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REMARKS BY PRESIDENT CLINTON AND PRESIDENT WALESA AFTER THEIR MEETING

Presidential Palace
Warsaw, Poland

8:25 P.M. (L)

PRESIDENT CLINTON: -- (In progress) -- security future, and about what we could do to continue to integrate the democracies, the new democracies in Central and Eastern Europe into a broader Europe. I think they feel a great solidarity with the people of Poland in their common efforts to now make freedom work.

President Walesa opened his remarks with a statement that I think may be well-known in Poland but perhaps not so much in the United States. He said, Poland's future needed more American generals, starting with General Motors and General Electric. (Laughter.) And we talked about what we could do to continue the process of economic reform -- after all, Poland had a four percent growth rate last year, a very impressive rate of growth -- but also, to spread the benefits of that reform to the people who are still unemployed and who are having a hard time, not only to ease the pain of this economic transition for them, but to raise a better promise for the future.

We also talked about the security future of Poland. And let me just say that the most important thing for the present is that we are having the first Partnership for Peace military exercises in Poland in September. The United States and our NATO allies are very excited about that and deeply impressed that Poland led the way to 21 nations joining the Partnership for Peace.

That is the beginning of a process that will not only eventually lead to an expansion of NATO, but much more importantly, gives us a chance to have a secure and unified Europe in which, for the first time, all nation states really do respect the territorial integrity of one another. In both these developments -- the economic developments and the security developments -- are due in no small part to the steadfast and courageous leadership that President Walesa has displayed for so many years.

I thank him for that, and I thank him for the opportunity to make these few remarks.

PRESIDENT WALESA: I wish to thank President Clinton, for coming to our country. I wish to thank for the initiatives which we welcome with great satisfaction.

America, as I said at the beginning of my remarks, always held a certain promise for Poland and other countries of the region. But this hope was in a different context. Today, the hope consists in the generals I mentioned, if we could get the American generals, the generals I meant -- General Motors and General Electric. Certain proposals have been set to encourage the generals to come our way, to make full use of the potential that we have. I think after supper we'll find solutions to all the problems.

Q Two questions to President Clinton. Mr. President, after Poland has become the most active partner for MORE
Peace, it's time to start working out some -- (inaudible) -- and
the specific question is -- (inaudible) -- Central and Eastern
European countries Does the United States then -- (inaudible.)

PRESIDENT CLINTON: First of all, with regard to
your first question, I have always stated my support for the idea
that NATO will expand. But NATO is a partnership of many
nations. I asked the NATO partnership to embrace, first, the
Partnership for Peace, so that we would have a way of reaching
out to all the nonmember democracies in Europe. I did that as a
first step toward expansion of NATO, but also because, in my
mind, I wanted to see whether there was a real feeling that
Europe could be united, and that these countries could each
pledge to respect one another's borders.

I must tell you that I was surprised that 21
nations, including Sweden and Finland -- two formerly neutral
countries -- asked to be a part of it. So it is taking on a life
of vitality of its own, which should not be underestimated. And
now what we have to do is to get the NATO partners together and
to discuss what the next steps should be. Since that has not
been done, I can't really say more about it because it is a joint
decision which has to be made, except to say that I believe that
NATO will be expanded, and I believe everyone is impressed by the
leadership which Poland has shown.

The answer to your second question is, yes, the
United States should and will do more to help sustain the process
of reform here in Poland and elsewhere, and to help to ease the
transition for the people who have still not found jobs and who
still have problems with their incomes.

As President Walesa said in our meeting, many people
in Poland who are unemployed are unemployed not because there is
overproduction in Poland, but because the transition from a
communist-controlled economy to a free market economy has not
been completed where they live. We have some experience in
dealing with those problems, even though they are problems
everywhere, including the United States. And I think we must do
more to help, and we will.

Q Mr. President, I'm wondering -- a question for
both of you, sir. I'm wondering about President Walesa's
lingering concerns about Russia, and I'm wondering what you have
told him to ease those concerns.

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Only he can answer the first
part of the question. But I will say that from my point of view,
we are in better shape now than we were a few months ago. Russia
has agreed to join the Partnership for Peace, and, therefore, to
accept the integrity of its neighbor's borders, the prospect of
joint exercises here in Poland and in other countries, and the
promise that NATO will expand. At the same time, Russia has
brought its deficit down, its inflation rate down and continue to
privatize its economy.

so, in an uncertain world, I think we are doing
about as well as we can in moving things in the right direction.
And I feel that we are moving in the direction that will maximize
the changes of reform and democracy staying alive in all these
countries.

PRESIDENT WALESA: Mr. President, my apprehensions
amount to 40 percent and my hopes amount to the other 60. If the
United States continues to extend its assurances of stability and
security in this region of the world, the proportions will
change. As for today, we should say that the United States did
provide the proper assurances, and the proportion of hopes keeps
expanding all the time. Russia, a democratic state, is a free
market economy, is a partner for everyone.

THE PRESS: Thank you.
President William Jefferson Clinton  
Statement after meeting with President Walesa  
July 7, 1994

I have just concluded a productive and enjoyable meeting with President Lech Walesa (lek va-WHEN-sa). The theme of our exchanges was the integration of Central Europe’s new democracies -- including Poland -- into a growing transatlantic community. Poland and America are bound by over two centuries of friendship. Since 1989, our relations have been extraordinarily close because we share a common purpose: the success of democracy, market economics and security in a renewed and undivided Europe.

President Walesa and I discussed specifics; first, security in Central and Eastern Europe. We expressed our pleasure that the Partnership for Peace is off to a fast start and I welcomed Poland’s decision to host the first Partnership exercise held on the territory of the former Warsaw Pact. We also discussed NATO’s future role in Europe, and I affirmed NATO’s decision of last January to expand to Europe’s new democracies. A Poland which shares the values of the democratic world should share in the security of that world, and I told President Walesa that the United States will never accept foreign hegemony over Poland or other free peoples of Central and Eastern Europe.

We discussed Poland’s historic market economic transformation, the only sure path to renewal and prosperity. I told President Walesa that the world remains impressed with Poland’s progress and the resourcefulness of the Polish people in building a modern economy. There is more to be done still. This is the time to complete the transformation and a time for Poland’s friends to keep helping. We shall and President Walesa and I shared ideas on promoting trade and investment and supporting privatization.

President Walesa and I considered ways to address the human and social stresses caused by the collapse of the old Soviet trading system. Our governments have been in close contact in the past months, and have agreed to work together to stimulate housing construction, provide jobs, fight organized and white collar crime and modernize Poland’s social services.

I look forward to continuing my conversations with President Walesa this evening, to seeing Prime Minister Pawlak (PAHV-lak) and addressing the Sejm (same) tomorrow, and to see something of Warsaw, one of Europe’s fastest changing and most dynamic cities.