

Przemówienie Jana Nowaka Jeziorańskiego - Tekst angielski

[3 May 1952. In response to the speech by Admiral Harold B. Miller, Chairman of the Committee of Free Europe.]

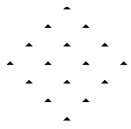
Dear Admiral Miller, I deeply believe that the new broadcasting station, a gift of the American society, will establish a lasting bond between the free world and enslaved Poland. The group of Poles who face this important duty with me today can now speak to their brothers and sisters behind the Iron Curtain in their own Polish name. From now on, we are no longer exiles cut off from our homeland. We are given the possibility of active participation in the life of the Polish society. Our voices will reverberate around the whole country and carry the Polish free thought to every corner of Poland.

The words you have just uttered have surely raised a strong echo in the Polish audience. You have said out loud what has been a silent cry of despair and protest of millions of oppressed people for seven years.

The freedom of the world is indivisible! Mankind cannot be divided into free and enslaved nations. Fortunate are those who enjoy freedom, the biggest treasure a man can find. They cannot stand indifferent on a safe shore watching a half of Europe sink, struck by a wave of eastern barbarity. They cannot observe millions of people die slowly in camps and prisons kept by the Security Service or whole nations face the annihilation of everything that has been the spiritual heritage of a whole millennium.

The freedom of the world is indivisible. Tadeusz Kościuszko, who fought for the independence of the United States thousands of kilometres away from his own country, has become a symbol of this truth. Poland was held captive for 125 years. During that time, the United States had become the world's greatest power and there, in 1918, President Woodrow Wilson supported our military and political fight for freedom and demanded independent and united Poland as a necessary condition for just and permanent peace.

He was not influenced by any other motif but just noble drive for freedom and justice for others. To Wilson, Poland was a country as foreign and distant as the United States must have seemed for Tadeusz Kościuszko in the past. Wilson was a walking illustration of the very same American idealism that granted us the happiness of 20 years of true freedom.



And although this blessed moment that separated one period of captivity from another was short, it marked the presence of Poland and its companions in misery on the Europe's map so clearly that even Russian brutal and ruthless violence cannot at once wipe off all the traces of our national identity.

May the new broadcasting station and your words, Admiral Miller, become the first forecast of rescue and salvation so yearned by the Polish people. May the voices of free Poles that will today reverberate from the new antennae of Radio Free Europe for the first time ring out one day from free Warsaw.

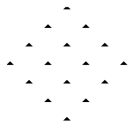
Now I would like to address you, my fellow countrymen, who listen to me in the Polish land.

Know that no curtain of insincerity or lie has ever hidden from us your character – the true character of Poland. We think and feel the same. We suffer from every pain you feel and go through. We experience the same feeling of insult and humiliation when a gang of renegades speak in the name of Poland and an old NKVD snooper named Bierut dares to call himself the President of the Republic of Poland.

As free people, we can openly defend the rights, interests and borders of Poland, maintain independence of thought and act with no fear of oppression, purges or prison. We do realise, however, that Poles living in the free world are only a small part of the Polish people. The nation is in its homeland, where it has been rooted for thousands of years.

Enemy propaganda tells us that we drive you to active resistance, to organise yourselves in the underground and to armed riots. Liars! We know as perfectly well as you do that the present moment demands calmness and composure from the nation and that all reckless moves may benefit only Soviet Russia and are often deliberately provoked by its agents. Russia wants to take all of our strength and firmness and turn the Polish people into plasticine that can be recast in the Russian paws to the Bolsheviks' liking. We must not make it easy for them.

Although the battle does not take place in the streets, forests or the underground today, we know that you fight a different battle, one that will decide on our future existence. This fight takes place especially in Polish souls and in Polish homes. It is a fight for all our children brought up in Bolshevik schools, a fight against the destruction of our national heritage, a fight for the protection of our faith and a fight against the eastern barbarity that tries to poison Polish souls with hatred.



Today, we want to join the fight on Radio Free Europe. The Polish team that centred around the microphone today consists of people of different political opinions and beliefs, but we have one common goal that we want to pursue together.

We want to tell you the truth about events happening in the world, the truth that the Soviet regime wants to hide from you to shatter all of your hopes. We will inform you about all Polish doings in the international sphere.

We will fight the Russification and Sovietization of the Polish culture and denationalization of our youth.

We will fight distortions of our history and traditions!

We will promote the independent Polish political thought, which has been suppressed in the enslaved country but keeps developing freely in the world. We will speak up about everything that gagged Polish people cannot openly talk about.

Our American friends hand over this new broadcasting station to us on the 3 May Constitution Day, which has always been a symbol of hope for Poles.

Today, we can feel echoes from the distant past: crowds shouting in front of Saint Joseph Cathedral and the joyful tones of patriotic songs, just as we have done every 3 May for 161 years.

There will come a day when Warsaw itself sees the dawn of freedom! It will be the day of your triumph, the triumph of a nation that has not lost its faith in the worst times! My fellow countrymen: wherever you are, remember: Poland is alive! Poland is fighting! And Poland will prevail!