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“New Deal” for Poland

A week ago, a public poll on the internet portal of “Gazeta Wyborcza” in Poland indicated that I could count on 21% of the popular vote in the upcoming presidential election. This is more support than any of the other potential candidates currently have that are promoted by Polish media. For this reason I have already received numerous calls from various reporters who are demanding a copy of my election program. For a good election program for ravished Poland is the most valued commodity this year.

There is no penalty for theft of political ideas by those parties that have huge resources for media support. Only a very naïve politician would present his election platform a few months before election. Many people already know what I have to offer based on my election programs presented in the past.

Nevertheless to satisfy my new supporters and my old enemies alike, I am obliged to explain my intentions now in a manner that will not jeopardize my future election campaign. Poland is in the middle of an economic crisis similar to the ugly depression experienced by the United States after the “Great Crash” in 1929. This similarity is well documented by similar levels of unemployment, decaying services such as health care, old age pensions, social care and lack of confidence in any government. From 1929-1933, unemployment in the United States of America was much like Poland where from 1989-1993 it soared from 3 percent of the workforce to 25 percent, while manufacturing output collapsed by one-third.

Today as I write this text, it happens to be the 60th year anniversary of departure of the greatest American president since Abraham Lincoln: Franklin D. Roosevelt. He was elected in the midst of the Great Depression and stayed in office an unprecedented four terms until his death. I greatly admire this man who has always been for me a source of much inspiration and example of what a good president can do for Poland.

For in a time of great economic crisis, Franklin D. Roosevelt saved American capitalism with social programs. He instituted massive public spending to help the poor and the aged, formed a strong labour law to encourage the formations of trade unions and to protect collective bargaining, created the United Nations accompanied by a much stricter adherence of the USA to the concept of international law, and provided for strict regulation of an out-of-control and arrogant Wall Street. Three of FDR’s initiatives: the payroll-tax-funded Social Security system, the “make work” Works Progress Administration, and the Security and Exchange Commission constituted the most radical transformation of the American political system since women got the vote. He made America strong to win WWII against Germany and Japan.

When I make indirect references to his accomplishments in my political work, I am often labeled by my opposition (former Communists) as a communist because of my compassion and care of the poor electorate that have always voted for me. Now that no

political party has a sensible program for the people, I hope that even my enemies will take a good look at the life and work of Franklin Roosevelt in order to stabilize the country and prevent the onset of revolution after gross mismanagement, blatant robbery of assets, corruption and speculation with currency exchange.

During the last 15 years since the day when Poland decided to jump the abyss between communism and capitalism, consecutive populist governments were busy with globalization, privatization, NATO and membership in EU but have neglected to protect the most precious capital: the well being of its own citizens. For there is no greater loss than idle, unemployed people who have no means to support their families and no hope for the future.

Franklin D. Roosevelt, of whom I am reminded today, was one of the most beloved presidents that America ever had. To understand FDR's impact, ask an American over the age 70 and he or she will likely tell you that, much like in the moment of departure of our Pope, on April 12, 1945 "Everywhere men and women wept openly, and without shame". He earned confidence, trust and the support of his nation with his politics of instinct and of the moment. Fortunately, unlike many of the leaders of today, his instincts tended towards the moral side of the Christian ledger. To solve the economic crisis there is no need to re-invent the wheel. All we need to do is borrow successful initiatives from great men such as Franklin D. Roosevelt and to adapt them to our heritage and present times.

This is why for all those who want to know about my election program way in advance, I recommend that they read a book about the life and work of my idol: Franklin D. Roosevelt. With some adaptation for modern times, his program that saved America will help to save Poland this year.

For I am prepared to fight hard to find money for the "make work" government programs to save millions of Poles from idle misery. I am ready to propose and to institute the long overdue reform of overgrown public administration. Most of all I am determined to supervise honesty and transparency in the banks, stock market and any future privatization. There is much to be done for Poland to have a fighting chance with export activity in a world where international competition does not tolerate any governmental weakness.

The new president of Poland, much like any government elected by the people, should work for the people. Unfortunately the present constitution does not give the president much executive power. Nevertheless the president elected by the people in a separate election has the ability to guide the country with his ideas and to submit various initiatives for the vote in Parliament. I am certain that even a highly fragmented Parliament cannot ignore reason and purpose of good ideas for the country. Poland needs new ideas and new initiatives, the time has come to clean up the house so the fresh air can get in.

Now that you have a general idea about my plans for Poland, I hope that you will have patience to wait for me to present my “New Deal” program during the upcoming election. It is up to the people to decide who will be the next president of Poland. My only wish is to present my “New Deal” during the election campaign so that this option is also taken into consideration. It would be a shame and great loss to democracy in Poland if one more time there is no open discussion about the future of Poland.

When the time comes to present this “New Deal”, I will not waver under the pressure of critics or show the flexibility of a populist. A radical situation requires radical solutions and a strong hand. The “New Deal” program of recovery can work only with a strong leader who has support of the Poles. The future president needs a solid contract with the country. Only a united country with a good plan can turn around to the road of prosperity and success.

I am not even a registered presidential candidate as yet but my old-time enemies are already terrified, ringing alarm bells that I will be taking part in the upcoming election. These expressions of fear prove to me that there is a very good chance for a victory this year. My opponents know that I cannot be corrupted and that I am an honest man who is not afraid of their criticism. They are not really afraid of me, for I am only a man. They are afraid of you and your votes. I hope when I present my “New Deal” in the upcoming election, it will get enough support to take control of our country away from the hereditary establishment that has done so much harm. My enemies need not be afraid – I plan to employ them as well in rebuilding Poland on the principles of honesty, transparency of government, practical reason and human rights. To go forward the only fear we should be worried about is fear itself.

I would like to thank those Poles who have supported my political work and who trust me with their votes. This means that many people know that I am one of the political leaders who have much to say. This is a great honor and responsibility for me. From now on my duty will be to work harder on a “New Deal” and to be ready with a series of legislative proposals in order to have this plan implemented pending the outcome of the popular vote. There is much work to be done ahead of time. Everyone knows that a new president has to prove his worth during the first 100 days!

It is time to break out of the old clouds hanging over Poland. Let there be light of truth and reason and new life shall begin!

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