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## **The Unity of Diversity - Statement at the Polish National Alliance 36th Convention**

Edmund S. Muskie

Jane Muskie

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# MUSKIE

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FOR RELEASE

MESSAGE OF SENATOR EDMUND S. MUSKIE

DELIVERED BY JANE MUSKIE

TO

THE POLISH NATIONAL ALLIANCE 36TH CONVENTION

PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA - HILTON HOTEL

SEPTEMBER 22, 1971

"THE UNITY OF DIVERSITY"

Introduction of Mrs. Muskie

Thank you.

Last night my husband gave me a special message to bring to you this morning.

It was impossible for him to be here.

But I have his message here. I would like to read it to you.

"I am proud to be a member of the Polish National Alliance.

I am proud of the success of President Mazewski, in enlisting new members in thirty-eight states.

And I am also proud of the work he has done for this country, as an outstanding delegate to the United Nations.

We meet today as sons and daughters of Poland. But above all, we meet as Americans, sustained by the strength of our heritage and the faith of our ancestors.

Our parents and grandparents came to America to build a life of progress and freedom.

They came to continue the efforts of others before them. . . men like Pulaski and Kosciusko. . . who left Poland to stand side by side with the first Americans in their struggle for independence.

More than a hundred years later, my father and many of yours found sanctuary here -- sanctuary from injustice and fear -- in the cities and towns and neighborhoods of America.

My father taught me to believe in the hopes of that America. . . to care about the fate of every American -- Black and white -- Italian and Pole -- Catholic, Protestant, and Jew. . . to work for the fundamental values of our free society:

- The right to earn a decent living.
- The right to raise a family in safety.
- The right to be treated with respect.
- The right to live in peace.

We must -- each of us -- work to preserve and improve what we know is good and great about America. Our special heritage reminds us of the dangers of failure and the endless rewards of success. And that heritage can teach each of us in our own lives to give the minorities of today that measure of tolerance we ourselves have received.

We understand a fundamental truth about America -- that people of different origins and backgrounds can live together in peace and harmony -- each contributing to a richer life for all. But we also know another truth -- that this is possible only when each is willing to reach out to the other with sympathy, understanding and compassion.

Let us build on these truths the America which was our fathers' dream."

Thank you.

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