

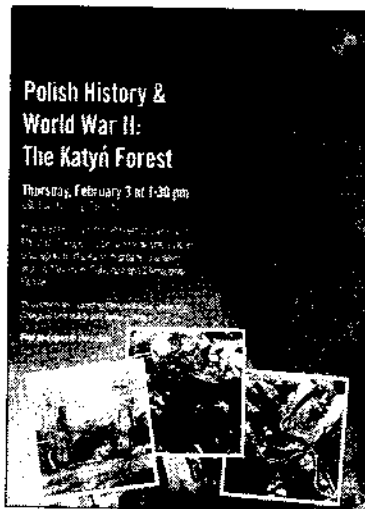
Katyn Conference Held in Cleveland

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

CLEVELAND — From the perspective of most Poles, Katyn symbolizes the Soviet Union's attempt to eliminate Poland. Internationally, Katyn carries thoughts of a mass atrocity that still remains unknown. However, among those working on prosecuting war crimes, it has begun to surface and legal scholars from the United States and Europe have joined together in attempting to research the legal possibilities for preparing a case about Katyn.

For 50 years, the 1940 Katyn Massacre of more than 22,000 Polish Officers, prisoners-of-war and leading Polish intelligentsia was subject to a monumental cover up. Initially, the Soviet Union blamed the Nazis for these murders, saying that the killings took place in 1941 when the territory was in German hands. It was not until 1990 that the Russian government admitted that the executions actually took place in 1940 and were carried out by the Soviet secret police. In 1990, Russian prosecutors launched a criminal investigation into the massacre, but the case was terminated in 2004, its findings were classified as top secret, and it appeared that the tragedy would once again be subject to "historical amnesia."

The Frederick K. Cox International Law Center of Case Western Reserve University School of Law and the Libra Institute, Inc. presented an international symposium entitled: Katyn: **Justice Delayed or Justice Denied**. The objective of this Katyn Symposium was to bring together leading international experts in jurisprudence, international



criminal law, and the Katyn crime, as well as representatives from Poland, Russia, the United States and Ireland, to discuss the events in a neutral setting.

Thus, in addition to the question of justice delayed or denied, the discussion centered on the question of genocide or crimes against humanity, the type of case — criminal or civil, national or personal, and who could or should be brought with the greatest of possibility success.

This event was held on February 4 and 5 and was open to the public. Introductory remarks were made by the Hon. **Dennis Kucinich** of Ohio's 10th Congressional District and the Hon. **Marcy Karput** of Ohio's Ninth Congressional District. Speakers included Prof. John Barrett, St. John's University; **Prof. Janusz Cisek**, Director of the Museum of the Polish Army in Warsaw; **Wesley Adamczyk**, son of a Polish officer imprisoned in Starobielsk and murdered in Kharkov and au-

thor of "When God Looked The Other Way;" **Hon. David Crane**, Founding Chief Prosecutor, Special Court for Sierra Leone; **Alexander Guryanov, Ph.D.**, Russian Human Rights Memorial Group, Moscow, Russia; **Teresa Kaczorowska, Ph.D.**, Polish journalist and author of "Children of the Katyn Massacre;" **Prof. Mark Kramer**, Harvard University; **Prof. Jerzy Krzyzanowski**, Ohio State University, who published "Katyn w Literaturze; Międzynarodowa Antologia Poezji, Dramatu i Prozy;" **Prof. Kenneth Ledford, Ph.D.**, Case Western Reserve University; **Allan Gerson**, Chair: AG International Law; **Krzysztof Persak, Ph.D.**; Institute of National Remembrance, Warsaw, Poland; **Hon. Stephen Rapp**, U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes; **Prof. William Schabas**, Irish Centre for Human Rights; **Prof. Michael Scharf**, Case Western Reserve University School of Law; **Prof. Milena Sterio**, Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, Cleveland State University; and **Maria Szonert-Binienda**; President of the Libra Institute, Inc. Also in attendance and commenting was **Krystyna Piorkowska**, a researcher at the Museum of the Polish Army in Warsaw, who has discovered new materials on the English-speaking witnesses to Katyn. Additionally, a recently issued documentary movie, "The Officer's Wife," directed by a Polish American, **Piotr Uzarowicz**, was previewed at Cleveland's Polish American Cultural Center. This Katyn Symposium ended with a commemorative concert at St. Stanislaus Church.

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