

# FOIA MARKER

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Notes on Polish Events

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Alexis!  
FYI  
(M)

August 30, 1995

MEMORANDUM FOR FILE

FROM: MARILYN DIGIACOBBE  
SUBJECT: NOTES ON POLISH FESTIVAL '95

On Sunday, August 27, 1995, U.S. Ambassador to Poland Nicholas Rey represented the President at an Annual Polish Festival held at Soldier Field in Chicago. The event was sponsored by the Alliance of Polish Organizations, a network of Chicago area Polish-American organizations.

Ambassador Rey delivered remarks and a message from the President during the Festival's official ceremony. The audience was estimated at 5,000-10,000 people.

To maximize Ambassador Rey's trip, we arranged the following additional activities:

- \* We asked a few of our friends to arrange a meeting with local Polish-American leaders. Jarok Cholodecki (President, Ethnic Broadcasting), Don Versen (President, Columbia National Bank of Chicago) and John Pikarski (Gordon and Pikarski) arranged a brunch for Ambassador Rey. 52 Polish-American community activists, including organization and business types attended. The brunch was done in a roundtable format. Ambassador Rey engaged in a dialogue and Q&A session on political and economic issues.
- \* Ambassador Rey provided interviews to the Polish-American media, including a Polish radio interview. I asked for clips to be sent.

SEP - 6 1995

August 24, 1995

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MEMORANDUM FOR ALEXIS HERMAN

FROM: MARILYN DIGIACOBBI 

SUBJECT: NOTES ON POLISH NATIONAL ALLIANCE EVENT

On Saturday, August 19, me and Ambassador Nicholas Rey, the U.S. Ambassador to Poland attended the convention of the Polish National Alliance. It was a gathering of approximately 750 state and local chapter heads of the largest ethnically based fraternal organization in the country. I made remarks and Ambassador Rey delivered the keynote address.

This same organization was addressed by President Carter in 1980, President Reagan in 1983 and President Bush in 1992. I bring this to your attention and remind you that the President has not yet addressed a Polish-American audience. As you may recall, I made a strong recommendation that the President or Vice President attend the Catholic Mass held to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Polish American Congress in Buffalo last October. President Lech Walesa and 2,000 members of the national and local Polish-American community were in attendance. We sent Ambassador Madeline Albright as a surrogate. It was noticed by the community, however, when the Vice President arrived in Buffalo to campaign for Governor Cuomo just a few days later.

The Polish-American community is the ninth largest ethnic group in the country and a group that carries a strong ethnic identity. For the attentive leadership of this community, the President's recognition is important. Historically they have had that Presidential recognition. Although those who are attentive tend to be of the older generations, these people vote and I suspect are a critical part of the senior and white ethnic catholic swing.

I will continue to search for opportunities, and let you know when I find one that makes sense for us to promote. In the meantime, I just wanted to highlight this issue for you.

Thank you.

cc: Marilyn Yager  
Lee Satterfield

AUG 25 1995