

Thanks so much, also for what—for your leadership during the last years. Thank you, Barack.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:19 a.m. in Baltic Ballroom No. 3 at the Warsaw Marriott Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Lorne Ahrens, Michael Krol, Michael J. Smith, and Patrick Zamarripa, Dallas Police Department

officers, and Brent Thompson, Dallas Area Rapid Transit Police officer, who were killed in the shooting at a public demonstration in Dallas, TX, on July 7; Prime Minister David Cameron of the United Kingdom; and Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany. He also referred to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) terrorist organization. President Tusk referred to former U.S. President George H.W. Bush.

Remarks Following a Meeting With President Andrzej Duda of Poland in Warsaw July 8, 2016

President Duda. Excellency, Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, thank you very much that in my capacity as President of the Republic of Poland, I can welcome the President of the United States, Mr. Barack Obama, to Warsaw, to NATO summit. It is my great pleasure because I hope that this summit will have a historic character and historic dimension.

In both meetings, on the one hand, as regards the demonstration of the unity, coherence, and solidarity within the North Atlantic Alliance, among its member states, indivisibility and security within NATO. Also, the unity as regards territorial security that we are speaking with one voice, that we are together. But on the other hand, this summit is significant as regards the construction of an ever-more strategic and robust partnership between Poland and the United States.

This partnership is there; this partnership is materializing both in the economic dimension, where cooperation is going smoothly, but recently, it has also materialized as regards military cooperation: in other words, joint construction of the security zone. And for that, we are grateful to Mr. President and the United States. We are grateful for their friendliness. We are also grateful for the understanding that security is there where the strongest armed forces in the world are present. And the strongest armed forces of the world is the Armed Forces of the United States, as we all know.

And that is why we welcomed American troops to the Anaconda exercise. We were

hugely pleased that they were so numerous. We are also happy that a heavy brigade of the United States will be operating in the territory of Poland. We are pleased that the United States is providing such a decisive support to this reinforcement of the military potential of the North Atlantic Alliance. In our part of Europe, in Central Europe, about which we are saying that it is the eastern flank of NATO. So thank you for all those actions.

We had a very good conversation with Mr. President. Thank you, Mr. President, for accepting my condolences, because although we are busy, working people, nevertheless, the tragic information on what happened in Dallas, of course, has reached Poland as well. And on to the hands of Mr. President, I expressed my condolences for the American nation. But first and foremost, I want to express those condolences to the families of the police officers who died on duty. And these significant—the ethos of duty is very strong in the United States. It is an element of the great patriotism. And I had this opportunity to see that myself when I talked to American commanders and to American troops during Anaconda exercise. So, Mr. President, once again, please accept my words of sympathy and condolences. Unfortunately, this is what happens in life. At times, such tragedies happen.

Ladies and gentlemen, myself and Mr. President discussed a wide range of topic. We touched upon all the important issues. We discussed Brexit. I'm happy that Mr. President

has got a very clear position, namely that the U.K. will keep its position within the North Atlantic Alliance, because this is a crucial country and our extremely important partner. We would like that partner to strengthen their potential.

We also discussed the issue of migration. I told Mr. President that we are supporting in the spirit of solidarity the actions of the allied armed forces also in the South by deploying our troops there, a Polish F-16 aircraft and Kościuszko brigade. We had a very good conversation. Thank you very much, Mr. President, for that.

There is still a lot of work ahead of us at this summit today, some hard work. But I believe, as I have already said, that this summit is going to be symbolic in nature. It is going to further strengthen our strategic partnership. Polish people like America. Polish people like Americans. And we are hugely pleased with your presence here in Warsaw, Mr. President, both today and tomorrow.

Thank you.

President Obama. Well, *dzien dobry*. Thank you, President Duda, for welcoming me today. This is my third visit to Poland as President. I've got very fond memories of my visit here 2 years ago when I joined Poles in Castle Square to celebrate a quarter century of Polish freedom. And it's wonderful to be back. As always, I bring greetings and friendship of the American people, especially the many proud Polish Americans, many of whom live in my hometown of Chicago.

We're here, of course, for the NATO summit, and the fact that it's being held here in Warsaw is a testament to Polish leadership. In the United States, we consider Poland one of our most committed and important allies. Poland is a leader in NATO as one of the nations that pays its full share—2 percent of GDP—for our collective security. Poland supports alliance missions, including in Afghanistan, and I thank Poland for its new contributions to the campaign against ISIL: F-16 aircraft and special forces trainers. And Poland has stepped forward as host of interceptor sites for our defense system against ballistic missiles from

countries like Iran and as a linchpin in the defense of NATO's eastern flank.

Here in Warsaw, I want to once again affirm the enduring commitment of the United States to the security of Poland. As treaty allies, we have a solemn, binding article 5 duty to defend each other. And in this obligation, we will never waver. These are not just words, they are backed up by deeds. When I first came here 5 years ago, I promised to increase our commitment to Poland's security, and that's exactly what we've done. We have kept our promise.

We now have a continuous presence of U.S. troops in Poland with our aviation detachment at Lask Air Base. We continuously rotate personnel and aircraft into Poland. Under the European Reassurance Initiative that I announced here 2 years ago, we've increased training, exercises, and readiness. Earlier this year, I announced a four-fold increase to this effort, proposing \$3.4 billion to preposition more U.S. heavy equipment in this region and to continuously rotate an armored brigade in Europe.

Today I'm announcing further steps to bolster NATO's defense and deterrence posture. As the alliance prepares to enhance our forward presence in Central and Eastern Europe, I can announce that the United States will be the lead nation for the U.S.—for the NATO enhanced presence here in Poland. And that means the United States will deploy a battalion—roughly 1,000 American soldiers—here, in Poland, on a rotational basis to serve shoulder to shoulder with Polish soldiers.

In addition, when the new U.S. armored brigade begins rotating through Europe early next year, its headquarters will be here in Poland. In other words, Poland is going to be seeing an increase in NATO and American personnel and the most modern, capable military equipment, because we will meet our article 5 obligations to our common defense.

More broadly, I want to thank Poland for its continued strong support for Ukraine's efforts to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity in the face of Russian aggression. We discussed the importance of continuing to provide Ukraine with the assistance it needs to

strengthen its military and to pursue political and economic reforms. And we fully support the efforts led by Germany and France to resolve the conflict in eastern Ukraine diplomatically. And the United States and Poland are united in insisting that sanctions remain in place until Russia fully meets its obligations under the Minsk agreement.

On the economic front, our two countries will continue to work together to enhance Poland's energy security. Poland recently opened new terminals to receive liquefied natural gas, and the President was describing in detail the plans involved in these facilities. This is going to help diversify Poland's energy supply. American companies are investing their high-tech expertise in wind and solar to help Poland harness more renewable energy. And we'll continue to deepen our cooperation as we pursue a cleaner, more sustainable energy future together.

And finally, I want to congratulate Poland on recently celebrating the 225th anniversary of its Constitution, the oldest written Constitution in Europe. And this speaks to the long yearning of the Polish people for freedom and independence. Indeed, after the cold war, the rebirth of Polish democracy was an inspiration to people across Europe and around the world, including in America. Because Poland's progress shows that democracy and pluralism are not unique to any one of our cultures or countries, they are describing universal values. And a central tenet of American foreign policy is that we speak up for these values around the world, even with our closest allies.

And it's in that spirit that I expressed to President Duda our concerns over certain actions and the impasse around the Poland's Constitutional Tribunal. I insisted that we are very respectful of Poland's sovereignty, and I recognize that Parliament is working on legislation to take some important steps, but more work needs to be done. And as our—as your friend and ally, we've urged all parties to work together to sustain Poland's democratic institutions. That's what make us democracies: not just by the words written in constitutions or in the fact that we vote in elections, but the insti-

tutions we depend upon every day, such as rule of law, independent judiciaries, and a free press. And these are, I know, values that the President cares about. These are values that are at the heart of our alliance, which was founded, in the words of the North Atlantic Treaty, "on the principles of democracy, individual liberty, and rule of law."

And when I think of all the progress that we celebrated 2 years ago in Castle Square—all the odds that the people of Poland have overcome throughout history and how the Solidarity movement helped defeat communism, the freedom that the Poles have won—it makes me confident in the future of Polish democracy and the fact that Poland stands and needs to continue stand as an example for democratic practices around the world. With the new commitments that I'm announcing today, the people of Poland and our allies across the region can remain confident that NATO will stand with you, shoulder to shoulder, no matter what, today and always.

So, again, Mr. President, thank you for your hospitality. Thank you to the Polish people. I know that it's a lot of work to prepare for these summits, but I can tell that you've done an outstanding job, and I'm sure it will be a great success.

So dziękuję bardzo, President Duda.

President Duda. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 2:20 p.m. in the main press briefing room at the PGE National Stadium. In his remarks, he referred to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) terrorist organization. President Duda referred to Lorne Ahrens, Michael Krol, Michael J. Smith, and Patrick Zamarripa, Dallas Police Department officers, and Brent Thompson, Dallas Area Rapid Transit Police officer, who were killed in the shooting at a public demonstration in Dallas, TX, on July 7. He also referred to the United Kingdom's June 23 referendum vote to leave the European Union. President Duda spoke in Polish, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

The President's News Conference in Warsaw, Poland July 9, 2016

The President. Good evening, everybody.

Once again, I want to thank the Government and the people of Poland for hosting this NATO summit. And I especially want to thank the people of Warsaw for their wonderful hospitality. It is my third visit to Poland. Each time, we have been received with tremendous friendship, and it signifies the close bonds between our two countries.

Shooting of Law Enforcement Officers in Dallas, Texas

I want to begin this press conference with events back home. This has been a tough week, first and foremost, for the families [of those] who have been killed, but also for the entire American family. In my call yesterday to Attorney General Loretta Lynch, I stressed that the Justice Department and our Federal Government should continue to do everything that we can to assist the investigation in Dallas and to support the police and the city of Dallas as they deal with this tragedy.

In my call to Chief Brown, I commended him for showing outstanding leadership during an extremely challenging time and asked him to convey to all the officers and their families how the American people are grieving with them and that we stand with them.

I'll have the opportunity to convey our condolences and show our solidarity when I visit Dallas in a few days. But before I do, let me just make some very brief points. First of all, as painful as this week has been, I firmly believe that America is not as divided as some have suggested. Americans of all races and all backgrounds are rightly outraged by the inexcusable attacks on police, whether it's in Dallas or anywhere else.

That includes protesters. It includes family members who have grave concerns about police conduct, and they have said that this is unacceptable. There's no division there. And

Americans of all races and all backgrounds are also rightly saddened and angered about the deaths of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile, and about the larger, persistent problem of African Americans and Latinos being treated differently in our criminal justice system.

So there is sorrow, there is anger, there is confusion about next steps. But there's unity in recognizing that this is not how we want our communities to operate. This is not who we want to be as Americans. And that serves as the basis for us being able to move forward in a constructive and positive way.

So we cannot let the actions of a few define all of us. The demented individual who carried out those attacks in Dallas, he's no more representative of African Americans than the shooter in Charleston was representative of White Americans or the shooter in Orlando or San Bernardino were representative of Muslim Americans. They don't speak for us. That's not who we are.

And one of the things that gives me hope this week is actually seeing how the overwhelming majority of Americans have reacted: with empathy and understanding. We've seen police continue to reach out to communities that they serve all across the country and show incredible professionalism as they're protecting protesters. We've seen activists and grassroots groups who have expressed concern about police shootings, but are also adamant in their support of the Dallas Police Department, which is particularly appropriate because the Dallas Police Department is a great example of a department that has taken the issue of police shootings seriously and has engaged in an approach that has not only brought down their murder rates, but also drastically reduced complaints around police misconduct.

That's the spirit that we all need to embrace. That's the spirit that I want to build on. It's one of the reasons why next week, using the Task Force that we had set up after Ferguson, but

* White House correction.