

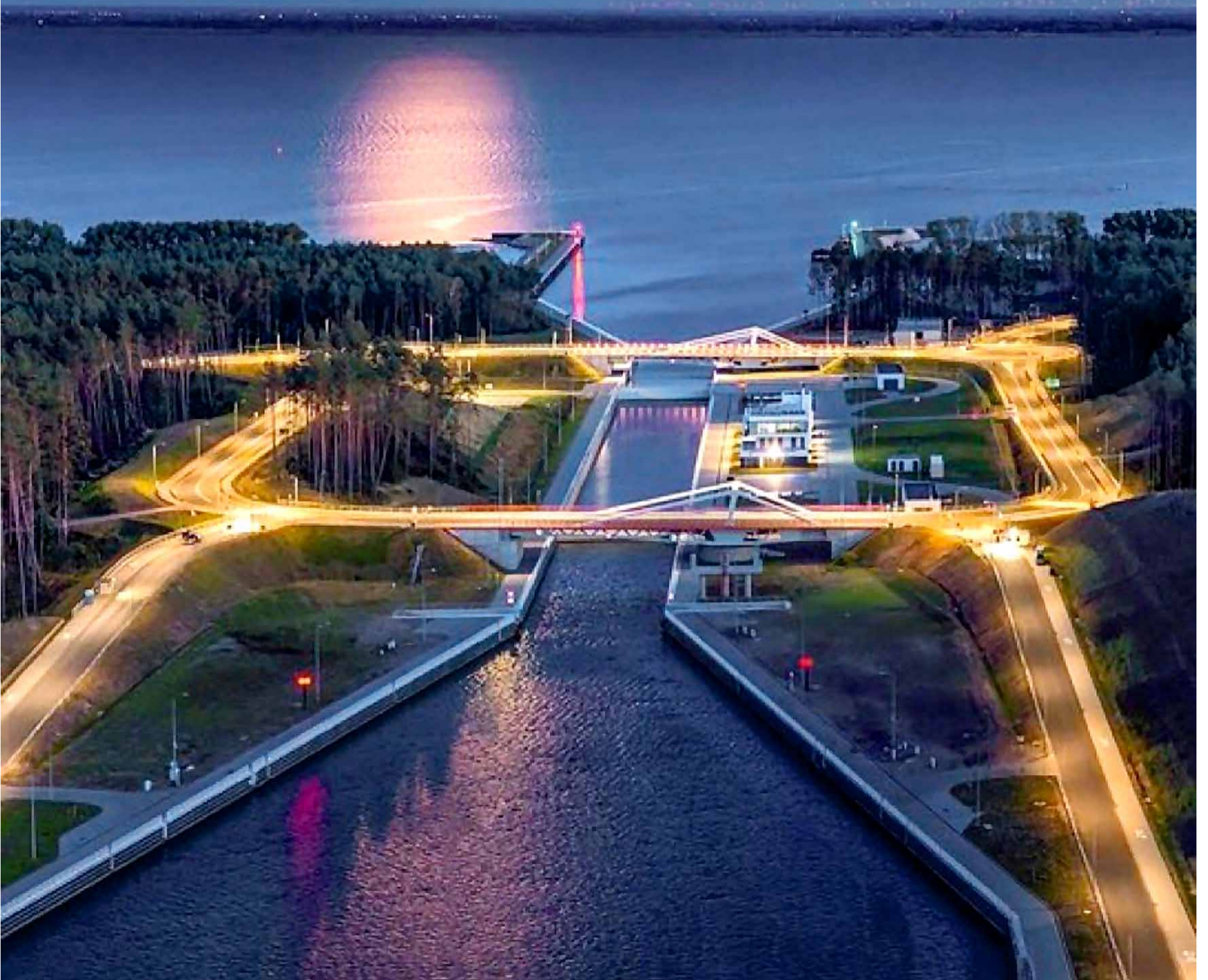


# True Voice from **Poland**

No. 003 • September 23 – October 6, 2022

www.knz24.pl

## The Navigable Channel Through the Vistula Spit Is Open



The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of **Józef Szaniawski's** Death  
**Ignacy Domeyko** – a Chilean National Hero

page 2

page 3

# The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Józef Szaniawski's Death

## More than a friend



MAREK BOBER

In 1990, little was known about Józef Szaniawski in the far city of Chicago. Szaniawski wrote patriotic and anti-communist articles. That was much. He had also spent five out of ten years in the hardest prisons of the Polish People's Republic. Officially, he was sentenced to prison for cooperating with the CIA – in other words, for spying for the USA. That was important. He had been imprisoned for a long time – since the time Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the first 'non-communist' prime minister, was in office. Those first 'non-communist' authorities have forgotten about him, and I thought we must not forget Szaniawski in Chicago.

For me, as the editor-in-chief of the most dynamic and popular Polonia newspaper at the time, "Dziennik Chicagoski," adding Szaniawski to the circle of our cooperators was a goal in itself. He wrote about the key topics for Poland after the Round Table Agreement: he noticed the Soviet threat, including the strong presence of Russian agents, he did not overlook the stationing of the Red Army troops in Poland, he postulated decommunization and lustration, and he emphasized the most noble moments from the history of the Polish state and nation. Also, he was called – and rightly so – the last political prisoner of the Polish People's Republic.



Józef Szaniawski (on the right) and Marek Bober during the celebrations of the 25th anniversary of the foundation of Fighting Solidarity, Warsaw, the Sejm, 2007. Photograph: archive

From today's point of view, the mechanics of our correspondence looks a bit silly. I called him once a week, in accordance with our agreement, I recorded the con-

versation, and then I had to write it, and Józef – which was important later on – told the content of his correspondence, in such an attractive manner that it became im-

mediately popular among Poles in America. It was his ability to tell about current affairs as well as historical events that later gained him countless faithful listeners among

the recipients of Polonia's radio programs.

Józef's cooperation with "Dziennik Chicagoski" as well as our other publications, weekly "Gazeta Polska" and "Relax" and later "Dziennik Nowojorski," tightened, and it was so good that in the end, he became the head of our Warsaw office.

After a time, the decision was made that Józef would come to the United States because he was becoming more and more popular here and because he simply deserved it. It was June of 1993. Józef landed on the John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York City. He was invited by the Chicago Political Thought Club founded by Solidarity emigrants. In New York, the late Stanisław Matejczuk – known for, among other things, his role in the so-called sergeant Karos case – took care of Józef. After a short stay in New York and Washington, DC and after a few important meetings, including meetings with American politicians, Józef traveled to Chicago. That was where his American adventure began, and soon he came to understand and love that city and to appreciate its Polish community.

Still, he would not be himself if he did not have a surprise up his sleeve. Admittedly, he came to meet the editorial team and the ▶

## Representatives of Poland in the European Parliament Have Issued a Statement Concerning the Reparations From Germany

■ On September 1, the 83rd anniversary of the outbreak of World War II, a report on the Polish losses suffered by Poland as a result of the German occupation of 1939–45 was presented in the Royal Castle in Warsaw. According to experts, Germans owe Poland over of 6 trillion and 220 billion zlotys.

Soon, voices have been raised in the German press saying that Poland would not receive reparations. A few days later chancellor Olaf Scholz said that the question of war reparations was closed for Germany.

In response to that, MEPs from the Law and Justice party issued a statement in which they raised two important questions.

The first one is Western politicians' deep ignorance of the history of World War II and of German crimes. Polish politicians want to remind the audience about the scale of the tragedy and strengthen the awareness of the fact that our country suffered the

most in World War II and that Germany has not made amends for it.

Also, the issue of the alleged waiver by Poland of the reparations as a result of a decision made in 1953 should be explained. They emphasize that it is immoral for Germans to invoke that document because at that time, our country was under brutal Soviet occupation brought about by, among other factors, the world war started by Germany.

The members of the European Parliament also claim that the question of war reparations is a broader European problem:

"The German chancellor, as a representative of the nation which



brought so many calamities upon Europe, does not have a moral right today to aspire to European leadership as long as the countries which suffered the damage have not been recompensed for

it. The European integration was to close the war period and remove the consequences of the war. The lack of recompense for Poland puts a question mark over the effectiveness of the post-war process of the reconstruction of Europe."

The politicians state that "only after Germany has truly made amends to all the victim countries and nations can a new phase begin," and they note that there is no statute of limitations on the crime of genocide.

Editorial team

► members of the Polish community, to give a few interviews, and to attend a few meetings. It all happened. For example, at the beginning of July 1993, in the seat of center no. 90 of the Polish Army Veterans Association in America, he had the first public meeting with Poles in Chicago.

First of all, however, he came with a mission. He wanted to begin something which would resonate far and wide in Poland and have huge political consequences.

He brought two documents with him: one from Jarosław Kaczyński, the head of the Center Agreement, and one from Jan Parys, the head of the Third Republic Movement and, in 1991–92, the Minister of National Defense. Both letters were addressed to colonel Ryszard Kukliński. The letters contained recognition for the colonel's attitude and activity. The authors also invited Kukliński to visit Poland as soon as possible, maybe even on September 17, 1993, on the anniversary of the fourth partition of Poland.

I obtained the colonel's P.O. Box address, I added a letter from myself to the two letters brought by Józef from Poland, I gave my home telephone number, and I sent it all. The following two days were filled with anxiety mixed with excitement. Time passed, and nothing happened. It felt like an eternity. One evening, though, the telephone rang, and I heard: "This is colonel Kukliński" on the other end of the line. I was floored.



That was a beginning of a beautiful part of the history of Poles, including Józef, in the United States.

Soon after, colonel Kukliński came to an exclusive meeting in the office of "Dziennik Chicagoski." I only realized what we have undertaken when he entered and received a bouquet of white and red flowers, and when I saw tears on the secretary's face. We could not, off course, film, record, or take photographs – we only could make notes. When it comes to leaders of the four most important organizations of the Polish diaspora, only the late Adam Oscytko – the president of the Alliance of Pol-

ish Clubs in the USA at that time – came. Józef participated in that breakthrough meeting. It was the colonel's first meeting with the representatives of Polonia and Polish emigrants. Specific proposals were made: the colonel was told that he was not alone and that actions should be taken to inform Poland about his achievements. That is what happened.

A few days later, on the initiative of "Dziennik Chicagoski" and the Political Thought Club, another meeting was organized, with a few more participants there (CIA limited the number of guests to not more than 30). It took place in

the office of the Alliance of Polish Clubs. The Political Thought Club awarded badges and honorary memberships to Ryszard Kukliński, Jarosław Kaczyński, Jan Parys, and Józef Szaniawski. Soon after, Józef became the colonel's proxy, and he undertook actions aimed at rehabilitating Kukliński in Poland and to overturn the death penalty to which he had been sentenced. In this way, Józef began a new chapter in Polish history.

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In 1993, he also visited Detroit. In later years, he visited the United States many times. He had many friends in America, mainly in Chi-

cago. He remained in touch with the clergy, especially with Tadeusz Dzieszko, the pastor of St. Constance Catholic Church, and Michał Osuch, the pastor of St. Hyacinth Basilica. He was also often heard on the Polonia radio. He quickly began cooperating with "Kurier Codzienny" (established in 1997) and then with "Kurier Chicago." His books sold fast in Chicago, and his author's evenings were very popular. It should be clearly said that his success was well deserved.

Since September 4, 2012, I have been missing not only a co-worker but also a friend. I miss the person I have been talking for a few hours every week during over 20 years of our acquaintance as well as the friend with whom, in June–July of 1993, I embarked on the great "Colonel Ryszard Kukliński" journey.

**Editor's note:** Józef Szaniawski was born on October 4, 1944, in Lviv. He was a doctor of history, a political scientist, a Sovietologist, and a journalist. He authored books and albums about Polish history. He was a university lecturer. He died tragically in the Tatra Mountains, on September 4, 2012. To this day, there is controversy around his death. He had a state funeral. He was buried in the "Avenue of the Distinguished" in the Powązki Military Cemetery in Warsaw.

## Ignacy Domeyko – a Chilean National Hero



ADAM  
MAKSYMOWICZ

■ The incredible fight for the life of miners buried in a copper mine in Chile aroused the interest of people around the world. Poles, especially Silesians, were very much moved by it. Many a time have we survived mining catastrophes and witnessed tragedies experienced by our colleagues, friends, and other people endangered in their jobs. We rejoiced greatly upon learning that the thirty-three Chilean miners got out of the San Jose mine in the Atacama desert after spending seventy days (from August to October of 2010) in its underground corridors. We anxiously observed the incredibly efficient rescuing efforts. The information about it was published daily, not only by mining-related media. The events brought Chilean mining very close to us. On that occasion, it is worth remembering the role our famous compatriot, Ignacy Domeyko, played in the early development of that industry in Chile. Poles barely remember that remarkable man. In Chile, he is a national hero.

### The Two Hundredth Birth Anniversary

Ignacy Domeyko was born on July 3, 1802. The two hundredth anniversary of his birth was celebrated with the greatest aplomb at the Jagiellonian University in Cracow. The celebrations were organized in cooperation with the Chilean University of Santiago. In 1887, the oldest Polish university awarded the title of honorary doctor to Domeyko. On October 10, 2002, a Polish-Chilean symposium titled "Ignacy Domeyko – an Honorary Doctor of the Jagiellonian University" took place in Cracow. It was attended by the rector of the University of Santiago, professor doctor Luis Riveros Cornejo. There was also an accompanying exhibition titled "Ignacy Domeyko – Life and Work." Domeyko's great-grandson Pablo Domeyko read a paper.



Many nations lay their claim to Domeyko and his achievements. He was born in Lithuania, in Niedźwiadki (today, it is a

village in Belarus). However, he gained recognition for his work in Chile. The Chilean government expressed its gratitude by

awarding honorary citizenship to Domeyko. In Chile, the Polish researcher contributed to the discovery of the greatest global cop-

per ores which have constituted the economic foundation of that state to this day. Domeyko was a co-founder of the University of Santiago in Chile. For four terms, he was the rector of that university, and he created its modern model through his reforms. He retired, for health reasons, when he was over eighty years old. Later, Domeyko visited Poland many times. He was a great and modest discoverer and teacher. He died in Santiago, on January 23, 1889. During his funeral, students unhitched the horses from the funeral hears and pulled the cart themselves the long distance from Domeyko's home to the Santiago cathedral. Domeyko's grave is in the main cemetery in Santiago, in an alley which bears his name.

The session in Cracow was organized by a researcher of Domeyko's work, professor doctor Zdzisław Jan Ryn, a former ambassador of the Republic ►

► of Poland in Chile. The materials from the symposium have been published, in Spanish and in Polish, in an elegant volume titled "Ignacy Domeyko – a citizen of the world." As we mention Domeyko's works on that occasion, it is worth noting that they are yet to be popularized in our country.

### Rector

The current rector of the University of Chile recalls that Domeyko voiced his support for the German model of the university, in which the professor does not only repeat the knowledge gained from various sources but also uses the results of his own research when teaching students and, in this way, passes on the processes of knowledge creation. Research was very important for Domeyko. In his memorandum addressed to university authorities, he wrote: *One important benefit of well-planned studies, preparatory or at a higher level, is that the student learns to think and reason in such a way that whatever the circumstances in life, the person will be able to learn, remember, and develop those fields of knowledge which will be the greatest use and expedience.* It looks like that postulate has not lost its relevance today. Domeyko motto was to *teach how to learn.* He posited continuous education. His documents contain numerous mentions of the value and dignity of teaching. *The professor's purpose is to be useful not only for the studying youth but also for himself: teaching is the humanist's real life.* Thanks to Domeyko, the University of Chile has been pioneering culture and education on the whole continent until the present day.



### Romanticist

Domeyko was Adam Mickiewicz's friend, and a member of the philomaths and filarets' conspiracy. He participated in the November Uprising, and finally became an emigrant for life. He cured his longing for Poland and Polish customs and people with ardent prayer, always said in Polish. His faith always gave him strength to work in any conditions. He never gave up the ideals of his youth. In his diary, he wrote: *The surest way to achieve faith with the grace and mercy of God is humility and love for one's neighbors, that laudable and limitless love exemplified by our Savior who died for us, forgave those who murdered him, and hugged innocent children. That love is the foundation of virtues, the arm for the hardest battle against the evil, against one's own pride, the main cause of our misfortunes. But it is just as hard*

*to find true charity, without the admixture of self-love, as it is to find a grain of native gold unpolluted by less noble metals.* Those were the values and convictions guiding Ignacy Domeyko all his life.

### Discoverer

In the Polish literature on that topic, Domeyko is described as the discoverer of Chilean copper ores. That is only partially true. According to his diaries, Domeyko visited many existing copper and silver mines in the American Cordillera and in the Atacama Desert. He was passionate about South American mountains. His geological research, maps, and descriptions, though, have contributed to the development of copper mining. He was the first to describe and map large areas of those mountains extending along the shore of the Pacific Ocean. With great engagement, he over-



came many obstacles. Many a time did he stay in the mountains overnight. He writes about it in his diary. *Suddenly, there was a torrid rain, followed by hail, and then by snow as thick as in Poland in January or February. A blizzard and a gale . . . From time to time, the sky seemed to clear, the snow dissipated, black clouds thronged low, darker than in the uplands, lightnings struck here and there, and thunders roared among the rocks, their echo disappearing in the gullies . . . In those circumstances – curled and covered with snow – we passed the day, until the evening, and the whole night, napping.*

### The Araucanía

When he traveled to the south of Chile, Domeyko met the Araucanian Indian tribes which fought for their freedom and independence from Spaniards. As those ide-

als were very close to his Polish heart, he took a deep interest in the marginalized people. He wanted to suggest to the Chilean government a more humanitarian approach to the Mapuche (People of the Earth) who inhabited the Araucanía. He wrote a book titled "Araucanía y sus habitantes" on that topic. In the book, he writes about the geography and natural environment of that area. He also includes many postulates concerning a peaceful inclusion of Araucanians to the Chilean society, and he calls for respect for their culture and tradition. Domeyko's study became a voice of protest against the violence and repressions used by the stronger group against the weaker one. He wrote: *When we speak about subjugating Indians, we should talk about their spiritual and religious education, about respecting the Araucanian's ancient nature and noble past, and not about a conquest . . . God forbid that the smallest shadow of egoism or dishonest, hypocritical policies should obstruct that green horizon covered with flowers and permeated by the fragrance of boundless forests and meadows.* Those postulates had a beneficial influence on the Chilean government which began to implement them.

### A Durable Work

As we observe, from a distance, Chileans' heroic fight for the life of the miners buried in the "San Jose" mine, we should note a part of the credit for their determination and professionalism goes to our great compatriot Ignacy Domeyko. We express our solidarity with the faraway nation with mining traditions similar to ours.

## The Navigable Channel Through the Vistula Spit Is Open

■ On September 17, a ceremony of the opening of a navigable channel through the Vistula Spit – a new waterway connecting the Vistula Lagoon with the Bay of Gdańsk – took place.

We are meeting today, in September 2022, but there was another September, 13 years ago, when Donald Tusk, who was the prime minister at that time, signed an agreement which limited the rights of the Republic of Poland to the Vis-

tula Lagoon, *de facto* – to that land. Tusk signed that agreement with Vladimir Putin, which was pointed out by Mateusz Morawiecki speaking on the occasion of the opening of the navigable channel through the Vistula Spit.

President Andrzej Duda reminded the audience that earlier Poland had to ask Russia for consent to every entry of a ship from the Baltic Sea to the Vistula Lagoon. The president said that the opening of the channel through the Vistula Spit

was a great victory for Poland, for patriots, for all people who understand the meaning of solidarity.

**Once the water lane has been deepened, ships which are 100 meters long and barge trains**

**which are 180 meters long, 20 meters wide and with 4.5 draft capacity will be able to go to Elbląg through the Vistula Lagoon.**

Ed.



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Fundacja Kronika Naszego Życia

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