

**REMARKS FOR THE UNVEILING OF THE STATUE OF  
TADEUSZ KOSCIUSZKO  
PLAC ŻELAZNEJ BRAMY, WARSAW  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 11:00**

President Komorowski

Mayor Gronkiewicz-Walz

Professor Drozdowski

Pan Sikora

Ladies and Gentlemen, Good morning!

I would like to congratulate the President, the Mayor, the Association for Building a Memorial to Tadeusz Kosciuszko in Warsaw, Professor Drozdowski, and Citibank for this initiative to honor a great Polish hero and one of the fathers of modern democracy.

Tadeusz Kosciuszko arrived in North America in 1776 with a passion for liberty and a genius for engineering. As a volunteer in the American War for Independence, Kosciuszko quickly became known as the most talented engineer of the Continental Army. Known for designing fortifications at Saratoga – a pivotal battle in the revolutionary war – and at West Point – today’s U.S. Military

Academy – Kosciuszko was also a champion of the common man. In his last will and testament Kosciuszko decreed that his U.S. property be used to buy the freedom of black slaves and provide for their education and independent life and work.

Today, Tadeusz Kosciuszko stands in the pantheon of heroes of the American Revolution. Described by Thomas Jefferson as “the purest son of liberty I ever knew,” Kosciuszko’s mark is ever-present throughout the U.S. Despite the difficulty Americans have in pronouncing his name, countless towns, parks, highways and streets throughout the country bear the name Kosciuszko.

This statue is a replica of one of the most prominent statues of Kosciuszko in the United States. Standing in Lafayette Park, across the street from the White House, Kosciuszko keeps company with three other foreign heroes of the Revolutionary War: the Marquis de Lafayette and Comte de Rochambeau of France and Baron von Steuben of Prussia.

More than 200 years after Kosciuszko’s Uprising, Poland is not only a democratic, independent republic, but also resilient, prosperous, and a leader in NATO and the European Union. Kosciuszko exemplifies the spirit that joins Poland and the

United States: a deep and abiding commitment to fight for the freedom and rights of others around the world.

How proud Kosciuszko would be on this day, to see his native land and adopted country standing together, side by side.

Thank you and congratulations.

Panie Prezydencie [*President Komorowski*]

Pani Prezydent [*Mayor Gronkiewicz-Walz*]

Panie Profesorze [*Professor Drozdowski*]

Panie Prezesie [*Mr. Sikora*]

Szanowni Państwo! Dzień dobry. [*Ladies and Gentlemen, Good morning*]

To dla mnie wielki zaszczyt, że mogę reprezentować naród amerykański na od dawna wyczekiwanej uroczystości odsłonięcia pomnika Tadeusza Kościuszki.

Pomnik ten będzie stale przypominał warszawiakom o człowieku, którego Adam Michnik nazwał “jednym z ojców nowoczesnej demokracji.”

Chciałbym pogratulować Stowarzyszeniu Budowy Pomnika Tadeusza Kościuszki,

Profesorowi Drozdowskiemu i innym osobom zaangażowanym w budowę

pomnika, a także Citibankowi, który udzielił mu koniecznego wsparcia

materialnego, oraz Miastu Stołecznemu Warszawa, które przeznaczyło na rzecz

uhonorowania wielkiego polskiego bohatera stosowny plac.