

[POLAND: GAZETA.PL] The unprecedented movement of diplomats: PiS's actions "harmonize with the goals of Russia." Waszczykowski responds to the allegations. [7 May 2018]

http://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/7,114884,23364041,byli-dyplomaci-beda-recenzowac-bo-dzialania-pis-wspolgraja.html#Z_MT

29 former ambassadors appointed the Polish Ambassadors' Conference - Gazeta.pl learned. - The policy of "good change" and the violation of the rule of law in Poland harmonize with the strategic goals of Russia, which is to bring about the breakup of the EU and NATO - they argue.

- It is an informal initiative which aim is to monitor, and in the future to repair, Polish foreign policy. The initiative is an expression of the concern of the group of ambassadors who shaped Polish foreign policy over the past 30 years, and now they see the decline of Poland's importance in the world - says Ryszard Schnepf, former ambassador in Washington to Gazeta.pl.

Witold Waszczykowski, former head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Law and Justice government, comments in an interview with Gazeta.pl: - I am glad that they are former ambassadors. If they think so, they definitely deserve to not perform these functions anymore.

Former ambassadors: today Poland is perceived as a "sick man" of the EU

As we read in the document on the establishment of the Polish Ambassadors' Conference, its aim is to analyze foreign policy, identify emerging threats to Poland and prepare recommendations. - We are convinced that foreign policy is an expression of the interests of the State, and not the interests of the ruling party - emphasize former ambassadors.

According to a group of former ambassadors, by 2015 Poland "belonged to the six most influential members of the European Union, was a credible ally in the NATO structures, a respected partner for key countries and closest neighbors." - Today Poland is perceived as a "sick man" of the EU, an unpredictable member of NATO, a country at odds with formerly friendly countries - they assess.

According to 29 diplomats, Law and Justice "has an instrumental and disrespectful attitude towards foreign policy, and the role of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is consistently degraded." According to them, "Poland in the eyes of partners becomes a state that does not guarantee the stability of law and instead of a western community of values introduces an atmosphere of ethnic hatred and xenophobia".

"The policy of a 'good change' is in harmony with Russia's strategic goals "

Former ambassadors subscribe to the words of the head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, prof. Jacek Czaputowicz, who in his speech in the Parliament on 21 March said that the best defense against revisionism of Russia is tightening cooperation within the European Union and NATO. At the same time, however, in the opinion of the signatories of the Polish Ambassadors' Conference, "the policy of a good change" and the violation of the rule of law in Poland are in harmony with Russia's strategic goals of breaking the EU and NATO. " - It is also attractive for populist movements in other western countries, often inspired by Moscow with the intention of undermining the Transatlantic Union - diplomats emphasized.

According to former ambassadors, Poland's current foreign policy "leads to the marginalization of Poland in the Union". - There is a lack of voice and Poland's influence in many fundamental matters for us and in the future of Europe - diplomats regret.

A strong blow to Antoni Macierewicz's purge

Former ambassadors also beat Antoni Macierewicz's politics, although they do not directly mention his name.

- The security of Poland is getting worse. NATO officers trained at the NATO camps, joined by brotherhood of arms with allied army officers (including the US Army) were forced to leave the service - diplomats write. This is how they comment on the personnel purges at the tops of the army, which decimated the body of generals. They also point out delays in modernizing the army. They also pointed out that adopting the amendment to the Act on the Institute of National Remembrance led to the risk that the US Congress might block the allocation of funds necessary for the stationing of American soldiers at the Vistula River.

"Integration with the West or subordination to the empire from the East"

- Our geopolitical position condemns us to the choice: integration with the West or subordination to the revisionist empire from the East - the creators of the Polish Ambassadors' Conference emphasized. According to them, the third road in the middle of Europe is a fantasy.

At the end, the former ambassadors emphasized: - For many years of diplomatic service we have been working for an independent Poland, integrated with the West, and with growing anxiety we observe the destruction of these achievements. The current collapse threatens the Polish *raison d'état*!

The list of former ambassadors who appointed the Polish Ambassadors' Conference: Jan Barcz, Andrzej Jaroszyński, Anna Niewiadomska, Marcin Bosacki, Maciej Klimczak, Jerzy Maria Nowak, Iwo Byczewski, Michał Klinger, Piotr Nowina-Konopka, Maria Krzysztof Byrski, Tomasz Knothe, Agnieszka Magdziak- Miszewska, Mieczysław Cieniuch, Maciej Kozłowski, Piotr Ogrodziński, Tadeusz Diem, Maciej Koźmiński, Katarzyna Pelczyńska-Nałęcz, Paweł Dobrowolski, Jerzy Kranz, Ryszard Schnepf, Grzegorz Dziemidowicz, Henryk Lipszyc, Tadeusz Szumowski, Urszula Gacek, Bogumił Luft, Maria Wodzyńska-Walicka, Marek Grela, Piotr Łukasiewicz.

Waszczykowski for Gazeta.pl: they deserve no longer serving as ambassadors

In an interview with Gazeta.pl, the initiative of former diplomats is commented on by Witold Waszczykowski, who from November 2015 to January this year was the head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

- I'm glad they are former ambassadors. If they think so, they definitely deserve to not perform these functions anymore - says Witold Waszczykowski to Gazeta.pl.

According to Waszczykowski, Polish diplomacy is reviewed by various institutions, from the Parliament to the analytical institutes. - I do not expect reviews from former ambassadors, and if so, they should do moderate and evaluating reviews of our foreign policy in a real way, not a rabid one - he adds.

Responding to the accusation that the diplomacy of "good change" is failing and threatening the Polish raison d'état, he indicates that the most important issues were the state security - so that the Washington Treaty (about NATO) should not be "paper". - Now we have a permanent presence of NATO troops in Poland and there are plans to increase this presence. The construction of the anti-missile base is underway - he mentions.

According to Waszczykowski, in 2015, PiS found ruined cooperation in our region of Europe. - We have always said that friends should be sought as close as possible, so we had to integrate the region - he emphasizes. And he mentions the activities within the Visegrad Group, the "Bucharest nine", the Tri-Sea initiative, as well as cooperation on the Poland-Romania-Turkey route.

Waszczykowski: Sikorski did not have successes in seven years

As the third merit of the Law and Justice team, Waszczykowski mentions the expansion of the Polish presence in the world.

- We have been rebuilding our position, which was liquidated by its predecessors. Radosław Sikorski closed approximately 30 branches, and during the year I opened six without increasing the budget of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. As a result of this expanding presence in the world and lobbying activities, we entered the UN Security Council, the former minister underlines. - Besides, Barack Obama and Donald Trump visited us. We were visited by the president of China and half of Europe at the levels of the president, prime minister and ministers - lists Waszczykowski. In his opinion, Sikorski's diplomacy under such successes is lacking.