

Polonia and IWP update

By: *John Czop*

On April 14, 2010, the Institute of World Politics (IWP) in Washington, DC marked its 20th anniversary with a gala at the Mayflower Hotel. At the last minute, circumstances prevented the appearance of General David Petraeus, Commander of the United States Central Command, who agreed to deliver the keynote speech at the anniversary event. General Michael V. Hayden, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency stood in at the eleventh hour for Petraeus.

This shows that patriotic Americans, like Generals Hayden and Petraeus, who serve their country at the highest levels of our national security establishment, value IWP. This independent, non-profit, accredited graduate school of statecraft and national security affairs does what no other institution that operates in our intellectual climate, which is marked by cultural and moral relativism, dares to do. IWP asserts that the values of Latin Christendom (often called Western Civilization in our secular age) are worth defending, and then elaborates a grand strategy in world affairs for the key country in the West, the United States of America. No other teaching or policy planning institutions, whether governmental or private, plan a grand strategy to safeguard the United States from external threats in order to protect America's core values. Only IWP does this. The others equivocate and are reluctant to put forward a strategy to defend the values of our civilization.

IWP was organized 20 years ago by an outstanding American of Polish heritage, Professor John Lenczowski. An expert on the history of Communism and the Soviet Union, Lenczowski served on the National Security Council during President Ronald Reagan's administration before he launched IWP. This writer talked with Lenczowski on 26 June 2010 in New York City for approximately 20 minutes just before the Adam M. Bąk Foundation's fund raiser in the form of an art auction for the benefit of the victims of last spring's catastrophic floods that struck Poland. Professor Lenczowski was guest of honor and delivered a speech at the Bąk Foundation's evening of music with an auction of paintings and sculptures (which were donated to the fund raiser by important contemporary Polish artists, including Andrzej Pityński, best known for his monumental sculpture "The Partisans"). At the last minute, the venue of the fund raiser was changed from Kościuszko Foundation House to the De Lamar Mansion, home of the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland.

The precipitate change of the fund raiser's venue formed my first question for Professor Lenczowski: Why would any Polish organizations here in America wish to distance themselves from the project which IWP espouses? Why would any of these organizations wish to close their doors to you, Professor Marek Jan Chodakiewicz, or any of your other colleagues? Readers recall that IWP's Kościuszko Chair Professor, Marek Jan Chodakiewicz, at last November's Kościuszko Chair Lectures at IWP, put forward the view that Communism never collapsed in Poland, instead it was transformed. Chodakiewicz also observed that today's Polish elite, composed of transformed Communists, have no contingency plans to defend Poland from an attack coming from the east. Chodakiewicz's lucid analysis shows that today's Polish elite poses a danger to Polish national sovereignty. To correct this sad state of affairs, Chodakiewicz holds that a new elite needs to be trained to safeguard Poland's future, and that Polish students should come to IWP to form the cadre of this new elite. This is true educational and cultural exchange in action for the benefit of Poland and our western civilization.

Professor Lenczowski declined to speculate on why some Polish organizations and individuals may be hostile to IWP. Instead, he accentuated the positive. Every year, ever increasing numbers of United States Army personnel come to study at IWP. Lenczowski has been trying to attract the Navy to IWP too. The intelligence and counter-intelligence communities have a high opinion of IWP's faculty. In short, IWP has the confidence of top career civil servants in our national security establishment.

Next, I observed that the facts are with Chodakiewicz: today's Poland, in a nutshell, is ruled by a transformed Communist elite who with their money manipulate the pseudo-democratic political system and who show little initiative or responsibility. This elite is reluctant to take action, they expect the EU to build super highways in Poland and NATO to defend Poland. The contemporary elite of the Third Polish Republic shows far less commitment to the protection of Poland's national sovereignty than did their predecessors

Czop - IWP update to page 14

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A Cross at a Crossroads

Justyna Ball

<http://justyna-polishdelight.blogspot.com>

Originally, this article was going to be titled, "How for those few hours a dozen fanatics terrorized Poland's capitol," but I decided then that I'm not going to dedicate an entire page to some lunatics... and the "few hours" turned into several days. Although I must say we should credit them with creating something of a first Polish Hyde Park or a side show for the international arena.

It simply started with scouts placing a wooden cross in front of the Presidential Palace at Warsaw's Krakowskie Przedmieście in memory of the victims of the Smolensk tragedy. Soon afterward, a small group of rather vocal and very religious, or so it seemed at first, people created a vigil at the cross site. All the flowers, pictures and notes were gone but the cross remained. Newly elected President Komorowski, when asked if there were any plans for removal, answered that soon the cross would probably be moved to St. Anne's church nearby, which was being discussed with a representative of the Catholic Church and the scout leaders.

Then the very vocal religious group took a stand and said, "no way" and has not let it go since. Even when The Big Three, altogether, agreed to move the cross to the Cathedral from where it was going to be taken by the pilgrims on their annual pilgrimage to Częstochowa. On August 3rd, the ceremony of the cross relocation was organized, and the event was set up. Families of the crash victims waited at the church, but nothing of the sort occurred because the group of protesters threw a tantrum and created a scene. Some even tied themselves to the cross, which was beyond any logic. Reporters, domestic and foreign stood on alert.

The situation reminded me of a suicidal psycho standing on the edge of a building with the cops trying to reason with him. You know he is nuts, but you don't want him to kill himself either. Maybe that's why after a few moments of this tug of war, with priests, scouts, and the government present, the decision from the authorities was to leave them alone. Alone with their cross!

Crazy...

You know that protesters are no longer a religious group, but a bunch of fanatics when they start calling priests names. That's right, and when they alone, the next day, come up with a list of postulates. Then you know something definitely isn't right. Jarosław Kaczyński

advocates that the cross should be left there in memory of his brother, and I thought he already took over the Wawel tomb. The Church, separated itself from the group, but ignoring this fact, Law & Justice politicians fuel the conflict, and now it's a pure circus. "Elvis" visited the place already. Some call it a "happening." I call it the ugly face of religious fanaticism used by the Law & Justice for even uglier political games.

They claim the cross is there to stay, until a proper symbol of tragedy is placed ... there. Most see no reason for the cross to be "there" as most will accept a plaque dedicated to the victims.

This is not Ground Zero where the tragedy actually occurred. There is no plaque on the White House in memory of JFK. There is one in Dallas.

First of all, the cross is there illegally. You need a permit to place anything of this size in front of the White House. So the scouts should take it back since they brought it.

I share the opinion that Poland's emblem is the white eagle against a red background and a white and red flag not a cross.

The White Eagle, the symbol of the absolute power of the kings over the centuries appears on all government documents, and also on buildings.

We may like it or not, but Poland is a secular country, I respect what people practice in their sanctuaries or in the privacy of their own homes. I respect crosses in public places. There are many all over Poland but this is ridiculous. And I wish that the group of extremists stop praying out loud in front of the Palace and move to Saint Anne's down the street.

Who are those people with plenty of time on their hands anyway? One is an aspiring actor, now famous, but others make up the same group that protests everything everywhere that has to do with the cross. The Black Sheep in the Catholic family, the possessed!

I am starting to wonder if, who knows, they may be part of the Teutonic Order? Are they still angry over the Battle of Tannenberg (a.k.a Grunwald)? There are voices to guard the King Zygmunt III Wasa. Standing tall on his column in front of the Royal Castle, he's got the cross. I would be fearful if I were him. But wait, he's got a sword to fend off the attackers.

The Dominican, Father Maciej Zieba, sees no "church" at the fence of the Palace. Only a small group of extremists!

A group, he says that is upset with Komorowski being elected, a group that is used by the Opposition. It has nothing to do with the church. They wanted Kaczyński not Komorowski, and now they have a pretext to protest. I agree... However, the way they are protesting, it is offensive to true believers.

Justyna Ball to page 16

Calendar of Events

Aug 29, Sun, noon - 9:00 pm. Picnic at the Polish Center in LA in River's End, Saugus, Free. Information M. Trociński 310-395-8687 and A. Kozłowski 310-670-3152

Sept 11, Sat, 10:00 am., Celebration of Cultures, Holy Mass and Festival, at the Our Lady of Angels Cathedral, Los Angeles.

Sept 12, Sun, 1:30 pm - Polish American Congress SoCal Division Meeting - Our Lady of the Bright Mt. Rectory, Lower level - 3424 W. Adams Blvd. - Los Angeles.

Sept 18 & 19, Sat & Sun, Dożynki - Fall Festival, Polish Center in Yorba Linda. Information: 714-996-8161.

Sept 25 & 26, Sat & Sun, Bazaar - Fall Festival at Polish Parish in Los Angeles.

Oct 2 5:30 pm - Las Vegas - Springs Preserve Crossroads Commons - Outdoor Amphitheater. Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Poland in Las Vegas - Presenting Chopin on the Rocks - Celebrating Chopin's 200th Birthday Anniversary. ONE PHENOMENAL COMPOSER, THREE UNIQUE TWISTS. Contemporary - ALIZMA, Classical - ANNA KIJANOWSKA, Jazz - LESZEK MOZDZER. Pre-Concert Entertainment provided by the Las Vegas Youth Orchestra. String Quintet Concert "Prelude" by Pianist David Kowalski. General info tickets \$40.00. Info: (702) 368-7974.

Oct 15 - 21, Fri thru TH, 11th & 1/2 Polish Film Festival - Laemmle's Sunset 5 Theatre Info: www.PolishfilmLA.org - Showing interesting selection of new Polish films.

Oct 17, Sun, 10:30 a.m., PNA meeting, "Poland Forever" Polish Parish in Los Angeles

Oct 23, Sat, The Polish American Heritage Month at The Polish Club of Laguna Woods.

Oct 24, Sun, 2:00 pm. Friends of John Paul II Annual Banquet .

Oct 30, Sat, 8 pm, Canto Subito, canto biography of John Paul II by Piotr Rubik, Orchestra, Choir, Soloists at Barnum Theatre, 601 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, CA, tickets 310 396 2165, email: Bogawa2000@yahoo.com

Nov 11 - 14, Thu thru Sun - Paderewski Festival in Paso Robles, CA