



HOUSE OF COMMONS DEBATES

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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POLISH TRAGEDY

Mr. Borys Wrzesnewskij (Etobicoke Centre, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, 70 years ago, in their plan to enslave Poland, the Kremlin committed a horrific crime against the Polish people. Over 22,000 Poles, the flower of the Polish nation—officers, priests, professors, doctors—were shot and dumped into mass graves in Katyn forest.

Finally, after 70 years a proper and dignified commemoration was to take place with Polish President Kaczyński, First Lady Maria, along with 90 of Poland's top government and military officials. Saturday morning, on the plane's approach to Katyn, tragedy struck.

We cannot make sense of this curse of Katyn. However, as a result of this tragedy, the whole world has learned of the horror, long buried and long hidden in Katyn forest.

Canada's House of Commons, Canadians, the world stand in Solidarność with Polonia in their current grief and we bow our heads in Solidarność with the 22,000 martyrs of Katyn.

Wieczny odpoczynek racz im dać Panie. Niech spoczywają w Pokoju Wiecznym.



Official Statement of M.P. Borys Wrzesnewskij on the Tragedy of Katyn and Call for the Opening Up of the Katyn NKVD Files

Ottawa, ON
April 14, 2010

This week the word Solidarity has special poignancy. It was Poland's Solidarność that peacefully brought down an empire of evil, the prison of nations, the Soviet Union.

Poland's nightmare began with the Molotov-Ribbentrop agreement; Hitler's and Stalin's accord to wipe Poland off of the world's map.

Seventy years ago this week, in their plan to enslave the Polish state, the Kremlin committed a horrific crime against the Polish nation, decapitating the leadership of independent Poland.

One by one, hundred after hundred, thousand after thousand, over 22,000 Poles, the flower of the Polish people-government officials, officers, priests, professors, doctors, lawyers, and other intellectuals—were shot and dumped into mass graves in the Katyn forest of Smolensk Oblast.

Finally, after 70 years of waiting, this weekend a proper and dignified commemoration was to take place with Polish President Kaczyński, First Lady Maria Kaczyńska, and many of Poland's senior government and military officials taking part.

Saturday morning, on the plane's approach to Katyn, tragedy struck.

We cannot make sense of this curse of Katyn. All Canadians, and the whole world, stand in Solidarność with the Polish nation in their current grief.

Today, as a result of this tragedy, the whole world has learned of the horror of 70 years ago, long buried and long hidden in the Katyn forest.

Today, we stand in Solidarność with the Polish people in demanding that the Kremlin and FSB, finally after 70 years come clean, end the denials and diminutions of responsibility for their crime against the Polish nation, their crime against humanity, and open up the archives from this dark chapter in history.

The dignity of Poland's late President Kaczyński, the dignity of the late First Lady Maria, the dignity of all of the top leaders of the Polish nation who perished this Saturday; the dignity of the 22,000 Polish martyrs of 70 years ago, demand it.

Only such an act of goodwill could bring a measure of solace to the current suffering of the courageous Polish people.

Today, the whole world bows their head in Solidarność with the martyrs of Katyn.

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