

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 824

Expressing the sense of the Congress that the Government of Poland should address the claims of Polish-Americans whose homes and properties were wrongfully expropriated under Poland's former totalitarian government.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 24, 1999

Mr. BARCIA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

A BILL

Expressing the sense of the Congress that the Government of Poland should address the claims of Polish-Americans whose homes and properties were wrongfully expropriated under Poland's former totalitarian government.

Whereas during Nazi Germany's domination of Europe the systematic genocide of 6,000,000 Jews was conducted, and more than 8,000,000 members of other ethnic, religious, and political groups were murdered;

Whereas during that dark time millions of Poles were imprisoned or were deported to ghettos, forced labor camps, and concentration camps;

Whereas the totalitarian regime that subsequently came to power in Poland perpetrated additional horrors of per-

sonal devastation and property expropriation upon tens of thousands of Poles, including Jewish survivors;

Whereas more than 100,000 of the victims of this dark episode fled their homeland, with many finding sanctuary and refuge in the United States, while their homes and properties were occupied by trespassers and opportunists;

Whereas aging victims today chaff at the fact that their homes and properties are still possessed by those trespassers and opportunists who continue to enjoy the fruits of their ill-gotten gains despite the fall of the Iron Curtain;

Whereas the Government of Poland has taken nominal and ineffective measures that create the appearance of providing compensation to these victims, while onerous eligibility requirements, unreasonable statutes of limitation, and complex procedures mean only a handful have had their claims fairly addressed;

Whereas every United States citizen can expect the protection of the Nation's legal, political, and diplomatic resources; and

Whereas the Government of Poland has not provided for the fair consideration of the legitimate claims of victims who are now United States citizens: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of Congress that—

3 (1) the President should inform the Govern-
4 ment of Poland of the plight of Polish-Americans
5 who deserve to have their citizenship restored and
6 claims to their wrongfully expropriated homes and

1 properties considered under a fair rule of law that
2 provides for compensation and restitution regardless
3 of a claimant's current nationality;

4 (2) the Government of Poland should imme-
5 diately fulfill its responsibilities to consider the
6 claims of these victims under such a rule of law; and

7 (3) the President should instruct the represent-
8 atives of the United States to all multilateral treaty-
9 based institutions to work to deny admission or fi-
10 nancial benefits to the Government of Poland until
11 it fulfills these responsibilities.

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