

**Ambassador Stephen Mull**  
**Remarks**  
**Ceremony to Return Historical Artifact**  
**August 29, 2013 – Polish National Police Headquarters**

I would like to welcome Commander of the Polish National Police General Marek Działoszyński, Deputy Minister of Culture and National Heritage Małgorzata Milanowska, and Deputy Director of the Majdanek State Museum Danuta Olesiuk.

One of the most sacred obligations any government has is ensuring that we never forget the atrocities that have happened in the past, so that we can make sure they never happen again. This is especially true of the horrible crimes committed by the Nazis in World War II. Poland knows something about this, as it suffered grievously with millions of its citizens murdered and

imprisoned and so many of its cities destroyed by Nazi occupiers. Since the war, Poland has played a leading role in the world in reminding all of us of our moral obligation to keep alive the memories of these crimes and their victims, and to resolve “never again!”

Today’s ceremony is an important symbol of America’s support for Poland’s efforts to help ensure that no one ever has to suffer the horrible crimes that Poland and its citizens suffered.

In June of this year, the Polish National Police (PNP) contacted our FBI office at the U.S. Embassy here in Warsaw about a WWII Jewish Prisoner’s Hat being auctioned on eBay. The PNP requested the FBI’s assistance to stop the auction and recover the hat, as the Majdanek State Museum had reported it stolen .

The FBI quickly intervened with eBay to stop the auction, and recovered the hat from the seller, enabling us to return it to Poland. The police have authenticated the hat as the stolen property from Majdanek, and so I am really pleased to be able to officially return it to Poland today.

Director, please accept, with our deep respect, the return of this artifact to the Majdanek Museum. And on behalf of the FBI and the entire U.S. government, I would like to thank the Polish National Police for this latest example of our excellent cooperation in support of our common interests and values in the field of law enforcement; cooperation which is an enduring and valuable part of the friendship between the United States and Poland.

Thank you for your attention.