

Remarks for Ambassador Lee Feinstein
Opening of the North American Trail – 20th Anniversary Event of the Inaugural U.S.-
Polish Joint Commission for Humanitarian Assistance
September 6, 2011-Powsin Botanical Garden

To dla mnie zaszczyt, że mogę wspólnie z Państwem
otworzyć amerykańską ścieżkę edukacyjną.

Tym bardziej, że dziś przypada 20. {dwudziesta} rocznica
utworzenia Polsko-Amerykańskiej Wspólnej Komisji ds.

Pomocy Humanitarnej i rolniczych programów doradczych.

[I am honored to be here today to help inaugurate the North American trail
and celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the inaugural Polish-U.S. Joint Commission
for Humanitarian Assistance and agricultural technical advisory programs.]

Chciałbym bardzo podziękować dyrektorowi Ogrodu Botanicznego w Powsinie profesorowi Jerzemu Puchalskiemu za zorganizowanie dzisiejszej uroczystości. Dziękuję też wszystkim Państwu za przybycie.

[First, I would like to acknowledge those who have joined us for the opening. Specifically, I would wish to recognize our host, Professor Jerzy Puchalski (Pu-Hal-ski), Director of the Powsin (Pov-sin) Botanical Garden, and thank him for holding this event today.]

I want to welcome all the other gathered dignitaries here as well. You are important and you have played an integral role in the successful programs we are here to witness today. Given my allotted time I would just like to recognize all of you at once.

Thank you all for being with us and helping to dedicate this wonderful new trail in a very beautiful Garden. The trail symbolizes the strength and durability of the U.S.-Polish relationship, built upon a sturdy foundation of mutual interest, respect, and collaboration.

In 1988, the United States embarked on a unique trial with Poland authorized under the American Aid to Poland Act. Together we implemented a model empowering a U.S.-Polish Joint Commission to recognize societal infrastructure needs near equally with rural development requirements. That model along with programs implemented through the Joint Commission as will be described by my colleagues, proved very successful. To be clear, the Joint Commissions' success was due to the commitment by many, many dedicated individuals to our common goals and objectives.

In 1989, the United States moved forward under the U.S. Support for East European Democracy (SEED) Act, to provide more resources, in the form of capital and technical assistance that complimented rural development and agricultural capacity building efforts initiated by the Joint Commission. Programs initiated then, as will be described by my colleagues here, continue today with the Polish Ministry of Agriculture and its Agricultural Extension Service. Again, many, many dedicated individuals committed over the years toward our common goals and objectives made success of these programs possible.

In looking back at our common history, we are reminded that the U.S.-Polish relationship is founded, sustained, and strengthened on the basis of common values such as freedom, democracy, security, and prosperity.

In looking forward, as well as being here to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of Polish-U.S. Joint Commission relations with the opening of the North American trail in Powsin Botanical Garden, we also are here to to acknowledge the important role of the U.S. and Polish technical advisors who focused on building the economic capacity of Poland's rural agricultural community. Their work is ongoing, but their efforts are evident today.

We recognize that the depth and breadth of the ongoing cooperation between our countries to advance our societies must be pursued with recognition that the delicate parts of our environment must be protected and preserved as well. I refer to our beautiful flora and fauna about us. These trees started small and have grown large and strong, similar to the Polish and U.S. relation.

I am just struck and honored as America's Ambassador to say thank you to Poland for growing and preserving North America's trees here, outside Warsaw. It is surprising to look around and feel like I am home. I was surprised that so many trees from my native East Coast region are here, various varieties of Magnolias, flowering Dogwood, and Tulip trees. These trees provide a fitting home for us to remember the contributions to Poland by the Joint Commission and the technical advisors.

We hope the path will be well-trodden and thoroughly enjoyed by the over 50,000 students and public visitors who come to the Garden each year to enhance their physical and mental wellbeing through enjoying the beauty of nature and learning about those who helped shape the world we share today.

Dziękuję.