

STATEMENT OF THE POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS
PRESENTED BY ALOYSIUS A. MAZEWSKI, PRESIDENT
OF POLISH NATIONAL ALLIANCE, JOSEPH L. OSAJDA
PRESIDENT OF POLISH ROMAN CATHOLIC UNION, AND
HELEN ZIELINSKI PRESIDENT OF POLISH WOMEN'S
ALLIANCE -- PRESENTED BEFORE THE REPUBLICAN
PLATFORM COMMITTEE, MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA,
AUGUST 15, 1972

The Polish American Congress, a representative body of fraternal, civic, economic and cultural organizations of Americans of Polish origin is pleased to present the following views and appraisals of the current American realities to the Platform Committee of the Republican Party:-

1. We are in full support of President Nixon's policies aimed at an honorable disengagement of the United States from Indochina. We earnestly desire an end of this war but not a sudden and unqualified end which would eventually bring new problems, more difficult to solve, and result in greater loss of American lives and diminish our stature as the leading nation of the free world.

2. By virtue of our ancestry and heritage, we are deeply conscious of the history and problems of East Central Europe, as they relate to America's enlightened self interest. This area of the Old Continent has been for centuries a pivotal point in cross currents of European history. By reasons of geography and demography, Poland occupies the key position in that part of Europe and currently most populous and recalcitrant nation in the Soviet-Communist block.

Poland's key position and the ideological resistance of her people against the inroads of Communist dogmas and sophistries deserve special attention of the American foreign policy.

Thus we feel that steadily increasing cultural and technical exchanges between the American and the Polish nation, as well as expansion of trade between the two countries, based on sound economic principles is of crucial importance. It would decrease the dependence of the Poles on the extremely costly Soviet assistance and would gradually create in Poland an atmosphere conducive to the evolutionary development of an open society.

President Nixon's Journey for Peace last spring gave the Polish people renewed hope for a better future, when, on May 31, 1972, he stated in Warsaw:

"America knows and the world knows the fortitude, the character, the courage of the Polish people. And America knows and the world knows that no country in the world has suffered more from war than Poland.

"And so, in a very real sense, peace in the world means peace for Poland, and, therefore, it is fitting that we should end in this capital what we hope will be recorded as a Journey for Peace".

3. On the domestic front and in terms of political relevancies, we highly commend the Republican Party for its increasing attention to, and concern with the ethnic groups of our pluralist society. The Heritage Committee is performing an outstanding task in bringing unity of national

purposes to Americans of diverse cultural background and tradition.

While in a larger sense it can be stated that all Americans, with the exception of the indigenous Indians have certain ethnic backgrounds, nevertheless, in a narrower concept this term applies to approximately 80 million Americans of other than Anglo Saxon origin.

They form a rich mosaic in the fabric of our society. By virtue of their participation in all phases of our national life, they deserve recognition and access to high positions of trust and responsibility.

And in this area Americans of Polish heritage have justified grievances. While we have eminently successful people in all walks of American life, the appointments of Americans of Polish origin to high position on federal level are far from satisfactory. We do not advance a quota principle in this matter, but we urge the Republican Party to give more recognition to our compatriots of Polish origin on the basis of their qualification and record of public service.

4. We urge you to support the veterans' rights for the Poles who fought side by side with the Americans during the Two World Wars and now are domiciled in the United States. There are approximately 60,000 Polish veterans, now citizens of the United States who shared battlefield actions with American soldiers. They could not return to their native land because freedom of their country was summarily destroyed by the Yalta agreements. They were welcomed in our shores. But they were denied such basic veterans' privileges as hospitalization and other medical

care. Canada has long ago corrected this shortcoming and the Polish veterans there are treated on equal basis with the Canadian veterans.

It is time that we, the richest nation on earth accord Polish veterans the same treatment in the name of humanity and provide basic aid for those who fought with us in the defense of freedom.

5. We commend with delight and gratitude President Nixon Administration's initiative in honoring Nicholas Copernicus (Mikolaj Kopernik), the great astronomer and scientist, by naming the Orbital Astronomical Observatory to mark the 500th anniversary of his birth. And we urge the Platform Committee to recommend that the birthdate of Kopernik, February 14th, be proclaimed next year as the Nicholas Copernicus Day in the United States.

6. We urge continued support of the Ethnic Heritage Studies Program, and in order to get a more precise and meaningful picture of America's multiple ethnicity, we urge that the Census Bureau be directed to re-examine its enumerative methods and give Americans better and clearer opportunities to state their ethnic background and heritage.

7. We also urge that stronger Federal guide lines be established for the Federal Communications Commission so it could put an end to the irresponsible and often uncultural slurs against and defamations of ethnic groups on television and radio which seem to be prevalent in many

national broadcasts and televised programs. They only contribute to ill will, disunity in our pluralized society and tear apart the fabric of our society.

Respectfully submitted,

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Polish American Congress, Inc.

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In concurrence with:

JOSEPH L. OSAJDA, President of Polish Roman Catholic
Union; and
HELEN ZIELINSKI, President of Polish Women's Alliance