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**The Polish Involvement in to war on  
The Global Terrorism**

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## The Polish Involvement in to war on The Global Terrorism

The matter of ethic is more profound and important in the life of every human being than it seems to appear. Everyone, every day must make a choice between their values and situation that occurs in their particular life. This reflection paper is mostly about a difficult ethical problem for the Polish society, which has become crucial during the last few years. The problem is the Polish involvement in the global war on terrorism. Since the terrible event when Osama Bin Laden and al-Qaeda attacked the United States on September 11<sup>th</sup> 2001, many changes all around the world happened. The USA began the war against terrorism. At the very beginning, the US invaded Afghanistan, the country where the Taliban government killed common people just for being human. Poland “as an allied country” received an invitation to take part in this operation. Our nation took a slightly different role for the first time because we were supposed to take part in bringing freedom to another country. The dilemma was obvious; the whole nation was taking part in making a correct decision. The question raised was: after many years under Soviet occupation, and having ongoing economical problems, should we take a part in this operation or should stay away like the French and Germans?

As a loyal member of the NATO, we sent our troops to support the coalition forces in bring freedom to this much oppressed country. Unfortunately, the Polish society had mixed feelings about our involvement in this conflict. Our government was courageous enough to send Soldiers to Afghanistan despite the fact that many times, our allies deserted us; we had some bad experiences in the past.

Looking at our history the following is an explanation of our hesitation. During thousand years of history, Poland has had many allies, international treaties and other covenants that

guaranteed our safety. Unfortunately, these treaties did not work and we found that we could not depend on them. The great example of this situation is the 1st of September 1939, the beginning of the Second World War, when France and Great Britain did not help us when we were attacked by Nazi Germany. France and Great Britain probably, could have prevented the outbreak of this horrible war. If they had helped Poland and attacked Nazi Germany from the west, WW II might not have broken out at all and a lot of people would have been saved.

The course of our action was simple; we chose honesty and loyalty to our allies. For some reason we Poles always honor to the covenants which we make. Another opportunity to show our loyalty was sending our troops to Iraq. Actually sending troops to Iraq was a bigger issue for us. Poland was under occupation for many years. In 1775 foreign powers divided Poland into partitions and took over all nation until 1918 after twenty years of freedom, Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union invaded and divided us again. What is more, the conference in Yalta in 1945 put Poland under Soviet influence for 55 years. Each adult Pole knows what foreign interference brings to your internal affairs and every foreigner should understand our hesitation.

Operation "Iraqi Freedom" was established to destroy Saddam Hussein, find weapons of mass destruction, and most importantly to free the Iraqi people. Some people in Poland think that Globalization is the main reason for terrorism in the world. The fight with terrorism is only a deception - the reasons for the war with Iraq turned out to be false. From the beginning, it was about oil, it was all about development of army power and about Israel. The Polish government took under consideration all the pros and cons and again decided to send Soldiers to Iraq. We believed that it was necessary to show loyalty to the other members of NATO and we are not cowards. Since that time many threats and allegations appeared against all participants in the war in Iraq. Many of them become true, for example the blast on the tram in Madrid or attack on the

London metro. The television and Internet also showed threats against Poland, but we did not abandon our treaty. Unfortunately, the situation in Iraq is getting worse. Despite the fact that American forces arrested Saddam Hussein and the country is free, many more Soldiers are dying there than during invasion. Many Poles speculate that some foreign powers are trying to take over this devastated country and create a hotbed of terrorists. The worst perception for Poles is that the Iraqis see the allies as the *occupants*. Polish society does not want our military to be seen as an occupying force, and instantly started to pressure on the government to pull Polish troops from Iraq. Probably in the near future, we will leave Iraq slowly enough to give our allies the time to adjust their forces. We are aware that our area of responsibility is a difficult one. 3000 troops are under Polish Command from different countries. The language barrier is huge and diversity in equipment and military standards makes it hard to command.

Almost 60% of the people in Poland want our troops back and we are again standing with the difficult choice. We as Poles and especially Soldiers do not want to be seen as cowards. The government is in the position to stay in Iraq. Poland's economy does not allow us to carry on more excessive and extended long term missions. The budget of the country is not prepared for a long presence in Iraq. That is the most likely what cause our withdrawal from Iraq. The Polish involvement in the war with the terrorism predominately is seen in these two operations. This might not appear to be much but we try to do our best to help the United States and England to fight with the terrorists and fulfill our obligations. We stay, just like we have always stayed, with the good cause against evil, with the hope that we will not be deserted in danger again.

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