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SWORN AND TECHNICAL  
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Certified translation from Polish

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368012-4460-136

Szczecin, August 26, 1992

LETTER OR RECOMMENDATION

This letter is thus issued by myself in order to be presented to the concerned institutions and persons to whom Ms. Anna Flak may apply during her stay in U.S.A. or Canada.

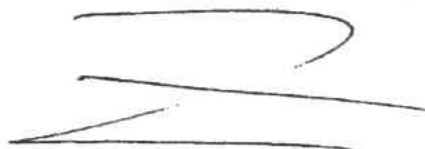
For 50 years I have been a Roman Catholic priest in Poland. At present I am Chief Confessor of Szczecin & Kamień Pomorski diocese and also I have been for five years a constant confessor of Ms. Flak. I can certify with all my heart and strongest belief that this is a person of true honesty, righteous and deeply observing the moral principles.

At the same time I wish to appeal warmly to everybody Ms. Flak turns to for rendering any assistance possible in her professional proceedings. She is an ambitious scholar and has broad plans. Unfortunately, in her homeland she has met only disappointments. First of all, I wish to point that in 1985 her doctor's title was unlawfully taken away from her, only after 3 months since it was granted (full documentation available). Ms. Flak is still fighting for the justice but even now, after three years since Poland has regained its freedom the authorities are not in hurry to make up for the injustice.

I do place my hopes and trust in our Lord that the person just mentioned will reach the successes that are due to her while working in the field of biometeorology and climatology in the U.S.A. and Canada.

Once more I am asking for your kindness and the help needed to Ms. Flak.

(-) Rev. Henryk Świerkowski



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Anna Flak  
P.O. Box 1546  
Key West, FL 33040  
U.S.A.

28 February 1994

United Nations Information Centre  
1889 F Street  
N.W. 20006

Dear Sirs,

Herewith I am addressing you, hoping that you are able to help me in the matter described above.

I am going to publish the story of my several years - long struggle for giving me back the title which had been taken from me illegally. For that reason, I request your assistance in finding a press title or a publishing house which would be interested in the matter.

My name is Anna Flak and I am a research worker in Sea Meteorology and Climatology Research Unit at Agriculture University in Szczecin, Poland. My story begins on 11th July 1985, when the defence of my doctor's dissertation took place. The result of that defence appeared positive, like the reviews written before. Just try to imagine the shock I felt when 3 months later the doctor's title was unexpectedly taken from me. No other case of that kind is known to me; I suppose one could even call it an exceptional event in the whole scientific world.

After my appeal - examined with a negative result / which was plotted by hostile to me authorities of the faculty/, I decided to claim the fairness at the authorities of my country. Here is chronology of my activity / begun in September 1989/:

- my letter to Prof. B. Geremek, the Chairman of Civil Parliament's Club; he directed my note to the Sejm Committee. After 13 months waiting, I learnt that the result was none.
- the letter to the President L. Wałęsa; it was directed to the Central Board for Title's Affairs. From there, a reply came that getting engaged in my case "would be possible after elections to this Board". Afterwards, I was given the second answer confirming the previous verdict.
- further letters to the Board as well as to the President's Office / from there I got an advice to wait patiently, and then my documents were sent back /.
- letters to: Prime Minister J.K. Bielecki / referred with a supporting comment to the Central Board/, the Spokesman of Citizen's Rights / an evasive reply/, Ministry of Justice / referred to the Ministry of National Education which supported the earlier settlements/, Chief Board of Supervision / referred to the Central Board for Title's Affairs/.
- next, the m/a Central Board reacted to the series of letters written by me and referred to them by the other Government offices. I received an information that my case was presented / at last / to the Presidium of this body. Unfortunately, the result was negative

again. That attitude to the question was supported by : Chief Board of Supervision and the Office of the Cabinet.

- I informed the Central Board that I didn't agree with this decision, and then, direct one more set of notes - this time to 25 institutions and organs in Poland / among others: the Presidents of the Polish Sejm and Senate, Minister of Labour and Social Policy/.

Up until now, 9 letters stay with no reply. Among the answers I have received there were many voices supporting the verdict from before 7 years - made by the representatives of the former political system.

My position met also understanding and promotion, but in few cases only: here I should point at Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Member of Parliament and Minister A. Balazs, Ministry of Justice, the Office of the vice-President of the Polish Sejm A. Kern, and first of all - Ministry of National Education. The head of the last department, A. Stelmachowski, interceded in a firm way with authorities of the Central Board. The effect of that, appeared the entire change of this body's attitude.

Unfortunately, it appeared a mere formality as you can see in the documents enclosed. Until now, I haven't been informed as for the result of examining of the case. Instead of this, the Secretary of the Central Board addressed me an evasive and lacking in logic letter /please see the copy/.

Let me also inform you that I have the entire records - both in Polish and English - of all described above facts. Moreover, I would like to inform you that my doctor's dissertation was published by the famous publishing office "Ossolineum", under my name, in 1988.

The described above story is without any doubt very uncommon. In a way, it is a proof that in Poland which for several years has been called a free country, old stereotypes of the communistic ruling style still do exist. I am convinced that my case will meet an interest from the side of the American press. Please be so kind and help me in finding the proper direction in which I am to turn now.

Thank you in advance for your kind assistance,

Faithfully yours,

Anna Flak

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Certified translation from Polish

Szczecin, May 28, 1991

Central Committee for Academic  
Titles and Degrees

Palace of Culture and Science

00-901 Warsaw

In reply to letter dated May 17, 1991 (BCK-V-0-274/86/91) regarding the possibility for my getting the doctor's title and with reference to telephone conversation of May 21 I would like to comment on the suggestion given to me and related to the aforesaid subject.

First of all I have to say that I was very much surprised by the reply to my letter. Its contents, and particularly the kind of argumentation and the solution suggested resemble the routine way of thinking from the past several years. I regretfully noticed that the Committee seemed to be interested in re-qualifying of my case. That would be basically unfair to me, but would protect those who despite the logic and widely spread ideas continue to take advantages from the status of eminent scholars. However, from the point of view of a person whose results of work were unscrupulously usurped the whole situation takes a totally different outlook. I intend to show the truth and bring the matter to a close complying with the notion of justice. In other words, the proposal of amending the doctoral thesis - the problem to which I will revert shortly - is an offer of my making concessions for a group of people whose compromitment anyhow seems to be only a question of time.

I take liberty to mention the principal facts associated with the refusal of granting me the title. I defended my doctoral thesis with the positive result on July 11, 1985. After three months, in the result of the second voting I was refused the title. Below please find the results of both votings:

July 11, 1985

10 - yes  
3 - no  
1 - withheld

October 9, 1985

8 - yes  
6 - no  
2 - withheld

The evident differences result from the fact that the Committee members were changed at the second voting; first of all both Reviewers were not allowed to vote (as they assessed the thesis positively). Also Professor Grabda (member of Department Board) was not notified as his positive opinion of my thesis was generally known. In situations like that after the second voting it is general practice that the Dean has the final word. It was done also in my case, but the only one sentence that Professor Winnicki made was the quoted remark: "She failed". By the way nobody in his right senses could expect anything else from a person whose ill will I "owe" the aforesaid complications. There should be added the purposeful withdrawal from voting in the first round by the Dean (because even if he said "no" I would have obtained the doctoral degree due to quorum).

Coming to the role played by both Superreviewers of my doctoral thesis unfortunately I must point that the crushing opinions they rendered were devised for the purpose of protection for Department Board of my University including the Dean - protection against the imminent compromitiation. I wish to emphasize once more that when mentioning the aimful and deliberate actions I mean Mr Pruchnicki and Mr Sadowski, i.e. Superreviewers. I do not bear any malice towards the Faculty Board of the Institute of Meteorology and Water Economy in Warsaw for the confirmation and upholding of Szczecin University authorities decision. It is only too clear for me that the said Board trusted both those gentlemen and thus its members voted basing on these strikingly negative reviews. As can be seen this situation adds another aspect to the whole case; however, it is not my intention to dwell on that. I believe that this problem will be solved in future and without my participation. I only want to say that so far I have not received both the Superreviews. It is a pity for me as I am looking forward to giving my comments on them - in public and item by item. And as regards "the competency in the subject" as pointed by yourselves in your letter I can say that the printing alone of my doctoral thesis by Ossolineum Publishing House (1988) puts a very questionable complexion on Mr Pruchnicki and Mr Sadowski's own competency as Superreviewers (at that time they were Readers). (For that reason alone the suggestion contained in your letter - "of an attempt to amend the thesis" - is

really awesome. And besides, the total rejection by both Superreviewers of the positive opinions of the two first Reviewers and the fact that my thesis had passed the examination - these factors have their own significant meaning.

I am expecting the Committee to answer to the question whether the case of plagiarism I mentioned should be kept in silence. This is a significant part of my story constituting its logical continuation following the principle "to refuse somebody's right of property only to share it with somebody else". These are the facts: -

- in periodical "Inżynieria Morska" ("Marine Engineering") No. 1, 3, 4 /1988 there were published three articles by Prof. St.Trzeciak from Szczecin Naval Academy. These publications are largely plagiarisms of fragments of my doctoral thesis;
- paper of Prof. K.Prawdzcic and Assistant Prof. J.Girjatowicz "Weather Periods Unfavourable for Work in Polish Harbors of Odra River Estuary" (Szczecin University Scientific Papers No.1 (46) 1990), includes the graphs from my thesis and in merits it is a summary of my thesis;
- publication entitled "Analysis of Hydrometeorological Conditions for the Harbors of Szczecin, Police and Swinoujście Together with the Computer Method of their Utilization for Design and Executive Purposes" (authors:St.Trzeciak, K.Prawdzcic, J.Girjatowicz) based on my thesis was awarded with I Minister Award. (In view of this last factor I take liberty once more to express my surprise at your suggestion to amend my doctoral thesis).

Both your letter and the conversation I had probably with the Secretary on May 21 at 0900 hours make one reflect on the purpose of such thoughtless support given to decisions made in situation seemingly so evident to say nothing that they were made in the previous political time. Dragging the matters out so as to make my case change its nature or just pass into oblivion and die naturally has been typical way of handling such problems in the communist times.

If I were to make some suggestions I would say that I can see one possibility only within the law - namely to repeat and repeat very thoroughly the examination of my case and transfer it to an academic center outside Warsaw. I would suggest Gdańsk where numerous brilliant and significant specialists in my field are working.

I hope for serious and matter-of-fact attitude of the Committee. The evidence as presented herein are self-explanatory and need no comments (I have all details if needed), and this is more than my subjective feeling of injustice as mentioned in your letter.

I have not started yet any legal proceedings, neither it is my intention to do it now as it would consist an act of resignation on my part. Still I believe in solving the matter by the actions of competent men of science which would be a natural consequence for all the intrigues originated in this particular society.

Looking forward to your reply I remain.

Yours faithfully,

Anna Flak

Enclosures:

1. Reviews of doctoral thesis (authors: Prof. Czesław Koźmiński and Prof. Wojciech Warakomski),
2. Abridged Version of Thesis published by Ossolineum.

cc

Complaints & Letters Division of Republic of Poland Presidential Office

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