

The Ambassador

Washington, January 21, 2014

Dear Mr. Chumiecki,
Community and Friends of the Polish Mission,

I would like to thank you for the kind invitation to join you at this important commemoration. Unfortunately, I could not come to Michigan but I am honored to send you this message.

The Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp, whose liberation on January 27, 1945 we are commemorating today, has become a synonym for the Nazi genocide, a reminder of the unparalleled crime that ended the lives of millions of people and devastated the livelihoods and aspirations of so many more.

It is also a reminder of the imperative to counter, in a determined and unequivocal manner, all ideologies that deny human dignity on the basis of differences in origin, religion, nationality or political conviction.

The brutality of the Shoah, its industrialized murder and fundamental breakdown of human civilization must never be repeated. For the sake of future generations we must do everything in our power to remember, educate and sharpen awareness. Every year, fewer survivors are able to tell their stories, to share their experiences. It is therefore all the more imperative to preserve the memory of the victims.

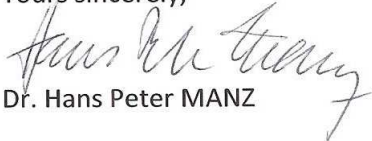
Poland has served a very important role in communicating and preserving this memory, and the exhibition "Forbidden Art" that is being brought back to the The Polish Mission today, is one more example.

Austria has pledged six million Euro to the preservation of the Auschwitz Birkenau Memorial and is in the process of redesigning the Austrian exhibition at the memorial.

The Shoa was the darkest chapter in Austrian history. From the moral responsibility we share for the past, we are committed to shaping a future where a pluralism of opinions and religions can thrive, firmly based on the rule of law and on the promotion and protection of human rights.

I wish you all a meaningful commemoration today and remain

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Hans Peter MANZ

Ambassador of Austria to the United States

Marcin Chumiecki
Director
The Polish Mission of The Orchard Lake Schools
Polish-American Art and Cultural Research Foundation
3535 Indian Trail
Orchard Lake, Michigan 48324
jjprzewozniak@orchardlakeschool.com