



PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BELARUS
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

New York, January 27, 2017

Dear Mr Chumiecki,

I have the honour to thank you for your kind invitation to the commemorative ceremony to mark the liberation by the Soviet Army of the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp. I would like to extend my sincere greetings to you and to all the organisers and participants of this solemn ceremony.

Exactly 72 years ago, as the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp was liberated, the world was shocked and appalled by the horror and atrocities perpetrated there by the Nazis. United Nations designated this day as the International Holocaust Remembrance Day, to serve as reminder that peace is not only a desired state of humanity but is also an unquestionable global imperative.

Belarus has learned the value of this imperative by her own fate. The memories of the bloodiest battles of two world wars are not abstract notions for our people. It is a living memory of a country that lost a third of its population during the Second World War, a country that believes that nations of the world can only achieve and keep lasting peace through unity of determination to preserve our planet for future generations.

On this solemn occasion I would like to extend to you and your compatriots my sincere gratitude for keeping alive the memory of Auschwitz and for paying tribute to its victims and liberators.

Please accept, Mr Chumiecki, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long, sweeping stroke.

Andrei Dapkiunas

Mr Marcin Chumiecki
Director
The Polish Mission
Orchard Lake, Michigan