

### Max M. Kampelman Papers

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#### **REMARKS BY**

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#### **COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS**

## LUNCHEON MEETING WITH HIS EXCELLENCY WLODZIMIERZ CIMOSZEWICZ

### PRIME MINISTER, THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND

Washington, DC

May 2, 1997

Mr. Prime Minister, welcome to Washington. You are among friends. The men and women who comprise your audience today are among our country's most experienced and broadly engaged leaders in the area of international relations. You are aware, Mr. Prime Minister, that in our country it is not only our government officials who determine our foreign policy. The decision-making process is greatly influenced by academicians, journalists, interested citizen groups, and experts or near experts of many varieties — many of whom are with us today.

You can be assured, Mr. Prime Minister, that a spirit of respect, admiration, and appreciation for the accomplishments of your people and your government since the end of the Cold War permeates us all. Our friendship is a historic one, greatly invigorated by the large numbers of Americans who proudly trace their heritage back to Polish roots. That friendship appears likely to be further strengthened in the not too distant future by the term "ally" as we prepare to move out of the bloody 20<sup>th</sup> century into a 21<sup>st</sup> century which we hope will broadly perpetuate and enlarge the aspiration for democracy and human dignity, so necessary for our security.

Ladies and gentlemen, in behalf of the Council on Foreign Relations, I welcome you to this luncheon featuring the Prime Minister of Poland. Our subject is "Poland and the Security of Europe." We all expect that the Prime Minister will include the subject of NATO enlargement in his remarks, but, as you will learn about his distinguished career as an academician and public official, he is prepared to discuss a broad range of issues, including Poland's remarkable economic growth.

The Council's normal rule of non-attribution will prevail today. We encourage open discussion and toward that end do not wish statements made here later attributed in public media or forum, either directly or indirectly.

Our speaker was educated at the University of Warsaw where he specialized in public international law and then served as a lecturer and adjunct professor.

From 1980 to 1981, he was a Fulbright Fellow at our Columbia University.

A member of the Polish Parliament since 1989, he has steadily advanced in his country's political process, helping to form the Democratic Left Alliance, whose parliamentary caucus he chaired. He founded the "Poland in Europe" Foundation, he became a member of the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly. He has served as Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Justice, Deputy Speaker of Parliament, and now Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland and Chairman of the Committee for European integration.