

Justyna Ball from 2

And I don't mind him doing it, as long as Russia and the U.S. are both in it, hand in hand, nothing bad can happen to Poland, right?

In the interview given by George Bush to *Gazeta Wyborcza*, the American president assured Poles that Poland is safe because it is in NATO.

That's right, so if NATO does not see such need for building bases, let's just drop it.

The media won't name it, but our president sounds more and more like a spokesperson for the US military industry.

People who are on the Polish negotiating team are openly disappointed.

"This is a bad deal, it is not what we expected." (I guess they began reading the small print now.)

Daily news, *RZECZPOSPOLITA* announced that the American proposal contains conditions, which are inconvenient for Poland. Poles are expected to cover some of the expenses as well as build and run the base with 10 rocket launchers. The U.S. will be excluded from paying local taxes. And I like this one: "Any road accidents caused by American military officers outside the base would be also covered by the Polish budget."

Peter Brooks, the high ranking American expert answered by saying that Japan and Korea also have to cover the costs. Sure, but see, Poland isn't Japan...

I heard President Bush say about the people of Iraq "We are there per the request of the Iraqi." Which dummy in front of the TV did he direct those words to? Who knows, with such nerve, sometime in the future he may claim that the Poles demanded the installation of the bases.

So far, the Czech government accepted the radar, the Czechs did not. The Polish government still pretends to be contemplating the offer, although we all know that the decision has already been made.

The majority still oppose the shields, but who wants to hear that, and thus, no media reports on what people actually say.

In Jurata, a demonstration took place even though train services were suspended, and many protesters were removed. Filip Ilkowski from the *Stop War organization*: "We came to protest against George Bush's visit in Poland, against the policy he represents. Moreover against the construction of American installations perversely called 'shield', and also against the Polish government's participation in wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. It's disgraceful, cruel and bloody. Bush himself is a politician, who is the head of the biggest military organization in the world, and has more blood on his hands than any other politician. So when he comes to a country, there always are protests against him. Poland is no different."

The U.S. has 702 military bases all over the world, and that's not including Iraq, Israel, Afghanistan or Kuwait. In those bases, even cleaning the latrines is subcontracted to private military companies like Kellogg, Brown & Root. Within days of our attack on Iraq, I saw U.S. soldiers in Baghdad standing in line at Burger King. One of the most distracting pictures that I saw was an image of an Afghani woman covered in a burka from head to toe begging in front of a huge billboard advertising Coca-Cola. Sun Fun products of Daytona Beach, Florida is doing well after 273,000 bottles of sun block was ordered by the Defense Department. \$30 billion goes to subcontractors. Last week, I learned that the National Guard provides electricity to residents of Baghdad. This fact would probably go by unnoticed if it were not the same company that I sent my monthly electricity bill to. The only difference is that I have power 24/7, and the people in Baghdad an hour a day. War seems to be a profitable business. Anything related can't lose. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates knows it and he wasn't sightseeing Poland when he visited last month.

Just like Newt Gingrich lobbied in the pre-war period.

Now, will the Polish president prove that he has a mind of his own and pass on the deal because it is not in Poland's interest (or for Poland's security) or will he follow the footsteps of the previous Kwaśniewski's

Letter to Commission from 1

September, 1939 by Germany and the Soviet Union. Poland was "occupied" by a foreign power (Germany and Russia) from 1939 to 1945. Also, from 1945 to 1989 Poland was occupied by the troops of the Soviet Union, and the Polish communist government was taking orders from the government of the Communist Soviet Union. It should be noted that the period of the "communist occupation" of Poland from 1945 to 1989 was a direct result of the Yalta and Potsdam Conference that decided the faith of Poland by direct endorsement and support of the Western Allies: United States, England and France. It is a well known fact that during that period of time Poland and its government was under strict orders of the Communist Soviet Union that was financially and "morally" supported by their western allies of the United States and England. During that time period, Poland and its communist government could not do anything without the direct order and support from the communist masters in Moscow. Therefore, if anyone, or any country, or its government is responsible for the crimes of that period, it is the government of the Soviet Union and their supporters. Your interference into the internal affairs of Poland is uncalled for, and irresponsible on your part and the office that you hold, or are seeking. I suggest that your letter be withdrawn and you apologize to Poland for your uncalled intervention. I would appreciate a response from you to my letter.

Very truly yours,
Krzysztof Nowak
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President's Godchild from 2

Aristotle Onasis. Among those enjoying the cruise was Prince Radziwill, with his wife, and Jacqueline Kennedy with her sister, Lee Bouvier.

There was a lot of music, dancing, champagne, and flirting. That's when it happened, a romance between Prince Radziwill and Lee Bouvier. Both of them were married. Both divorced their spouses and in 1958 a son was born to them, Antony Radziwill. Two years later, in 1960, a daughter was born, Anna Christina.

It was a lovely day on July 5, 1961, when little Anna was baptized at Westminster Cathedral in London. The traffic came to a halt, not so much for Anna Christina Radziwill, but for the Godfather who held the baby. A tall good looking man was introducing the baby to reporters and the public that gathered outside the Cathedral.

"My niece and Godchild, Miss Anna Radziwill", said the President of the United States, John Fitzgerald Kennedy. He was little Anna Christina's Godfather.

Antony, Lee Bouvier's and Stanisław Radziwill's son, grew up into a fine, thoughtful and kind man. He was good friends with President Kennedy's children, his cousins. Antony's life was cut short a few years ago. He fought gallantly a vicious form of cancer.

There were many branches of the Radziwill family. I concentrated just on one, that of Antony Henry and his offspring. I did it because one of them Prince Stanisław Radziwill had American ties, by marrying Lee Bouvier and also because I knew him personally. □

government, the one accused of hidden CIA prisons, the one who sent Polish soldiers to Iraq, the one who bought a fleet of aged F-16s all in exchange for nothing?

A Polish man wakes up from a coma, 19 years has passed and with it, communism. Free Poland, a free market, free minutes on your cell phone, free first few months of your Internet connection. But I bet many Poles would prefer to go into a coma and wake up when this present government is replaced with another more normal one. □

Janek's Corner from 4

Other examples of great Polish writers are Witold Gombrowicz and Stanisław Ignacy Witkiewicz, also known as Witkacy. Both were writing in a characteristic manner that makes their accomplishments unbelievably difficult to translate into other languages. I cannot imagine, though, that someone at my age does not understand and decipher a term "synczyzna" (created by Gombrowicz), which takes into consideration the Polish identity, and the question whether it is possible to liberate Poles from their fossilized "polishness." He also expresses his views and opinions in the opposition to the traditional Polish sense since he happened to live in Argentina at the time of the Second World War which gave him an outer (as if non-Polish) point of view that is so important to try to distance ourselves from self-worshipping. He is, though, considered a coward amongst some groups in Poland that claim that he was pretty obliged to come back to Poland to fight for the freedom of Poland, not to stay in Argentina. I can understand that sort of attitude, but it does not mean that Gombrowicz's works should be out of the curriculum. People vary and so their decisions, after all.

Witkiewicz was a drug-taker and drunkard who used to check what effects on him, and his works, as a result that would have. Being a painter, he even used to note the specific drug he took in order to see what the differences between his works were. He, though, created a "Theory of Pure Form" that is an introductory footing to the modern literature and theater of Poland, and probably Europe partly. Thus, he must be included in the curriculum despite his behaviors that might not necessarily be well accepted.

In spite of the fact that there's more to write about the books that could be removed from the curriculum according the project of the Ministry of Education (for instance, Goethe's "Faust" and "The Sorrows of Young Werther"), I would also like to put a few lines about the writings that could possibly be included in the curriculum.

The first personality about whom I truly have never heard of is Jan Dobraczyński. Firstly, he is an unknown writer for me. I doubt that his writings are extraordinary, therefore. Secondly, I do not see any reason why the curriculum should include three books of a particular author. Is it a monopoly for a second-class writer? Even the Sienkiewicz Family Association does not agree with the fact that Jan Dobraczyński's books would be placed next to their great relative's world-famous writings. They also oppose the idea of including Henryk Sienkiewicz's books in the curriculum despite the fact that they are actually already included in the list of obligatory reading. The Minister of Education "tries to enforce the changes in the curriculum on the basis of adding works of Sienkiewicz" which is awful as the Polish PEN Club claims. "The very first time after the end of communist era the executive power accomplishes so deep changes in the outlook on life," PEN Club's statement says.

A real hot potato is an issue over the Sienkiewicz's books. As I wrote the above, the Sienkiewicz family does not seem to be happy about the fact that the Minister of Education is trying to put the strange titles on the list of the obligatory reading, using the books of their relative as a bargaining card. It seems, though, to be a well-prepared campaign. It is inevitably going to a painful end, anyway, because I do not think that, providing such an excessive social discontent about the Minister of Education's activities and steps to achieve his goal, his project might be successful.

Frankly, I would not like a political leader to create the "essential reading" obligatory books curriculum, because that person does not seem to be knowledgeable enough about the issue. Let it be the responsibility of Polish PEN Club or National Teachers' Association, for instance. It would be far more reliable committee, and well-chosen books might be added to the curriculum. I do not think there's a possibility to remove any of the books from the list of obligatory books, because it would get "damaged" in a way. The longer the list the less time to evaluate each of the book surely, but we

Communism Memorial from 1

The memorial, a 4.2-meter-tall bronze replica of the "Goddess of Democracy" statue built by Chinese students during the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests, was the brainchild of historian Lee Edwards and former ambassador Lev Dobriansky, who spent more than a decade raising nearly \$1 million to complete the project on a site near the U.S. Capitol.

The dedication ceremony was held on the 20th anniversary of former President Ronald Reagan's 1987 speech in Berlin in which he called on then-Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to tear down the Berlin Wall that separated the city and had divided a continent since the end of World War II. Bush noted that the wall would finally fall two years later, liberating the people of Central and Eastern Europe and changing the world.

In all, as many as 10 million innocents perished at the hands of communism, Bush said, helping to make the 20th century "the deadliest in human history. We'll never know the names of all who perished, but at this sacred place, communism's unknown victims will be consecrated to history and remembered forever," he said.

The president drew parallels between communism and terrorism.

"Like the communists, terrorists and radicals who attacked our nation [September 11, 2001] are followers of a murderous ideology that despises freedom, crushes all dissent, has expansionist ambitions and pursue totalitarianism. Like the communists, our new enemies believe the innocent can be murdered to serve a radical vision."

But Bush added that terrorists, like communist regimes before them, are doomed to failure because they underestimate the power and attraction of democratic freedoms, and the commitment of the United States and its allies to preserving and extending liberty to all. (See related article.)

"By remaining steadfast in freedom's cause, we will ensure that a future American president does not have to stand in a place like this and dedicate a memorial to the millions killed by the radicals and extremists of the 21st century," Bush said.

A transcript of Bush's remarks is available from the White House Web site.

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should remember that the literature is a vibrant part of the arts, so it is continually developing and, as a result, we will need to provide new titles that could characterize newly-invented trends, literary structures or the ones that would describe the new and old problems of the world. We had better consider adding the books of the modern writers.

Let me finish with the quotation from "Farewell to Autumn" ("Pożegnanie jesieni") of Witkacy, "A jednak dobrze jest, wszystko jest dobrze. Co? - Może nie? Dobrze jest, psia krew, a kto powie, że nie, to go w mordę!" („It is yet good, everything is good. What? - Can it be not? It's good, damn, and who will say it is not, then punch him in the nose!")

(...) □