



Depesza notyfikująca powstanie niepodległego państwa polskiego - Tekst angielski

To the President of the United States,
Her Majesty's Government,
The Government of the French Republic,
The Government of the Kingdom of Italy,
The Government of the Empire of Japan,
The Government of the German Republic
and Governments of all belligerent and neutral States

As the Commander-in-Chief of the Polish Army, I hereby notify belligerent and neutral governments and nations of the existence of an Independent Polish State within all the territories of the united Poland¹. The political situation in Poland and the yoke of the occupation have so far made it impossible for the Polish nation to speak freely about their fate. Thanks to the changes caused by the great victories of the allied armies, the restoration of Poland's independence and sovereignty has now become a fact.

The Polish State is formed upon the will of the whole nation and based on democratic foundations. The Polish Government will replace the rule of violence that hung over the country for a hundred and forty years with a system built on order and justice. Relying on the Polish Army under my command, I believe that no foreign army will from now on enter Poland before we express our formal stance on the case. I am convinced that the powerful Western democracies will offer help and brotherly support to the reborn and independent Republic of Poland. Commander-in-Chief
Minister of External Affairs² Piłsudski³

In the name of the
Filipowicz⁴

Warsaw, 16 November 1918

Source: Monitor Polski dated 18 November 1918

¹ The Polish State was formed in November 1918, but the shape of its borders was still unknown at that time. Poland was formally aspiring to all the territories inhabited by Poles and included in the three occupation countries before 1914.

² Meaning the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

³ Józef Piłsudski (1867–1935), outstanding statesman affiliated with the Polish Socialist Party (PPS), formed the Polish Legions and the Polish Military Organisation (POW). The offices he held included the Chief of State (Naczelnik Państwa), Supreme Commander of the Polish Army, Marshal of Poland, Prime Minister, and General Inspector of the Armed Forces. In 1919–21, Piłsudski commanded the Polish army which victoriously fought against the Bolsheviks. That war was concluded with a peace treaty signed in Riga that recognised eastern Małopolska (Lesser Poland) as part of Poland. In May 1926, in the face of a deteriorating domestic political situation, Piłsudski carried out a coup-d'état which led to establishing an authoritarian system in Poland (the 'Sanacja' regime).

⁴ Tytus Filipowicz (1873–1953) was a political activist and diplomat who served in the Polish Socialist Party and cooperated closely with Józef Piłsudski. Towards the end of 1918, he served for a short time as the Minister and later Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs. In the interwar period, Filipowicz was a Member of Parliament and a Polish ambassador for example in Finland, Belgium, the USA and Mexico.