to the level of the crime of genocide.”

Current, euphemistic use of the word “Nazi” should be replaced by “German” or “Nazi German” throughout the entire text.

The list of Katyn Genocide denials should include a mention of an effort to remove the Katyn monument, which memorializes the Katyn Genocide, from Exchange Place in Jersey City, NJ. Through the efforts of the citizens of Jersey City representing diverse ethnic backgrounds, this monument was saved from removal on December 19, 2018, and preserved for perpetuity as a symbol of massacred heroes.

PASI welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with your office on the final draft of the Resolution to ensure its accuracy.

Sincerely,

Edward. W. Jesman, President
Polish American Strategic Initiative, Inc.

Janusz Sporek, President
The Katyn Memorial Preservation Committee

Richard Boggiano, Councilman
City of Jersey City

Rev. Nathaniel Legay, President
Jersey City Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

CC: The Honorable U.S. Senators and the Honorable U.S. Representatives

* FINAL REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION AND STUDY OF THE FACTS, EVIDENCE, AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE KATYN FOREST MASSACRE, 82d Congress, 2d Session, Union Calendar No. 792, House Report No. 2505, U.S. G.P.O., Washington: 1952
<https://ia800603.us.archive.org/11/items/KatynForestMassacreFinalReport/Katyn%20Forest%20Massacre%20Final%20Report.pdf>

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