Reversing Poles: how Poland brought its workers home

An article by Ashley Seager in the guardian.co.uk website reports... With Britain’s refugee resettlement program since the early 1980s, it is small wonder that so many Poles are heading home. The Polish economy – now the world’s 20th largest – is proving a lot more resilient to the financial crisis than Britain’s, mainly because its banking system is not saddled with the toxic material that has poisoned the UK’s once-mighty banks. And it is attracting former emigres home in droves.

“We really welcome these people home who have been working in Britain and Ireland,” Aleksander Grad, the country’s treasury minister, said. “In many cases these people who left Poland for a few years would never return educated. It has been estimated that of Poland’s 38 million people, one million have made their way to Britain and Ireland in the past five years. About 6% of the workforce left in a very short space of time – and they were generally young, motivated and well educated.”

“We have suffered labour shortages because of this,” said Grad. “But now they are helping stabilise the labour market. We had seen wages rising very fast.”

It was no surprise that young people who left Poland for a few years would come back once they had made some money. But the decision to return has been helped by the downturn in the British economy and the relative robustness of the Polish economy. The fall in the pound this year was also an important factor. “The appreciation of the zloty certainly changed the calculation also,” said Grad.

He added that Dell’s recent announcement that it would move 2,000 jobs from Limerick to Poland was a “very good sign” for the Polish economy, although it was ironic because plenty of Poles were already working at Dell in Ireland.

Polish growth is slowing but it still managed about 5.5% expansion in 2008, much stronger than in Britain. The government is still forecasting growth of more than 3% in 2009. Britain’s economy is set to contract by up to 3%.

**Valerian Soltes**

**Attorney**

**Living Trusts - Probate**

**Bankruptcy**

**Personal Injury**

**Collections**

30011 Ivy Glenn Drive - Suite 203

Laguna Niguel, CA 92677

949/363-0106

E-mail: vsoltes@solstestaw.com

Slovak, Czech, Polish, English

**Ambassador Rey from 1**

Clinton appointed Rey as the US ambassador to Poland in 1993.

That was a heavy period when everything seemed possible. A few years earlier, Poland had damped communism in a peaceful Solidarity-led revolution which touched off the collapse of one Soviet-backed regime after another across the European continent. A short while later the Soviet Union itself had ceased to exist.

During his ambassadorship in Warsaw, Poland was building a parliamentary democracy and making a bid to join NATO, and Rey used every opportunity to serve his ancestral homeland with his expertise and enthusiasm. Poland rewarded his efforts by decorating him with the Commodore’s Cross of Polonia Restituta.

Rey returned to Washington after his term of ambassadorship ended in 1997; but he did not abandon his interest and involvement in Polish affairs. He was among the founders of the American-Polish Advisory Council, a group lobbying in favor of Polish interests, where he worked together with Gen. Edward Rowny and Mark Brzezinski.

When the Polish-American Enterprise Fund set up the Polish-American Freedom Foundation (PAFF) in 2000, Rey was among its leaders.

In a message of condolence, the Polish-American Freedom Foundation said it owed him a great debt of gratitude. “As a member of its Board of Directors, he always served it with his extensive knowledge and experience and was personally involved in many of its projects even at the most difficult times of his life. We always thought highly of his wisdom, counsel and friendship and will miss him dearly.”

In one of his last interviews, Rey said: “The older I get, the more Polish I feel.” He died of lung cancer in his home in Puerto Rico in 2007. Memorial insists that it has no connection with either the article or its website reports...

**Consulte General Republic of Poland in Los Angeles**

**Website:** www.PolishConsulateLA.com

**Phone: (310) 442-8500**

**Consul General**

Paulina Kapuciwic/la ext. 109

e-mail: mailing.list@consulplga.org

**Culture, Science Education, Affairs**

Consul position to be filled ext. 108

e-mail: culture@consulplga.org

**Administration and Finances**

Consul Małgorzata Kopec ext. 104, 109

e-mail: admin@consulplga.org

**Legal Affairs/Consular Protection**

Consul Wojciech Bergier ext. 102.

e-mail: legal@consulplga.org

**Economic and Trade Division**

www.welusa.gov.pl

**Receptionist X 115**

**POLAM**

Federal Credit Union

180 Punktów usługowych w Kalifornii

**Pozyczki**

Domowe, Samochodowe i Personalne

Wysokieprocentowe konta

Terminowe i emerytalne

Berglante konta obrotowe

Całodobowe informacje telefoniczne

589 N. Larchmont - Los Angeles

1700 N. Tustin St - Orange

(800) 404-5137

**Legal**

**History textbooks now portray him as a great leader who industrialised the Soviet Union and saved it from the Nazis, rather than as one of the 20th century’s biggest mass murderers.**

**Human rights groups said they were dismayed by the attack on Memorial.**

“This outrageous police raid shows the poisonous climate for non-governmental organisations in Russia,” said Allen Gill, director of Human Rights Watch in Moscow, said: “This is an overt attempt by the Russian government ... to silence critical voices.”

Staff at Memorial said it was unclear whether they would get their data back. The archive had been stored on hard drives and CDs. ‘All these years of work are now in the hands of investigators and we do not know when and in what condition it will be returned,’ staff member Yury Rybakov said. He added: ‘This is an act of repression against our organisation.’

A spokesman for the Russian prosecutor general’s investigative unit said that the raid was part of an investigation into an article that incited racial hatred published in the Novy Peterburg newspaper in June 2007. Memorial insists that it has no connection with either the article or its author.

(Editors’ note – Information sent to me by a member of the Krezy-Sybirkai group.)

**Please send articles about your Polish Organization**

To the News of Polonia