



POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS

1612 K Street, NW, Suite 1200, Washington, DC 20006-2802

Tel.: (202) 296-6955 ♦ Fax: (202) 835-1565 ♦ E-mail: pacwash@pac1944.org

WWW.PAC1944.ORG

March 25, 2014

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C., 20500

NATO Summit in the United Kingdom and Macedonia's Full Ascendancy

Dear Mr. President:

After the systemic changes that took place in Poland in 1989, which subsequently led to the fall of the Berlin Wall and the democratic independence of the country of our ancestors, the Polish American Congress (as the voice of more than 12 million Americans of Polish heritage) has been an avid advocate of the enlargement of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and, more specifically, the inclusion of Poland as one of its member states.

Fifteen years ago, Poland did become a member, and this year we celebrate this important anniversary. Having been a strong proponent of Poland's membership, and working with other ethnic communities in the U.S. to secure membership for their homelands into NATO, we ask you today for your strong support of inclusion of Macedonia into the Alliance at the upcoming Summit to be held in the United Kingdom.

We sincerely believe that the process of NATO enlargement needs to be the cornerstone of this important meeting, something that will help fortify democracy and security in the face of old and new challenges.

As you know, since Macedonia's independence in 1991, the country has been dedicated to achieving NATO's membership standards and supporting NATO in its many missions as an armed forces ally--including in Afghanistan, Bosnia, Iraq, Kosovo, and Lebanon -- by offering both military personnel and supplies. Macedonia has fulfilled all requirements needed to become a member country of the Alliance, including its completion of the Membership Action Plan, and its continual support for NATO's interests in Southeast Europe and beyond. Finally, Macedonia has received, during its six years of being qualified, the support of many member countries in NATO towards its accession into the Alliance.

These supporting countries include Poland as well its expatriate Polish community in the United States under the Polish American Congress, both of whom have expressed their resounding support.

In June 2000, the Council of National Directors of the Polish American Congress passed a unanimous resolution in support of continuous NATO's expansion stating that "continued presence of small states on the eastern periphery of the NATO Alliance perpetuates a zone of uncertain security in that region, as well as creates temptation for a resurgence of imperialistic policies in that part of Europe." The PAC strongly believes that NATO enlargement in Central and Eastern Europe would further strengthen security in the region, and in light of the current crisis in Ukraine and Crimea, and especially the Russian encroachment into the region, we feel that it is important for NATO to open its doors this year to our allies such as Macedonia.

We are proud to note that since Poland's entrance into NATO, the country has experienced a great number of improvements both domestically and internationally. These benefits include a progressively greater sense of security and confidence that allow Poland to be a strong partner and advocate for principles of freedom and democracy in the region. Thanks to the access to institutional, financial, and political instruments provided by the Alliance, Poland can even more actively than before participate in the formation of the security framework within the region of Central and Eastern Europe.

If Macedonia were offered the invitation to join the Alliance, those same positive benefits that Poland received would allow the country to become even more influential and stable force within the Southeast European region, offering the possibility of even greater involvement and support for future NATO endeavors.

The Polish American Congress was instrumental in garnering support within American society to push for NATO acceptance of Poland; this support persists today. After two rounds of NATO enlargement in the region we believe that the time has come for the third round – one that would include Macedonia.

Mr. President, we ask for your unqualified support for Macedonia's full membership within NATO at the upcoming U.K. Summit. Macedonia is a strong and dedicated U.S. and NATO ally and has provided valuable resources for our missions. It is time that the country became the newest member of the Alliance.

Sincerely yours,



Frank J. Spula,
President

CC: Secretary John Kerry
Secretary Chuck Hagel