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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

REFERENCE:

20 July 2015

Dear Mr. Chumiecki,

Thank you for your letter to the Secretary-General dated 27 May 2015, in which you invited him to convey a congratulatory message on the 130th anniversary of the Orchard Lake Polish Mission. We thank you for your support over the years, including for the vital work of Holocaust remembrance and education. I am afraid, however, that we will be unable to provide a letter owing to long-standing UN guidelines and practice.

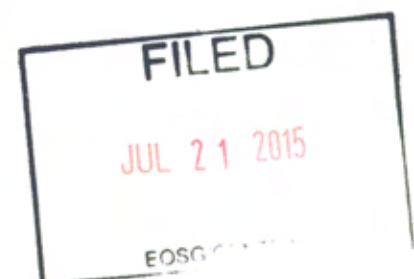
Please accept our best wishes for a successful commemoration.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard Amdur".

Richard Amdur
Director
Communications
and Speechwriting Unit

Mr. Marcin Chumiecki
Director
Polish Mission
Orchard Lake



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ACTION

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Orchard Lake, Michigan
May 27, 2015

To His Excellency Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary-General at the United Nations:
Dear Sir,

Please accept our most heartfelt greetings and best wishes. As America's leading Polish cultural organization (and the oldest—founded in 1885), it's our privilege to address you today.

The Polish Mission is the cultural department of the *Orchard Lake Schools*, founded in 1885 in Detroit by Fr. Józef Dąbrowski. Permission to establish such an institution of higher learning for the masses of Polish immigrants was expressly granted in writing by Pope Leo XIII. Since 1885, our institution has dutifully performed our critical role in shaping the intellect and character of young people who desire to become our future's leaders.

Today, the combined student body of St. Mary's Preparatory and Ss. Cyril and Methodius Seminary is about 600, and our team of faculty, staff, and administration embraces the virtues of yesteryear while offering the most up-to-date educational and cultural experiences to all who enroll here in Orchard Lake. Indeed, our picturesque campus, formerly home of the Michigan Military Academy, conveys the sense of greater purpose we feel each day.

July 22, 2015 will mark the 130th anniversary of our founding. We recommit ourselves this year to empowering people across the nation for a bright and hopeful future. I write to you today to invite you to compose a letter of congratulations to *The Polish Mission and to the Orchard Lake Schools* to formally mark your support of our legacy, for which we would be most grateful.

This landmark year also bears two most notable hallmarks that underscore our cultural engagement. We are the exclusive North American partner institution with the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum of Poland (A-BSM). To honor the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, it was our privilege to host the prestigious and massive *Forbidden Art* exhibition at the United Nations, in support of a special session called on global prevention of genocide. Further, for this and for our continued cultural activities, it was our highest honor to be awarded the *Gloria Artis* (gold), which is the highest form of recognition awarded by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Poland. We are the only institution in the United States that bears this honor.

It would be my deepest privilege to welcome you to our upcoming awards ceremony. In the near future, I will follow up with an exact date, likely in September of this year, when a delegation from the Polish government will travel to the US for the occasion.

Enclosed you will find a copy of our latest edition of *The Mission*, our annual publication that invites readers to explore the day-to-day workings and special events that embody The Polish Mission.

Most sincerely

Marcin Chumiecki
Director, The Polish Mission

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