

Announcer: Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome back Peter Robinson.

Peter Robinson: Maciej Swirski serves as the Polish National Foundation's plenipotentiary for international projects. This is an international project. Maciej is overseeing us today. A historian, activist, and commentator, Mr. Swirski, has worked with both Polish and foreign technology companies. Ladies and gentlemen, representing the Polish National Foundation, Maciej Swirski.

Maciej Swirski: Ladies and gentlemen, this is a big honor to be here. I would like to say, from the bottom of my heart, that those words of the Pope [in the video]— I was in that place there, at that time, and I converted my life and turned over my life. In 1979, when Pope John Paul II kissed the ground at the Warsaw airport, he hit at the kind of hope in the heart of the Polish people and people throughout the communist countries of Europe. He brought with him a simple message: "Be not afraid!" and in response, millions chanted —and I was one of them — "We want God!"

It is my honor to introduce this next panel. This panel will discuss the time between that first papal visit to Poland and the collapse of Europe and communism. It will do so from the perspective of John Paul II, the Vatican, the countries, and people of Eastern Europe. Men and women throughout Eastern Europe who resisted communist domination in those years can tell you how much the words of the Pope and the president helped them preserve. This panel will address the mobilization of the spirit. It will address the power of the messages of the pope and our president, and what the people of those captive nations did in response.

Dr. John Lenczowski will moderate this panel. From 1981 to 1983, Dr. Lenczowski served in the State Department in the Bureau of European Affairs, and as Special Advisor to the Under Secretary for Political Affairs. From 1983 to 1987, he was the director of European and Soviet Affairs at the National Security Council and Principal Soviet Affairs Advisor to President Reagan. Today, he is president of the Institute for World Politics, a graduate school of strategic and national security affairs, which he founded. Dr. Lenczowski will introduce our panelists. Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome our panel.