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25th anniversary of Polish freedom

The celebrations of the 25th anniversary of the 4 June 1989 election were attended by Donald Tusk.

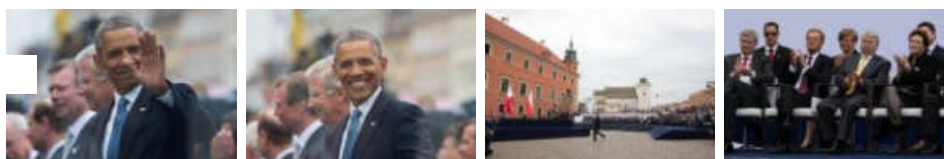
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Photo: P. Andrews / Chancellery of the Prime Minister



Delegations from nearly 50 countries, including the American President Barack Obama, as well as representatives of the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Lithuania, and Ukraine's President Elect Petro Poroshenko took part in the celebrations of the 25th anniversary of Polish freedom in Warsaw.

Poland was represented by:

- President Bronisław Komorowski,
- Prime Minister Donald Tusk,
- former Presidents Lech Wałęsa and Aleksander Kwaśniewski,
- Ministers,
- Sejm and Senate Speakers Ewa Kopacz and Bogdan Borusewicz,
- MPs and Senators.

Polish President Bronisław Komorowski and American President Barack Obama delivered their speeches.

- Although for a few dozen long and dark years Europe was divided by the iron curtain, our dreams and aspirations for freedom survived, and the national tradition was the source of our strength - Bronisław Komorowski said on Wednesday. He emphasised that 25 years ago communism came to an end in Poland. - We tore down the iron curtain of propaganda and hypocrisy. To be able to live in truth - he emphasised. Referring to the current situation in Ukraine, he said that today solidarity is particularly important for the Ukrainian nation, and that there is no freedom without solidarity with Ukraine.

“We have to stand with those who seek freedom”

On the other hand, President Barack Obama said that the 1989 election in Poland was the beginning of communism’s end in the whole Europe, and that the 1989 victory was the crowning achievement of hundreds of years of Poles’ struggle.

- We have to stand with those who seek freedom, we have to fight together for free Europe - American President Barack Obama said in the Castle Square in Warsaw. - Poland will never stand alone. Estonia will never stand alone. Latvia will never stand alone. Lithuania will never stand alone. Romania will never stand alone. These are not just words. They are unbreakable commitments - the US President said.

Barack Obama emphasised the great progress which has been made since 1989. - A united Germany. Nations in Central and Eastern Europe standing tall as proud democracies. A Europe that is more integrated, more prosperous and more secure. We must never forget that the spark for so much of this revolutionary change, this blossoming of hope, was lit by you, the people of Poland - he said.

Declaration of Freedom

During the celebrations in the Castle Square, Warsaw Declaration of Freedom was read out:

“We, the citizens of free and uniting Europe, guided by shared love of freedom and other common values, pursued by the representatives of the Nations assembled in Warsaw on June 4, 2014, on the 25th anniversary of the electoral victory won by the Polish Solidarity which ushered in profound changes in political systems of Central and Eastern European countries.

Aware of the historic momentousness of the break-through which then occurred, express our conviction that freedom and solidarity represent fundamental values on which people should found their relations.

Declare our profound attachment to the values which represent the common heritage of our free nations and the source of human rights and the rule of law on which democracy is founded.

Reaffirm that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms is an essential factor contributing to peace, justice, and stability world-wide.

Oppose any manifestations of hatred and any forms of discrimination and condemn all acts of violence that accompany them .

Remembering the tragic past of our continent, express our conviction that the annexation of Crimea shakes the foundations of Europe’s political and legal order and undermines the functioning of the whole international system. An effective means to achieve peace and security should be good-neighbourly relations among nations and states, founded on the principles of international law, and in particular sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of states.

Express hope that the sphere of freedom and solidarity in relations between people and nations will continue to expand.

Warsaw, June 2014”

Session of the National Assembly

On Wednesday, Prime Minister Tusk attended the special session of the National Assembly. MPs, senators, ministers and invited guests listened to the address delivered by President Bronisław Komorowski.

4 June 1989 election

The 4 June 1989 election resulted in the victory of Solidarity, and led to the collapse of the communist rule in Poland. Solidarity took 161 seats in the “contracted” Sejm, whereas 173 of them were taken by the Polish United Workers’ Party. The remaining seats were shared by: United People’s Party, Democratic Alliance, “Pax” Alliance, Christian and Social Union, as well as Polish Catholic and Social Union. In the Senate, Solidarity had 99 seats, and one seat was taken by an independent senator.