

Peter: John Lenczowski. A native of California. John Lenczowski served from 1981 to 1983 in the State Department Bureau of European Affairs and as Special Assistant to the Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs. From 1983 to 1987, he served as Director of European and Soviet Affairs on the staff of the National Security Council. Dr. Lenczowski is the Founder and President of the Institute of World Politics, an independent graduate school on national security and international affairs here in Washington, D.C. He is the author of many books, including *Full Spectrum Diplomacy* and *Grand Strategy*. Ladies and gentlemen, the President of the Institute of World Politics, John Lenczowski.

John: Thank you Peter. Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. It's really an absolute pleasure to be a part of this wonderful conference and I'm honored to be here. Thank you all for coming and for your interest in what is a strategically important set of topics that have life much beyond the significance of the years that we are discussing.

It is my great pleasure this morning to introduce our distinguished speaker Dr. Piotr Naimski. Dr. Naimski, in my view, is one of the greatest of the younger members of the Polish anti-communist resistance. Piotr received the classic type of education that the sons and daughters of Polish families pursued to avoid being subjected to Marxist propaganda. It was a scientific education which led, in his case, to a Doctorate in Natural Sciences from The Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

Interspersed amidst his education, he was active in the anti-communist underground resistance with The Workers' Defense Committee and with the Solidarity movement. In those days, he began a working relationship with Antoni Macierewicz — a fellow dissident — who later in the post-communist era became Minister of the Interior and, most recently, Defense Minister in the Law and Justice government.

When Macierewicz was Interior Minister in the 1990s, he appointed Piotr to be head of Internal Security. The two of them embarked upon what was the first — and really only — serious effort at lustration. Lustration is the jargon term that refers to the effort to try to identify communists and secret police agents and collaborators who were working for the KGB, the GRU and so on and so forth — not so much to go and imprison them and hang them — but to say that because you worked with the communist oppressor regime, you really did not deserve to be occupying positions of high public trust.

They came up with a list of all sorts of these people in the Polish government and it was submitted to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court, if I recall correctly, had to give it to the Parliament; but unfortunately, too many members of the Parliament were precisely on that list of collaborators and secret police agents. Well, that very Parliament then did a vote of no confidence in the Olszewski government, in which Piotr served, and all of a sudden, they were out of office and the effort at lustration failed and too many of those communists persisted in government for many years afterwards. This is a problem that has happened throughout the former countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

Subsequently, after a serious academic interlude where he was involved in taking the wisdom of his experience to a new generation of students, he occupied several senior

government positions, including National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister and, notably, Deputy Minister of the Economy. Most recently, he was elected Member of Parliament and is currently serving as Secretary of State for Strategic Energy Infrastructure. What that means is that he is trying to develop for Poland — and for all of East Central Europe— independent sources of energy so that the eastern flank of NATO will not be dependent upon Russian oil and gas and, very specifically, he is working on the development of a natural gas pipeline from Norway.

A great asset not only for the freedom of Poland, but for the security of the entire Western alliance, I would like to welcome Piotr Naimski.