

Report from the Meeting at the National Archives

September 15, 2011

Following the Katyń Conference, several representatives of Polonia took part in a meeting arranged by the office of Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur with the senior archivist of the U.S. National Archives. Among those participating in the meeting was Frank Spula, President of the Polish American Congress, Aurelia Pucinski, Daughter of the Chief Investigator of the Madden Committee for the Investigation of the Katyń Forest Massacre, Mary Anselmo, President of the Illinois Division of the Polish American Congress, Maria Szonert, President of Libra Institute, Wesley Adamczyk, Son of the Polish Officer imprisoned in Starobelsk and buried in Piatichatki, Piotr Styrna who represented the Institute of World Politics, and John Brodtke representing the office of Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur.

The group was shown eighteen boxes containing documents from the investigation of the Select Committee of the House of Representatives into the Katyń Forest Massacre in the 82nd US Congress and documents from the Foreign Affairs Committee deliberating on the recommendations of the Madden Committee. All legislative documents from the 82nd Congress have been declassified in due course several years ago. The collection of Katyń-related documents presented to the visitors was microfilmed by the National Archives, however, has not been digitized and therefore is not available online.

The archivist explained that since the time these documents have been declassified the public showed no interest in this collection whatsoever. The only person who thus far requested access to the declassified legislative documents related to the congressional investigation into the Katyń crime was Allen Paul who authored a book "Katyń; Stalin's Massacre and the Triumph of Truth." He received limited access to this collection and was able to devote several pages of the 2010 edition of his book to the materials obtained from the Katyń collection in the National Archives. At the meeting, the archivist indicated that the lack of public interest in the collection of legislative documents pertaining to the congressional investigation into the Katyń crime is the primary reason why this collection has not been digitized to this day.

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