

Beat: Politics

Five years ago, there was an accident that forever changed Polish society

10.04.2010 Smoleńsk Plane Crash

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USPA NEWS - Exactly five year's ago 10.04.2010 at 8:56 AM in the city of Smolensk (Russia;) , Polish Air Force plane Tu-154M crashed up, killing all 96 people on board . People who died were Polish political and military elite, including Polish President Lech Kaczynski and his wife Maria,

I remember this day as if it were yesterday. I took on my TV in the morning to watch some news and i was stunned. Polish news station TVN24 headline first was - "President plan have little problems with landing". After 15 min. a red headline shocked the whole world - "Polish president plane crashed near Smolensk, nobody survives". This was the biggest tragedy since II World War. People on the streets were crying, churches were filled with praying for those who died. We are like never before.

In a moment, Poland lost its political, military and intellectual leaders including: President Lech Kaczynski and his wife Maria, Ryszard Kaczorowski - Polish last president in exile, Aleksander Szczygłowski - Head of the Office of National Security Government, Gen. Franciszek Gajdur - Chief of Staff of Polish Armed Forces, Janusz Kochanowski - Ombudsman, Sławomir Skrzypek - President of National Bank of Poland, Polish parliament (Sejm) member's and other's from the long list of 96 victims.

Today Polish people still don't know what was the cause of the Tu-154 crash. About 1/3 of Poles believe in many of Conspiracy theories like "assassination". The most real theory about the cause of crash is report from Jerzy Miller Commission - in their opinion the main cause of crash was a pilot mistake to land in fatal weather condition and broken altimeter on board. Looking back, the last five years after this tragedy were filled up of political affairs, blames and conspiracy theories that split Poles in two camps: supporter's of assassination theory and people which thinks it was just accident.

Like I said to the U.S Ambassador in Poland, Mr. Stephen Mull: "Maybe one day our politics would stop political "fight" on their graves".

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