

111TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. RES. 1323

Commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Katyn massacre.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 4, 2010

Mr. McCOTTER (for himself, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. PASCARELL, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. TONKO, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. DINGELL, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. WOLF) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Katyn massacre.

Whereas following the August 24, 1939, signing of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact between Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union, a secret agreement to divide Poland between the two countries, Germany and the Soviet Union invaded the Republic of Poland;

Whereas more than 200,000 members of the Polish military became prisoners of war at the hands of their Soviet aggressors;

Whereas, on March 5, 1940, the Soviet secret police, the People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs (NKVD) was directed by Joseph Stalin and other members of the Politburo to carry out a systematic murder of approximately

22,000 Polish military officers, doctors, lawmakers, professors, police officers, and other intelligentsia;

Whereas between April and May 1940, Polish prisoners of war were transported from internment camps in the Soviet Union to three execution sites in and around the Katyn Forest;

Whereas, on April 11, 1943, radio stations in Nazi Germany announced the discovery of mass graves of over 4,000 Polish officers in the Katyn Forest who were murdered by a bullet shot in the back of the head;

Whereas upon learning of this massacre, the Polish government in exile requested the International Red Cross be allowed to investigate this discovery;

Whereas the Soviet Union refused to allow such an investigation and subsequently broke off diplomatic relations with the Polish government in exile;

Whereas the Soviet Union repeatedly and deliberately used film footage and other propaganda methods to suppress the truth and accused the Nazis of the massacre;

Whereas, on September 18, 1951, the House of Representatives established the Select Committee to Conduct an Investigation and Study of the Facts, Evidence, and Circumstances of the Katyn Forest Massacre;

Whereas, on July 2, 1952, the Committee recommended the Soviets be tried before the International World Court of Justice “for committing a crime at Katyn which was in violation of the general principles of law recognized by civilized nations”;

Whereas, on December 22, 1952, the Committee unanimously concluded in its final report that the Soviet NKVD committed the mass murders of the Polish officers and intel-

lectual leaders in the Katyn Forest stating, “there has not been a scintilla of proof or even any remote circumstantial evidence presented that could indict any other nation in this international crime”;

Whereas the Soviet Union did not admit responsibility for this atrocity until President Mikhail Gorbachev’s statement on April 13, 1990;

Whereas since the collapse of the Soviet Union, the government of the Russian Federation has refused to declassify and disclose all of its official records pertaining to the massacre;

Whereas, on November 30, 2004, the Polish Institute of National Remembrance—Departmental Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation initiated its own investigation into the Katyn massacre;

Whereas the year 2010 marks the 70th anniversary of the Katyn massacre;

Whereas, on April 7, 2010, Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin became the first Russian or Soviet leader to join Polish officials in commemorating the anniversary of the murders; and

Whereas despite the suppression of Polish freedoms by the Soviet Union during the Cold War, the United States and the Republic of Poland have preserved a strong and important friendship based on shared history and sacrifice: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) honors the lives and legacies of the approxi-
3 mately 22,000 Polish prisoners of war and intelli-
4 gentsia who were massacred by the Soviet People’s

1 Commissariat for Internal Affairs (NKVD) in and
2 around the Katyn Forest 70 years ago;

3 (2) expresses its deepest sympathies to the fam-
4 ilies of the Katyn victims for their profound loss;

5 (3) expresses continued solidarity and unwaver-
6 ing support for the Polish people as they continue to
7 investigate crimes committed against them;

8 (4) urges the Government of the Russian Fed-
9 eration to fully declassify and disclose all official
10 records pertaining to the Katyn massacre; and

11 (5) urges the Government of the Russian Fed-
12 eration to fully cooperate with any pending inves-
13 tigation or inquiry pertaining to the massacre of
14 Polish prisoners by the Soviet authorities.

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