

Polish – American Conference on Science and Technology

December 13-14, 2010

Remarks by Ambassador Lee Feinstein

Ladies and gentlemen, Szanowni Panstwo

Let me begin by taking the opportunity to thank Minister Pawlak, Professor Kleiber, and the organizing committee for including me in the opening session this morning and to congratulate you all on putting together an excellent program with such a distinguished group of participants. I would like to acknowledge Minister Kudrycka, Secretary O'Neill, and President Wisniowski. The caliber of people here today willing to brave the snow to discuss S&T cooperation in government, education, and business is remarkable. This is a tribute both to the importance of the topic we will discuss, and to the excellent work by Dr. Wiśniowski and the Aviation Institute in arranging this year's conference.

I returned just yesterday from Washington, where I joined President Komorowski for two separate events that are meaningful for all of us here today. During President Komorowski's meeting with President Obama, the two discussed... Security is fundamental, but so are economics and

science and technology. They also announced agreement in principle on a new bilateral Memorandum of Understanding to enhance scientific and technical cooperation on energy technology. Later that evening, I joined President Komorowski at a dinner hosted by leaders of U.S. businesses invested in Poland. As is often the case when talking to U.S. investors here, conversations around that dinner table quickly turned to themes of research and development, business engagement with universities, and technological innovations.

President Komorowski's meetings incorporated an important combination that I see built into today's event, but one that I want to emphasize – the combination of government and business in supporting science and technology. This is a combination that I count as one of America's core economic strengths, and I am really glad to see strong participation in this conference both from our governments and from our private sectors.

Most of us here today are already working in one way or another with colleagues from our partner country. Whether you come from private business, from a university, a government agency, or the uniformed military, partnership with the United States brings more than capital, more

than security, and more than bilateral agreements. Partnership with the United States brings technology, human resource development, and innovation.

On the government side, the energy Memorandum of Understanding that the two presidents agreed to last week will be the latest in a series of agreements that have built deeper science links between the United States and Poland. Our bilateral Science and Technology agreement from 2006 has supported a set of cooperative research projects in areas as diverse as biology, geology, and energy research. Just recently, the U.S. Geological Survey has begun a project with the Polish Geological Institute to completely survey Poland's unconventional gas resources.

Our militaries have built bilateral cooperation around research on chemical and biological weapon defense, semiconductor materials, and cyber defense, while the U.S. military has supported development of Polish research capacity at the Polish bioresearch lab in Pulawy and at the military distance learning center.

We don't do these things because Poland is deployed in Afghanistan or supporting democratic development in Eastern Europe. We are doing them because, as President Obama said last week, Poland is among our

closest allies in the world. We view a stronger, more capable Poland, both as an economic partner and a NATO ally, as in the U.S. interest.

In my year as U.S. Ambassador to Poland, I have met with U.S. investors across the country. I have learned from my experiences how deeply committed U.S. investors are to developing technology – and the human resource capacity necessary to support technology development – in Poland. The era when U.S. companies entered this market to produce lower value-added products is over.

A KMPG/American Chamber of Commerce survey of U.S. investors, published nearly one year ago, showed that U.S. investors value the quality and skills of their labor forces significantly more than relatively low wage levels. More than simply reducing labor costs, U.S. investors are committed to moving with Poland up its development path.

- They are aware of how capable and well educated Poles are.
- They come here to develop those capabilities in the framework of U.S. corporate best practices.
- They implement deep employee training programs.
- They work with Polish universities to ensure that graduates –potential recruits – emerge well trained and ready for the workforce.

- They are building R&D centers to develop local research capacity, and connecting with Polish researchers to adopt local innovation.

Although not true for every country, the United States is in the happy position here of encountering no conflict between supporting Polish development and our own national economic goals of increasing exports and employment. Higher U.S. investment here, whether in auto manufacturing, IT services, or aerospace, generally supports higher U.S. exports without displacing U.S. jobs. Increased productions of Opels in Gliwice does not threaten auto workers in Detroit, while new IT development jobs in Wroclaw supports increased employment of complimentary IT workers in California.

The strategic commitment to Poland's development by the U.S. government and individual U.S. businesses forms a strong foundation for our science and technology cooperation. But the bilateral agreements I mentioned earlier are not the end of the U.S. government's efforts. Agreements to permit even deeper defense industry cooperation as well as bilateral military R&D cooperation are in the works. We do more than people realize, but there may be more than we can do.

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Let me stop here and thank once again Dr. Kleiber for all of his efforts. For many years, he has been a leader in building strong science and technology links between Poland and the United States. Let me also thank Assistant Secretary O’Neil for coming here from the United States and spending three days in Poland. And most of all, let me thank Deputy Prime Minister Pawlak, who has showed many times over the years that he is a good friend and partner of the United States.

I look forward to hearing the results of your meetings today and tomorrow. My Embassy colleagues and I will continue to support your efforts to build deeper links between the United States and Poland.

Thank you.