

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3802
specter.senate.gov

December 15, 2008

Michael Blichasz
President
Polish American Congress, Eastern Pennsylvania District
308 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Dear Mr. Blichasz:

I apologize for the comments which I made Friday at a Republican State Committee luncheon in New York.

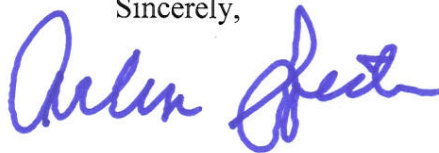
In retrospect, I can see that they were inappropriate and I regret having made them. You may be sure I will never make the same mistake again.

In my 28 years in the United States Senate, I have always valued my strong relationship with the Polish community. I have travelled to Poland on several occasions, most recently in 2007. Following my visit, I returned to the floor of the United States Senate to share with my colleagues that, "the relationship between the United States and Poland is strong." I also recognized Poland's important contribution to the war on terrorism: "Poland is putting forward a number of troops to assist the United States in Iraq and Afghanistan, with 900 in Iraq and 1,200 in Afghanistan."

To my knowledge, I am one of the few, if not the only, Senators who has hosted a Polish national on my Washington, D.C. staff who returned to Warsaw to serve his government.

As the son of Russian immigrants, I keenly appreciate that one's heritage is a matter of intense pride and identity. I look forward to working with the Polish-American community in the years to come.

Sincerely,



Arlen Specter