

**The Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America**  
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Dr. William McIntosh  
President  
National D-Day Memorial Foundation  
Bedford, Virginia

Dear Dr. McIntosh

In the name of our Board, Council and nearly 1500 scholars, scientists, artists, and professionals who are members of the Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America, I wish to express our dismay, shock, and even outrage on your unfortunate decision to place a bust of Joseph Stalin in the D-Day Memorial Museum, thus giving this notorious tyrant a place of honor in this country. Vladimir Putin, with other Russian chauvinists, may be willing to overlook his well known crimes against humanity and begin his rehabilitation, but most Americans are not prepared to support these devious efforts. This is especially the case for over 40 million Americans of Eastern European ancestry (Ukrainian Americans, Polish Americans, Lithuanian Americans, Latvian American, Estonian Americans, Hungarian Americans, Belarusin Americans, Russian Americans etc.) whose families, in the millions, were victims of Stalinism from the 1920's to the 1950's. So I would seriously recommend that you reconsider your decision if you expect support for your foundation from these communities. It is not right to compromise our principles and give even a hint of legitimacy to this monstrous despot.

Stalin's hideous crimes have been well documented not only by Western scholars like Robert Conquest in the book The Great Terror (New York, 1968) but by a Russian scholar Roy A. Medvedev, Let History Judge: The Origins and Consequences of Stalinism (New York, 1972). The Russian Nobel Laureate Alexander Solzhenitsyn described Stalin's hell in several books especially in Gulag Archipelago. A recent book Katyn :A Crime Without Punishment edited by Anna M Cienciala et al. (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2007) furnishes evidence of one of the signature crimes of Stalinism. Let's not forget Nikita Khrushchev's condemnation of Stalin in February 1956 which led to a popular de-Stalinization movement accompanied by a destruction of all Stalin monuments in the Soviet Union with the exception in his birth place, Georgia.

Stalin unwittingly became an ally of Britain and the USA only after Nazi Germany invaded the Soviet Union much to his surprise in June 1941. Two years prior he collaborated very closely with Hitler and jointly participated in the attack on Poland in September 1939, thus precipitating World War II. In this period as the English historian Norman Davies wrote, “Nazi propaganda praised the achievements of the great Stalin, while the Soviet press praised the victories of the German army over decadent forces of capitalism and imperialism”. So, is this the kind of person we want to honor in the D Day Museum ? The answer is NO. By the way, the Soviet forces were not engaged in the D-Day invasion, whereas Polish armed forces in-exile were. This is well noted by the British historian, John Keegan, author of Six Flags Over Normandy. It is, of course, true that Russian soldiers fought valiantly on the Eastern front and contributed to victory over Nazi Germany with American aid. But they fought not so much to save communism in the Soviet Union, but rather to save “Holy Mother Russia”, rallied by the Acting Patriarch of Moscow.

Sincerely yours,

Thaddeus V. Gromada  
President and Executive Director  
Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America  
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