

March 21, 1988

Dear Mr. Ambassador,

Attached are some specific comments on Ewa's translation of your article. To summarize, I thoroughly enjoyed it. I particularly enjoyed both the introductory first five pages and the final paragraph on page 20. In addition, I think that your discussion about your search for and discovery of the German photo materials will alleviate some of the problems I perceived might materialize from your previous treatment of this area. Specific comments follow:

Page 6. The MVD tourist map: your discussion of this map certainly does contribute to understanding how you located the right area.

Page 7. Your explanation of the markings on the photographs: this discussion also adds drama to your story of how you conducted the investigation.

Page 10. I would recommend adding two sentences to the circled paragraph summarizing the "proof of mysterious doings." (Of course, if you disagree, you are free to disregard this suggestion.) This addition to the paragraph would state that the photos clearly prove that the bodies were disinterred from the gravesite after the January 1944 public Soviet ceremony and that this fact has never before been known to Polish or western researchers. The addition would then state that the photos do not prove what was done with the bodies, but new excavations in the forest strongly suggest that the bodies (and the personal documents on the bodies) were destroyed and the remains secretly buried in smaller graves throughout the forest.

Page 13-14. Your locational directions probably should refer to east or west, rather than left or right. When published, the photographs should have north-indicator arrows so the reader can identify compass directions.

Page 13-14. We need to discuss the various "ditches" on the April 28 photo. I'm a little confused, possibly by Ewa's translation. I believe you should mention that the southern edge of the ditch or pit is a sloping face ... that is, it is a ramp constructed for vehicle entry and exit. This is important because it is additional evidence indicating that the gravesite was machine excavated.

Page 15. Personally, I believe that the five small cleared areas below the gravesite were the specific locations where the bodies were destroyed (although we cannot prove the bodies were really destroyed). I believe this judgement is suggested by the proximity of these small clearings to: 1. the gravesite; and 2. to the forest road (since the bodies were probably moved by cargo truck, not by hand). This is a speculative judgement; other people might disagree.

Page 15. The "shallower and shorter ditch". Which excavation is this?

Page 15. The fact that the five small cleared areas below the gravesite now appear linked to each other is evidence of much foot traffic into and out of these clearings. Given the smallness of these ^{clearings} ~~paths~~, I believe this heavy foottraffic is additional evidence that these five cleared areas were the specific locations for destroying the bodies. (THESE foot paths may have been present on April 28, but did not show up because the scene contrast was ^{lower} ~~smaller~~ prior to the spring foliage and grass reaching full "green-ness" later in May.)

in the West → Page 19. I recall speculating with you many months ago about whether the monument shown to the Polish military attaches might have been at another location. I had no evidence to support this speculation, however. Given the existence of the German photos and the excellent map published in the Mackiewicz book, do you think the Soviet Government would go to this length?

Page 20. An excellent concluding paragraph!!

Sincerely,



David