

Tel. 803-868-2558

Rt. 1, Box 548
Six Mile, S.C. 29682
March 16, 1983

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20525

Sir:

Recently, I was expelled from Poland after living six weeks in the Polish Underground. Several days ago, I finished writing a report about my experiences to the State Department. I would be most honored if you would accept the enclosed copy of this document in the hope that you will find in it useful first hand information about the present situation in Poland.

I would like to convey the great love, respect, and admiration that the Polish people have for the United States, as I directly experienced it in my everyday life during the 6 years that I lived amongst them. Far too often we Americans get so wrapped up in our own short comings, that we forget that to many people in the world, our country still represents the ideals of Freedom, Justice, and Democratic government, the qualities that made our country great.

In meetings that I had with the leaders of the Polish (Solidarity) underground, they stressed the great need in Poland for sources of information independent of the despicable Communist controlled mass media. They conveyed to me the important need to continue and expand the services of Radio Free Europe (universally listened to in Poland), as well as other ways that they believe the West can help them to further their cause.

I was asked by the leaders of this movement to represent their fight for Freedom and Democracy, and to personally thank you, Mr. President, for your strong stand in defending the right of the Polish people to have free, independent trade unions. I would be very honored if I could serve my Country in some way by helping to get the true facts known about communism and the present situation in Poland today.

Most respectfully yours,
Garret Sobczyk
Dr. Garret E. Sobczyk
Research Mathematician

Encl.

Rt. 1, Box 548
Six Mile, SC 29682
March 14, 1983

Tel. 803-868-2558

The Honorable George Shultz
Secretary of State
The Department of State
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

It has recently come to my attention that a classified document exists in the Department of State which slanders my good name. This document accuses me of the offensive behavior of urinating on a United States Marine during the events that took place at the American Embassy in Warsaw, on the evening of Feb. 1, 1983.

I suspect that the origin of this false accusation is innocent enough; please see page 4 of my enclosed report, "Ordeal in Poland," but, never-the-less it imputes my loyalty to my country as an American, it does serious damage to my ability to effectively represent the Solidarity Underground here in the USA as I was requested by them to do, and calls into question my reliability as a witness to the illegal and criminal practices of General Jaruzelski's (ostensibly suspended) Military Junta.

In light of this accusation, I can understand the ambivalence on the part of the American Consul, Gerald Toney in Helsinki, Finland, towards me when I arrived at the Embassy on the afternoon of Feb. 8th; please see page 9 of my report. Perhaps it also explains the sudden cooling to my story by Western News reporters that I met in Geneva, and when I got back to New York on Feb. 27th, once they had a chance to confirm my story with the State Department. Finally, it explains the disinterest that the State Department itself has shown in learning from me what happened after I was dropped off at the Central Railroad Station in Warsaw, and in the information that I have concerning the Polish Underground Movement.

Because of the reasons given above, I respectfully request a full explanation from the State Department about this unfortunate affair. In particular, I request a copy of the Classified Document that Mr. Toney in Helsinki would not show to me, and which I suspect to be at the heart of this slur against my good character.

I close this letter with the hope that this matter can be resolved without public embarrassment to my Government, and that the damage already done to my good name can be repaired.

Respectfully yours,
Garret E. Sobczyk
Dr. Garret E. Sobczyk
Research Mathematician

cc. Ms. Sharon Lucas, Anderson Independent Mail (SC).
The Honorable Butler Derrick, Congressman From SC.
The Honorable Strom Thurmond, Senator from SC.



MAR 28 1983

Case Number 8305669

Dear Sir/Madam:

Thank you for your recent letter (a copy of which is enclosed) in which you request access to Department of State records.

We have begun to process your request and will make every effort to provide you with the requested information in as timely a manner as possible. I have enclosed a copy of the Department's fee schedule for your information.

Please note that the cut-off date for retrieving documents in response to requests is the date of the requester's letter. Accordingly, no documents which originated after the date of your request will be retrieved.

Should you have any questions, please write to: the Information and Privacy Staff; Room 1239; Department of State; 2201 C Street, N.W.; Washington, D.C. 20520. Please refer to the above case number in your correspondence.

Sincerely,

Peter M. Sheils
Chief, Operations Staff
Information Access Branch

Enclosures:

1. Fee schedule.
2. Your correspondence.

Tel. 803-868-2558

Rt. 1, Box 548
Six Mile, SC 29682
March 16, 1983

The Honorable Clement J. Zablocki
House of Representatives
House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Sir:

Recently, I was expelled from Poland after living six weeks in the Polish Underground. Several days ago, I finished writing a report about my experiences to the State Department. I would be most honored if you would accept the enclosed copy of this document in the hope that you will find in it useful first hand information about the present situation in Poland.

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I would like to convey the great love, respect, and admiration that the Polish people have for the United States, as I directly experienced it in my everyday life during the 6 years that I lived and worked amongst them. Far too often we Americans get so wrapped up in our own short comings, that we forget that to many people in the world, our country still represents the ideals of Freedom, Justice, and Democratic government, the qualities that made our country great.

Please also find enclosed a copy of a letter I have written to the Honorable George Shultz, Secretary of State. I would greatly appreciate any assistance you may be able to provide me regarding this unwarranted, but very damaging accusation against me.

I would be very honored if I could serve my country in some way by helping to get the true facts known about communism and the present situation in Poland today.

Most respectfully yours,
Garret Sobczyk
Br. Garret E. Sobczyk
Research Mathematician

Encls.

CLEMENT J. ZABLOCKI, WIS., CHAIRMAN

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Congress of the United States

Committee on Foreign Affairs

House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

JOHN J. BRADY, JR.
CHIEF OF STAFF

March 22, 1983

Dr. Garret E. Sobczyk
Rt. 1, Box 548
Six Mile, South Carolina 29682

Dear Dr. Sobczyk:

Thank you for your letter of March 16 regarding your recent experiences in Poland.

In an effort to be of assistance I have requested a report from the State Department on the incidents you describe. As soon as I receive the report I will be in touch with you again.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,


Chairman

CLEMENT J. ZABLOCKI, WIS., CHAIRMAN

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Congress of the United States

Committee on Foreign Affairs

House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

JOHN J. BRADY, JR.
CHIEF OF STAFF

April 11, 1983

Dr. Garret E. Sobczyk
Rt. 1, Box 548
Six Mile, South Carolina 29682

Dear Dr. Sobczyk:

This is in further reference to my letter of March 22.

The State Department has informed me that your letter recounting your experiences in Poland has been forwarded to the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw for reply.

I will contact you again once the Embassy has submitted their report.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,


Chairman

CJZ:cg

Tel. 803-868-2558

Rt. 1, Box 548
Six Mile, South Carolina
29682
April 18, 1983

The Honorable Clement J. Zablocki
Congress of the United States
Committee on Foreign Affairs
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Sir:

This letter is in regard to your letters of March 22 and April 11. I am very grateful to you for relaying the information that the State Department had forwarded my account of my experiences in Poland to the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw for reply.

In answer to my letter, of March 14, to the Honorable George Shultz, the State Department sent me a Form Letter on March 28, and a Fee Schedule for retrieving information from their computer. They also assigned me the Case Number 8300869.

Presently I am hard at work writing a book about Poland entitled, "Return Ticket to Poland". Although I am a long ways from completing this manuscript, much less getting it published, I am looking forward to the time when I can present you with an honorary copy of it.

The interest you have shown in me is a great encouragement for me and reinforces my belief in our democratic system.

Most sincerely yours,

Garret E. Sobczyk

Dr. Garret E. Sobczyk

CLEMENT J. ZABLOCKI, WIS., CHAIRMAN

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ED ZSCHAU, CALIF.

Congress of the United States

Committee on Foreign Affairs

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

JOHN J. BRADY, JR.
CHIEF OF STAFF

June 1, 1983

Dr. Garrett E. Sobczyk
Rt. 1, Box 548
Six Mile, South Carolina 29682

Dear Dr. Sobczyk:

In further reference to my previous correspondence, I am enclosing the report which I requested on your behalf from the American Embassy in Warsaw.

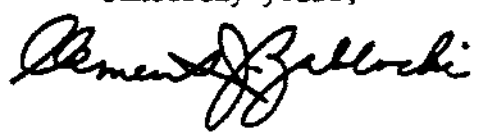
After a careful review of the report it appears clear to me that the Embassy and various Consular offices involved in your case acted responsibly and in full compliance with your human rights as an American citizen in Poland. While I may not agree with the actions of the Polish government in this matter, it has to be recognized that you were in fact subject to their decisions as a holder of a Polish visa and residency card.

In view of these circumstances I do not believe there is any further recourse for you.

Please be assured it was a pleasure to be of assistance to you in this matter and regret the outcome could not be more favorable.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,



Chairman

Enclosure

CJZ:gbg



C 116 103 05
George B

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Warsaw, Poland

Received

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MAY 21 1983

Committee on Foreign Affairs

RECEIVED

MAY 17 1983

May 17, 1983

The Honorable Clement J. Zablocki
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter of March 22, 1983, concerning difficulties which Dr. Garret Eugene Sobczyk experienced in Poland. Your letter has been referred by Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Congressional Relations Alvin Paul Drischler to the Embassy for response.

In view of your interest, I asked the Consular Section of the Embassy to prepare a memorandum concerning Dr. Sobczyk's case. This memorandum is enclosed with this letter. It explains the circumstances of Mr. Sobczyk's detention and subsequent expulsion from Poland, as they are known to the Embassy, and the assistance which the Embassy extended to him.

I hope that this letter and memorandum will be of assistance to you. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to address them to us.

Sincerely yours,

Herbert E. Wilgis, Jr.
Charge d'Affaires a.i.

Enclosure: As stated

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MEMORANDUM

Subject: Assistance to American Citizen - Dr. Garret Eugene Sobczyk

Reference: Inquiry from Honorable Clement J. Zablocki
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

October 13, 1982:

The Embassy was first made aware of Dr. Garret E. Sobczyk's problems with Polish officials. On that date Dr. Sobczyk, a United States citizen resident of Poland, told an Embassy official visiting Wroclaw that he had been detained for investigation by the local police on October 7 and held for two days. During a search of his house, the police had confiscated various professional papers and notes of events and conversations he had kept in Wroclaw since the beginning of Polish martial law. He told the Embassy Officer that he had been questioned about his contacts with the Solidarity underground. Upon his release he was told to depart Poland. He took this to be an admonition rather than an order. Dr. Sobczyk declined to comment fully about his experience but stated that he only wanted the Embassy informed of his detention. The officer told Dr. Sobczyk that he had a right to demand

to see an American Consular Officer should he be detained again and that the Embassy would extend to him all protection possible under the US/Polish Consular Convention. However, this protection could not assure respect for civil rights to the same extent we enjoy them in the United States. The officer gained the distinct impression that Dr. Sobczyk's main concern was to prevent the Polish government from expelling him since he had invested his time and money in a house and in his professional life in Wroclaw. He told the officer that he wanted no contact with the Embassy or the Consulates at Krakow and Poznan lest this action attract official Polish attention to him.

December 24:

A colleague of Dr. Sobczyk met with a Consular Officer at the Embassy on Christmas Eve to discuss new problems. In a letter delivered at that time to the Embassy, Dr. Sobczyk stated that he went to the Ministry of Interior's Bureau of Passports in Wroclaw on December 22, to arrange for exit and entrance visas which would allow him to attend an International Mathematical Conference in Prague, Czechoslovakia and to return to Poland. At that time, he was informed he would have to depart Poland permanently by December 31. The authorities demanded that Dr. Sobczyk arrange his personal affairs and report to the local police every day prior to his departure. However, Dr. Sobczyk departed the passport office, leaving his U.S. passport and Polish permanent residency card behind. He went into hiding. Embassy and Consulate Poznan Consular Officers met at the Embassy on Christmas

Day, December 25, to discuss Dr. Sobczyk's case. It was agreed that our Consul at Poznan would travel to Wroclaw on December 27 to meet with Dr. Sobczyk and with the local authorities in the hopes of resolving the matter.

December 27:

Our Consul in Poznan met with Dr. Sobczyk in Wroclaw. Dr. Sobczyk refused to accept the fact of his impending expulsion by Polish authorities. He noted the need to resolve a number of personal problems--to secure the return of documents previously confiscated by the authorities, to initiate divorce proceedings against his wife, and to begin a suit to recover from his wife the money he had invested in a house at Nadolice. He told the Consul that by resisting the police demands he would be keeping faith with his friends in the Solidarity underground. He told the Consul that he saw nothing to lose by staying underground until he was prepared to depart Poland. He stated that the worse the police treated him, the worse he would castigate them in a book he intended to write about their brutality in suppressing demonstrations against martial law.

December 28:

The Consul met the following day with an official of the police passport office in Wroclaw. The official refused to discuss Dr. Sobczyk's request for an extension of two additional months in Poland to straighten out his affairs; he simply asserted that information on

appeal procedures had already been provided to Dr. Sobczyk. The official also told the Consul that if Dr. Sobczyk did not leave Poland by the police deadline, they would start searching for him and, when found, expel him from Poland. The Consul subsequently conveyed to Dr. Sobczyk the results of his meeting at the passport office. Dr. Sobczyk declined to deal openly with the authorities. At that time, the Consul refused Dr. Sobczyk's request for asylum at the Embassy or the Consulate until he had settled his affairs. Dr. Sobczyk was told that he would have to settle his problems in the open and that continued attempts to hide himself only endangered his friends who were hiding him and would most probably cause the authorities to draw the wrong impression about him if caught with underground activists. Dr. Sobczyk was informed of the limited consular protection which could be afforded him if he decided to violate Polish law.

January 25:

Dr. Sobczyk delivered a note to the Embassy via a friend requesting the Embassy's assistance in acting as an intermediary on his behalf with the Ministry of Interior to facilitate his departure from Poland. In the letter, Dr. Sobczyk stated that he desired to effect his transfer over to Polish authorities through the good auspices of the Embassy. The Consul General went to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on January 27 to present Dr. Sobczyk's case. The Ministry was informed that Dr. Sobczyk was prepared to depart Poland but that he desired to resolve personal matters--obtain funds from his Polish

banking account, initiate action related to the sale of his house, resolve his marital problems--and that time was essential to accomplish this. It was emphasized that Dr. Sobczyk was in violation only of Polish immigration laws and had committed no crime. Ministry officials were given a copy of Dr. Sobczyk's letter addressed to the Minister of Interior requesting help in clearing himself of charges and in reversing the decision to expel him from Poland. The official of the Ministry with whom the Consul General met told him that the matter would be reviewed.

February 1:

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed us that the Polish government had taken the following position regarding Dr. Sobczyk:

- He could not demand preconditions in this matter;
- His case would be handled by the passport authorities in Wroclaw and not in Warsaw;
- Dr. Sobczyk would have to present himself at the Wroclaw passport section during normal working hours and that he would be accorded courtesies given any other person, be he Polish or a foreigner;
- All personal documents belonging to Dr. Sobczyk would be returned to him so that he could depart Poland;
- All items confiscated in October 1982 not related to criminal or political matters would be returned to him; and
- Dr. Sobczyk's request to extend his stay in Poland would be given due consideration by the authorities once he personally gave the

reasons and extenuating circumstances which might justify such action.

Instructions were conveyed to our Consulate at Poznan to meet with Dr. Sobczyk and accompany him to the Wroclaw passport office. However, Dr. Sobczyk appeared at the Embassy later that same day. Consular officers met with Dr. Sobczyk and explained to him the position taken by the Polish government. He was reminded that the Embassy and Consulate tried to assist him in resolving his problems but that he had decided to force the issue by going into hiding--creating a difficult situation. Dr. Sobczyk vacillated throughout his conversation between a desire to turn himself over to Polish authorities and a desire to have the Embassy somehow whisk him quickly out of Poland. He did not clearly define what action or assistance he desired from the Embassy--other than, in his own words, absolute assurances from the Embassy regarding his personal safety. Dr. Sobczyk stated that he had not been in the best of health and needed medical assistance. He explained his problems and the office of the Medical Advisor at the British Embassy (whose services are used by the American Embassy) was telephoned. We were informed that the Medical Advisor was returning that evening from West Germany and would be able to see Dr. Sobczyk the next day. We were particularly concerned about the state of Dr. Sobczyk's health. At Dr. Sobczyk's request, a telephone call was made in his presence to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The previously obtained position was repeated to us: Dr. Sobczyk would have to deal with the authorities in Wroclaw, the place

of his residency in Poland, and that given his current alledged violation of Polish law, he was in no position to demand preconditions involving his continued status in Poland. Dr. Sobczyk was told that we appreciated his concern for the outlawed Solidarity Trade Union movement and its members, many of whom the Embassy had dealt with in processing their applications for refugee status and onward travel to the United States, but that his actions, however, well-meaning, could jeopardize the personal safety of many of them.

Arrangements were made for Dr. Sobczyk to spend the night of February 1 at the Intercontinental Hotel Victoria. When that evening Dr. Sobczyk refused to leave an area of the Embassy which had to be vacated for security reasons the Embassy's Security Officer (who is misidentified in Dr. Sobczyk's letter) requested Embassy Marine Security Guards to escort him out of the building. He was driven by a consular officer with a Marine accompaniment to the hotel. In his correspondence, Dr. Sobczyk stated that the false accusation was raised that he urinated on a United States Marine on the evening of February 1, 1983. While Dr. Sobczyk was in the vehicle taking him from the Embassy to his hotel, he did indeed urinate on the Marines.

February 2:

Dr. Sobczyk spent a peaceful night at the hotel. He was picked up the next day by two Consular Officers, driven to the Embassy, and then accompanied to the office of the British Medical Advisor, a copy of

whose brief report is attached. Later that afternoon, Dr. Sobczyk was escorted by an Embassy Officer to the Warsaw railroad station for his return to Wroclaw. Arrangements had been made for him to meet in Wroclaw with an officer from Consulate Poznan to deal with his situation. The events described by Dr. Sobczyk relating to a judicial hearing are totally new to the Embassy.

February 5:

The Embassy was informed on Saturday, February 5, that Dr. Sobczyk had been detained and was going to be immediately deported from Poland. No details regarding the time, place, or method of detention were available.

February 7:

It was not until February 7 that the Embassy's inquiries to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were officially answered: Dr. Sobczyk had been deported the previous day by ferry to Finland. That same evening, Polish television news covered the expulsion of Dr. Sobczyk. The coverage included film footage of Dr. Sobczyk with alleged "evidence" of his activities. Dr. Sobczyk was accused of "hostile anti-socialist activity harmful to the state". In particular, he was accused of distributing anti-state literature, taking part in demonstrations after the imposition of martial law, and maintaining contacts with underground elements. The news report stated that Dr. Sobczyk had been in hiding for one and a half months without a

passport, valid visa, or residency permit.

We raised with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs the matter of a court hearing which Dr. Sobczyk referenced in his letter to you. According to the Ministry, Dr. Sobczyk appeared before an administrative collegium which deals with, among other things, violations of immigration and residency laws. He was found to be in violation of the current Polish law pertaining to the residency status of foreign nationals in Poland. An official of the Ministry admitted that the proceedings were filmed to maximize their propaganda value. The Ministry was at a loss to explain, however, why Dr. Sobczyk was detained in Warsaw rather than being allowed to return to Wroclaw as had been arranged.