



**SCHOOL OF GLOBAL AND  
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES**  
INDIANA UNIVERSITY

February 9, 2017

Mr. Marcin Chumięcki, Director  
The Polish Mission of The Orchard Lake Schools

Dr. Piotr Cywiński, Director  
Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum

Distinguished Guests and Visitors:

You are gathered at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point to commemorate the 72<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz by viewing an art exhibition like no other, one that asks you both to admire and to remember. As you walk through *Forbidden Art*, you will marvel at both the artworks and at the courage of the artists who produced them as an act of resistance against a brutal regime that methodically tried to quench their humanity before it quenched their lives. In the face of this savagery, these artists produced haunting works that testify not only to their creativity but to their faith in the future. Sketching, painting, and sculpting were dangerous acts, but these artists undertook the risk. Why? Because they believed that the barbarism and enslavement they were subjected to would not last forever. They hoped that their works would lift the spirits of their fellow-prisoners as well as inspire future generations of free and enlightened people to guard against the return of intolerance and inhumanity.

USMA is a fitting venue for such an exhibition, as the Academy instills in the future leaders of the United States military the value of duty. Our duty includes the responsibility to combat hatred and discrimination, exactly as these brave artists did.

On behalf of all viewers of this important exhibition, I commend and thank the Polish Mission of The Orchard Lake Schools and the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum for assuming the immense responsibility of organizing it. The Orchard Lake Schools and the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum have fulfilled their duty to these artists and to the future; now it remains for us likewise never to forget.

Sincerely,

Amb. (Ret.) Lee Feinstein  
Dean