



**ZJEDNOCZENIE POLSKIE W WIELKIEJ BRYTANII.
FEDERATION OF POLES IN GREAT BRITAIN C.I.O.**

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Mr Andreas Michaelis, Ambassador,
Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany,
23 Belgrave Square,
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Your Excellency,

Poles throughout the world are deeply upset by the moral implications arising from the recent comments made by President Walter Steinmeier in relation to Germany's Second World War guilt towards Russia. Ironically, he used this statement of moral responsibility to justify the completion of the Nord Stream-2 project to supply Russian gas directly to Germany by two underwater pipelines across the Baltic Sea Basin. This project threatens the economic security of your own country, as well as that of your European neighbours to the East and the West.

The Federation of Poles in Great Britain has represented the main Polish social and cultural organizations in the United Kingdom since 1947 and is seriously concerned by this project. The implied suggestion is that your country's understandable sense of guilt towards the Russian people, following crimes committed in the Second World War, is being used by your President to justify a prima facie self-serving project. This further increases the possibility of economic isolation and a reduction in transit revenues to the Polish nation, to whom you have an equal, if not greater, moral obligation arising from Germany's crimes in the Second World War.

We understand President Steinmeier's contrition over the death of 20 million Soviet citizens, which was about 13.7% of the Soviet population at the time. However, he should also be guided by a similar feeling of contrition in Germany's relations with Poland. 5.9 million Polish citizens, just slightly less than 20% of its pre-war population, were killed during World War II, following the invasion of Poland. Some 5.5 million of these citizens died under direct German occupation. The Soviet government is not a fully innocent party here, as it was responsible for encouraging Germany's invasion of Poland through the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact of 1939. Poland was the innocent aggrieved party. In this context, you can understand why your words towards Russia can be considered offensive to Poles throughout the world.

We think that it is morally wrong and politically misguided to raise the issue of war guilt as a justification for a policy that may encourage instability and aggression by others.

As The Federation we ask that you convey to your government our urgent plea to review, if not terminate this ill-conceived project as quickly as possible.

Yours sincerely,

W. Mier-Jędrzejowicz

Dr Włodzimierz Mier-Jędrzejowicz
President, Federation of Poles in Great Britain