

President-elect Poroshenko. I want to thank President Obama, the United States people, the United States Government and Congress for the continuous support they are demonstrating for the fight, the Ukrainian people, for freedom, for democracy, for building up independent sovereign European state. This is crucially important for us, and now we feel a friend in need is a friend indeed. The American position of the American people is very, very important for us.

Point number two is that from the very beginning, from the first day of Inauguration, we are ready to present the plan for peaceful relation, the situation on the east. And we think that the next several days will be very important, crucial, for the Ukrainian history and for Ukrainian perspective. We pay very much attention about the G-7 meeting, about the statement, about the possibility for finding out the position for peaceful process. On Normandy, when we have—first Ukraine were invited as a member of anti-Hitler coalition and celebration of the D-day. And I think this would be very symbolic because exactly in Normandy, we can start to find out this peaceful process in Ukraine.

I want to thank President for the support in our initiative in the reforming in the energy sector. I'm very satisfied about our future cooperation in the anticorruption deal that I think this is crucially important points for the modernization of the country. I think that the—our top two very important issue: We thank you for supporting Ukraine in solving our Crimea problem. We demonstrate that—

the whole world demonstrate the solidarity in Ukraine in not accepting the aggression in Crimea, in not accepting this whole fake referendum, and not accepting the annexing of the part of Ukrainian territory. And all the time we will demand restore law and order and withdraw the foreign troops from the Crimean territory.

And also, I think that it is very important that the United States support the European aspiration of the Ukrainian people. That is, half a year Ukrainian people, millions of Ukrainian people on the street fighting for now and signing up a association agreement for the European perspective for my country. And I think that the modernization of the country, providing the reform of the—creating the good investment climate, building on the independent code system, providing the energy efficiency and energy diversification helps Ukrainian people to receive, maybe, membership perspective for the European Union in very near future after successful program for the modernization, with the strong assistance of the United States of America.

I thank you very much for that. And I think this was very fruitful and effective negotiation.

President Obama. Good. Thank you, my friend.

President-elect Poroshenko. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:45 a.m. at the Warsaw Marriott Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin of Russia.

Remarks on the 25th Anniversary of Freedom Day in Warsaw June 4, 2014

Hello, Warsaw! *Witaj, Polsko!*

Mr. President; Mr. Prime Minister; Madam Mayor; heads of state and government, past and present, including the man who jumped that shipyard wall to lead a strike that became a movement, the prisoner-turned-President who transformed this nation—thank you, Lech Walesa, for your outstanding leadership.

Distinguished guests, people of Poland, thank you for your extraordinary welcome and for the privilege of joining you here today. I bring with me the greetings and friendship of the American people and of my hometown of Chicago, home to so many proud Polish Americans. In Chicago, we think of ourselves as a little piece of Poland. In some neighborhoods, you only hear Polish. The faithful come togeth-

er at churches like Saint Stanislaus Kostka. We have a parade for Polish Constitution Day. And every summer, we celebrate the Taste of Polonia, with our kielbasa and pierogies, and we're all a little bit Polish for that day. So being here with you, it feels like home.

Now, 25 years ago today, we witnessed a scene that had once seemed impossible: an election where, for the first time, the people of this nation had a choice. The Communist regime thought an election would validate their rule or weaken the opposition. Instead, Poles turned out in the millions. And when the votes were counted, it was a landslide victory for freedom. One woman who voted that day said: "There is a sense that something is beginning to happen in Poland. We feel the taste of Poland again." And she was right. It was the beginning of the end of communism, not just in this country, but across Europe.

And the images of that year are seared in our collective memory: citizens filling the streets of Budapest and Bucharest, Hungarians and Austrians cutting the barbed wire border, protesters joining hands across the Baltics, Czechs and Slovaks in their Velvet Revolution; East Berliners climbing atop that wall. And we have seen the extraordinary progress since that time: 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, for this blossoming of hope was lit by you, the people of Poland.

History was made here. But the victory of 1989 was not inevitable. It was the culmination of centuries of Polish struggle, at times in this very square: the generations of Poles who rose up and finally won independence; the soldiers who resisted invasion, from the east and the west; the Righteous Among the Nations—among them Jan Karski—who risked all to save the innocent from the Holocaust; the heroes of the Warsaw Ghetto who refused to go without a fight; the Free Poles at Normandy; and the Poles of the Home Army, who, even as this city was reduced to rubble, waged a heroic uprising.

We remember how, when an Iron Curtain descended, you never accepted your fate. When the—when a son of Poland ascended to the Chair of Saint Peter, he returned home, and here, in Warsaw, he inspired a nation with his words: "There can be no just Europe without the independence of Poland." And today we give thanks for the courage of the Catholic Church and the fearless spirit of Saint John Paul II.

We also recall how you prevailed 25 years ago. In the face of beatings and bullets, you never wavered from the moral force of nonviolence. Through the darkness of martial law, Poles lit candles in their windows. When the regime finally agreed to talk, you embraced dialogue. When they held those elections—even though not fully free—you participated. As one Solidarity leader said at the time, "We decided to accept what was possible." And so Poland reminds us that sometimes the smallest steps, however imperfect, can ultimately tear down walls, can ultimately transform the world.

And of course, your victory that June day was only the beginning. As your President just indicated, democracy is more than just elections. True democracy, real prosperity, lasting security—these are neither simply given, nor imposed from the outside. They must be earned and built from within. And in that age-old contest of ideas between freedom and authoritarianism, between liberty and oppression, between solidarity and intolerance, Poland's progress shows the enduring strength of the ideals that we cherish as a free people.

Here we see the strength of democracy: citizens raising their voices, free from fear. Here we see political parties competing in open and honest elections. Here we see independent judiciary working to uphold the rule of law. Here in Poland, we see a vibrant press and a growing civil society that holds leaders accountable, because governments exist to lift up their people, not to hold them down.

Here we see the strength of free markets and the results of hard reforms: gleaming skyscrapers soaring above this city and superhighways across this country, high-tech hubs, and living standards that previous generations of

Poles could only imagine. This is the new Poland you have built, an economic “Miracle on the Vistula”—*Cud nad Wisła*.

Here we see the strength of free nations that stand united. And across those centuries of struggle, Poland’s fate too often was dictated by others. This land was invaded and conquered and carved up and occupied. But those days are over. Poland understands as few other nations do that every nation must be free to chart its own course, to forge its own partnerships, to choose its own allies.

This year marks the 15th anniversary of Poland’s membership in NATO. And we honor Polish service in the Balkans, in Iraq and Afghanistan. And as Americans, we are proud to call Poland one of our strongest and closest allies.

This is the Poland we celebrate today: the free and democratic Poland that your forebears and some who are here today dreamed of and fought for and, in some cases, died for; the growing and secure Poland that you, particularly the young people who are here today, have enjoyed for your entire lives.

It is a wonderful story, but the story of this nation reminds us that freedom is not guaranteed. And history cautions us to never take progress for granted. On the same day 25 years ago that Poles were voting here, tanks were crushing peaceful democracy protests in Tiananmen Square on the other side of the world. The blessings of liberty must be earned and renewed by every generation, including our own. And this is the work to which we rededicate ourselves today.

Our democracies must be defined not by what or who we’re against, but by a politics of inclusion and tolerance that welcomes all our citizens. Our economies must deliver a broader prosperity that creates more opportunity across Europe and across the world, especially for young people. Leaders must uphold the public trust and stand against corruption, not steal from the pockets of their own people. Our societies must embrace a greater justice that recognizes the inherent dignity of every human being. And as we’ve been reminded by Russia’s aggression in Ukraine, our free nations

cannot be complacent in pursuit of the vision we share: a Europe that is whole and free and at peace. We have to work for that. We have to stand with those who seek freedom.

I know that throughout history, the Polish people were abandoned by friends when you needed them most. So I’ve come to Warsaw today—on behalf of the United States, on behalf of the NATO alliance—to reaffirm our unwavering commitment to Poland’s security. Article 5 is clear: An attack on one is an attack on all. And as allies, we have a solemn duty—a binding treaty obligation—to defend your territorial integrity. And we will. We stand together, now and forever, for your freedom is ours. Poland will never stand alone. But not just Poland: 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’re unbreakable commitments backed by the strongest alliance in the world and the Armed Forces of the United States of America, the most powerful military in history. And you see our commitment today: in NATO aircraft in the skies of the Baltics, in allied ships patrolling the Black Sea, in the stepped-up exercises where our forces train together, and in our increased and enduring American presence here on Polish soil. We do these things not to threaten any nation, but to defend the security and territory of ourselves and our friends.

And yesterday I announced a new initiative to bolster the security of our NATO allies and increase America’s military presence in Europe. And with the support of Congress, this will mean more pre-positioned equipment to respond quickly in a crisis and more exercises and training to keep our forces ready; additional U.S. forces, in the air and sea and on land, including here in Poland. And it will mean increased support to help friends like Ukraine and Moldova and Georgia provide for their own defense.

Just as the United States is increasing our commitment, so must others. Every NATO member is protected by our alliance, and every NATO member must carry its share in our alli-

ance. This is the responsibility we have to each other.

And finally, as free peoples, we join together, not simply to safeguard our own security, but to advance the freedom of others. Today we reaffirm the principles for which we stand.

We stand together because we believe that people and nations have the right to determine their own destiny. And that includes the people of Ukraine. Robbed by a corrupt regime, Ukrainians demanded a government that served them. Beaten and bloodied, they refused to yield. Threatened and harassed, they lined up to vote; they elected a new President in a free election, because a leader's legitimacy can only come from the consent of the people.

And Ukrainians have now embarked on the hard road of reform. I met with President-elect Poroshenko this morning, and I told him that, just as free nations offered support and assistance to Poland in your transition to democracy, we stand with Ukrainians now. Ukraine must be free to choose its own future for itself and by itself. We reject the zero-sum thinking of the past. A free and independent Ukraine needs strong ties and growing trade with Europe and Russia and the United States and the rest of the world. Because the people of Ukraine are reaching out for the same freedom and opportunities and progress that we celebrate here today, and they deserve them too.

We stand together because we believe that upholding peace and security is the responsibility of every nation. The days of empire and spheres of influence are over. Bigger nations must not be allowed to bully the small or impose their will at the barrel of a gun or with masked men taking over buildings. And the stroke of a pen can never legitimize the theft of a neighbor's land. So we will not accept Russia's occupation of Crimea or its violation of Ukraine's sovereignty. Our free nations will stand united so that further Russian provocations will only mean more isolation and costs for Russia. Because after investing so much blood and treasure to bring Europe together, how can we allow the dark tactics of the 20th century to define this new century?

We stand together because we know that the spirit of Warsaw and Budapest and Prague and Berlin stretches to wherever the longing for freedom stirs in human hearts, whether in Minsk or Caracas or Damascus or Pyongyang. Wherever people are willing to do the hard work of building democracy—from Tbilisi to Tunis, from Rangoon to Freetown—they will have a partner in our nations. For in the struggles of these citizens we recall our own struggles. In their faces we see our own. And few see this more clearly than the people of Poland.

The Ukrainians of today are the heirs of Solidarity, men and women like you who dared to challenge a bankrupt regime. And when your peaceful protests were met with an iron fist, Poles placed flowers in the shipyard gate.

Today, Ukrainians honor their fallen with flowers in Independence Square. We remember the Polish voter who rejoiced to "feel the taste of Poland again." Her voice echoes in the young protester in the Maidan who savored what she called "a taste of real freedom." "I love my country," she said, and we are standing up for "justice and freedom." And with gratitude for the strong support of the Polish people, she spoke for many Ukrainians when she said: "Thank you, Poland. We hear you and we love you."

Today we can say the same: Thank you, Poland. Thank you for your courage. Thank you for reminding the world that no matter how brutal the crackdown, no matter how long the night, the yearning for liberty and dignity does not fade away. It will never go away. Thank you, Poland, for your iron will and for showing that, yes, ordinary citizens can grab the reins of history and that freedom will prevail, because in the end, tanks and troops are no match for the force of our ideals.

Thank you, Poland, for your triumph, not of arms, but of the human spirit, the truth that carries us forward. There is no change without risk and no progress without sacrifice and no freedom without solidarity.

Dziękuję, Polsko! God bless Poland. God bless America. God bless our unbreakable alliance. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:10 p.m. in Castle Square. In his remarks, he referred to President Bronislaw Komorowski, Prime Minister

Donald Tusk, and former President Lech Walesa of Poland; and Mayor Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz of Warsaw, Poland.

Joint Statement by Group of Seven Leaders on Foreign Policy June 4, 2014

Ukraine

- We welcome the successful conduct under difficult circumstances of the election in Ukraine on 25 May. The strong voter turnout underlined the determination of Ukraine's citizens to determine the future of their country. We welcome Petro Poroshenko as the President-elect of Ukraine and commend him for reaching out to all the people of Ukraine.
- In the face of unacceptable interference in Ukraine's sovereign affairs by the Russian Federation, we stand by the Ukrainian government and people. We call upon the illegal armed groups to disarm. We encourage the Ukrainian authorities to maintain a measured approach in pursuing operations to restore law and order. We fully support the substantial contribution made by the Organisation for Security Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to the de-escalation of the crisis through the Special Monitoring Mission and other OSCE instruments. We commend the willingness of the Ukrainian authorities to continue the national dialogue in an inclusive manner. We welcome the "Memorandum of Peace and Unity" adopted by the Verkhovna Rada on 20 May and express the wish that it can be implemented rapidly. We also encourage the Ukrainian parliament and the Government of Ukraine to continue to pursue constitutional reform in order to provide a framework for deepening and strengthening democracy and accommodating the rights and aspirations of all people in all regions of Ukraine.
- The G-7 are committed to continuing to work with Ukraine to support its eco-

conomic development, sovereignty and territorial integrity. We encourage the fulfilment of Ukraine's commitment to pursue the difficult reforms that will be crucial to support economic stability and unlock private sector-led growth. We welcome the decision of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to approve a \$17 billion programme for Ukraine, which will anchor other bilateral and multilateral assistance and loans, including around \$18 billion foreseen to date from G-7 partners. We welcome the swift disbursement of macro-economic support for Ukraine. We support an international donor coordination mechanism to ensure effective delivery of economic assistance and we welcome the EU's intention to hold a high-level coordination meeting in Brussels. We welcome ongoing efforts to diversify Ukraine's sources of gas, including through recent steps in the EU towards enabling reverse gas flow capacities and look forward to the successful conclusion of the talks, facilitated by the European Commission, on gas transit and supply from the Russian Federation to Ukraine.

- We are united in condemning the Russian Federation's continuing violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine. Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea, and actions to de-stabilize eastern Ukraine are unacceptable and must stop. These actions violate fundamental principles of international law and should be a concern for all nations. We urge the Russian Federation to recognize the results of the election, complete the withdrawal of its military forces on the border with Ukraine, stop the flow of weapons