



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

SEP - 4 2001

Dear Mr. Cardin:

This is in response to your letter of June 11, concerning property restitution in Poland.

As you note in your letter, Poland, despite several attempts by the Polish Government, has yet to enact legislation to govern the restitution of private real property. The first such bill passed by the Parliament was vetoed in March by President Kwasniewski. He did so in part because it would have required that an applicant be a Polish citizen as of December 31, 1999 to qualify for relief. This would have made many American citizens ineligible to pursue their property claims in Poland.

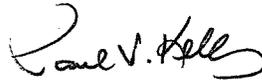
The United States continues to urge the countries of eastern and central Europe to return to rightful owners property illegally confiscated by the Nazis or by the subsequent communist regimes between the late 1930's and the late 1980's. When restitution is not possible, we urge payment of appropriate compensation. The policy of the United States is to promote fair, prompt and non-discriminatory resolution of these long-delayed claims. We have repeatedly urged the Polish government to enact transparent restitution legislation that does not include a citizenship or residence requirement, or other discriminatory language.

The Honorable
Benjamin L. Cardin,
House of Representatives.

We appreciate your interest in this issue and wish to assure you that the administration will continue to encourage the Polish government to adopt a restitution law and procedures that allow the expeditious resolution of property claims on a non-discriminatory basis.

We hope this information is helpful to you. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have further questions on this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul V. Kelly".

Paul V. Kelly
Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs