

**Amb. Lee Feinstein's Participation in GE Hitachi's Poland Nuclear Supply Chain Conference – Signing Ceremony at the Gdansk Shipyard
Wednesday, January 26, 2011 at 4:30 p.m.**

Distinguished Members of Parliament, Polish Government officials, senior GE Hitachi executives, ladies and gentlemen, it is a distinct honor for me to be present here this afternoon. We meet in a room that has hosted signing of agreements that have been fundamental to the restoration of Polish democracy and to Poland's bold and skillful transition over the last 30 years.

The Polish Government has concluded – thoughtfully, I believe – that nuclear power is a core part of the solution to two imperatives: new power generating capacity to sustain growth on the one hand, and cleaner power to respond to global climate change on the other.

It is a bold choice. Building civil nuclear power capability has to be counted as one of Poland's greatest economic challenges, and the United States is privileged and proud to work with Poland as it writes the legislation, trains the safety inspectors, teaches the future engineers, and builds the industrial capacity to support its new, modern nuclear power industry.

What is taking place here today is a major step in this direction. The agreements signed here today between GE Hitachi and the Gdansk Shipyard, RAFAKO, and the four universities offer the prospect of deep, sophisticated, and enduring industrial cooperation. They speak to America's strong support for Poland's nascent nuclear industry. Most recently:

- President Obama pledged to President Komorowski in the Oval Office the United States' support for Poland's nuclear program
- The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission – the world's most experienced and respected civil nuclear regulator – has begun a series of training projects for new Polish regulatory officials
- The U.S. Departments of Commerce and Energy signed a nuclear cooperation agreement with the Polish Ministry of Economy to advance bilateral commercial and research cooperation
- My Embassy is building links to support joint research between experienced U.S. nuclear energy faculties like Oregon State University and Polish technical universities that are building the training programs for Poland's new generation of nuclear engineers.

- GE Hitachi has joined a small group of elite U.S. companies offering internships for Polish university students to work and train in the United States, under the mentorship of experienced U.S. executives. During their meeting in Washington, Presidents Komorowski and Obama also applauded this new partnership between the Polish American Freedom Foundation and leading U.S. companies to bring Polish university students to the United States for summer internships in the private sector. Thanks to Danny Roderick's personal support, GE Hitachi has committed to host 15 Polish university students in the United States this summer, a program we look forward to continuing every year.

The involvement of U.S. firms such as GE Hitachi in the construction of Poland's first commercial nuclear power plant offers the exciting prospect of the creation of thousands of well-paying jobs both in Poland and in the United States. This is a striking vision for me – these historic shipyards humming once again with highly-skilled workers, building the key components of the most modern nuclear power plants in the world in collaboration with a U.S. company.

President Walesa has famously once said to the members of Congress: “Bring us your Generals: General Electric and General Motors.” I'm pleased to say that GE is here, and it has created 10,000 jobs in Poland. Congratulations!