

**Kongsberg/Raytheon Seminar “Air and Missile Defense for Poland”  
Akademia Obrony Narodowej, December 2, 2010**

**Remarks by U.S. Ambassador Lee Feinstein**

Thank you. Good morning, General Mieczyslaw Cieniuch (Chief of the General Staff), General Romuald Ratajczak (Rector of the National Defense University and host of the seminar), Stanislaw Wzatek( Chairman of the Parliamentary Defense Committee), General Hanlon (President of Raytheon Europ), Ambassador Nygaard of Norway, Kongsberg executives, ladies and gentlemen.

It is an honor to speak to you. Two weeks ago at the Lisbon summit, NATO reached a historic agreement on a new strategic concept to reaffirm our solemn commitments to one another’s defense, to reform our institutions, and to adapt NATO to the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

NATO is an alliance of democracies and at the core of the new strategic concept is the our reaffirmation of our commitment to Article 5, which President Obama has described as a bond for our time and all time. In the past two years, we have taken steps together as allies to make these commitments concrete in the planning we do to prevent threats to our

security; in our training; in the rigorous exercises we conduct; and in the systems we operate.

One of the main accomplishments of the Lisbon meeting was our agreement to establish territorial missile defense as an Article 5 mission. This is a historic step. And a necessary one. The threat to Europe has grown with deliberate speed, especially from short- and medium-range missiles. We work assiduously through our diplomacy and through our military preparedness to prevent and slow these threats. But we must prepare to defend against them, too. The threat is magnified by efforts to gain nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons. The same regimes are using similar means to obtain missile technology. As their missile programs improve and as the range of their missiles increases, these activities jeopardize the security of allies on both sides of the Atlantic.

This is why the United States welcomed NATO leaders' decision to develop a territorial missile defense designed for the first time to protect NATO territory. We see it as an essential element of a 21<sup>st</sup> century strategy. The NATO decision in effect ratified the leadership role of Poland and the US in agreeing more than a year ago to adopt the Phased Adaptive Approach to missile defense, which the Vice President aptly stated is better for the United States, better for NATO and better for Poland.

In his remarks following the NATO Summit, President Barack Obama stated, “we’ve agreed to develop missile defense capability that is strong enough to cover all NATO European territory and populations, as well as the United States...It offers a role for all of our allies. It responds to the threats of our times.”

Beyond these basic and obvious benefits, NATO’s endorsement of the phased adaptive approach is good for Poland because it affirms Poland’s leadership position within the Alliance. It affirms Poland’s decision in October 2009 to host SM-3. Work is already under way to build this new, more effective system. And the President is committed to having an operational system working in Europe on schedule. With NATO’s endorsement, missile defense cooperation between the United States and Poland is reinforced by the support for the entire alliance.

It is good that the entire Alliance is working hard to counter emerging ballistic missile threats, and why the theme of today’s seminar, “Air and Missile Defense for Poland” is so timely. I applaud your initiative and efforts and wish you a fruitful and productive discussion.

In going forward, we have no no better friends than the General, than Defense Minister Klich, General Koziej and Minister Sikorksi.

Good luck. I look forward to Ambassador Nygaard's remarks and wish you a successful conference.