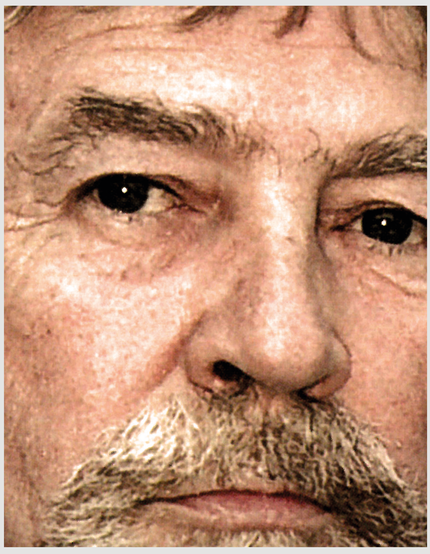
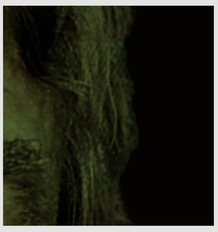
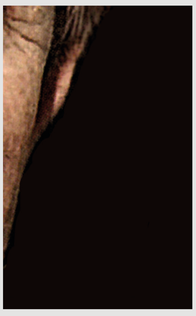










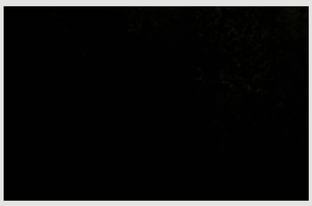




Ryszard Kukliński













INSTYTUT PAMIĘCI NARODOWEJ

BIOGRAFIE WYSTAWY ELEMENTARNE

"Serve the nation or the red empire?"

At the beginning of World War II, the Soviets took half of Poland. When it ended, they controlled half of Europe. The USSR had no intention to stop at this. The plans of the Warsaw Pact were to unleash World War III. The ultimate goal was is to install the Soviet system across Europe. These plans entailed sacrificing the People's Republic of Poland on the altar of communism.
In 1944, Ryszard Kukliński, 14-year-old, witnessed the destruction of Warsaw. Three years later, the year he took the military oath, he swore to "safeguard freedom, independence and strength of the Republic of Poland". If the nuclear conflict were to escalate, the fate that the capital of Poland suffered during the war would have been repeated on a much greater scale, including not only Poland but also the entire Europe. The young officer of the Polish "People's" Army, who initially believed and felt part of the communist system, will gradually become mature and eventually began to draw a plan to throw down the gauntlet in the face of the red empire.







→ Ryszard Kukliński, with a replica of a 1920 Polish sabre, presented to him by Polish Prime Minister Jerzy Buzek; photo from 1999.
PAP/Radek Pietruszka

It was me that have recruited the USA to fight for the freedom of Poland against Soviet Russia, and not the other way around.

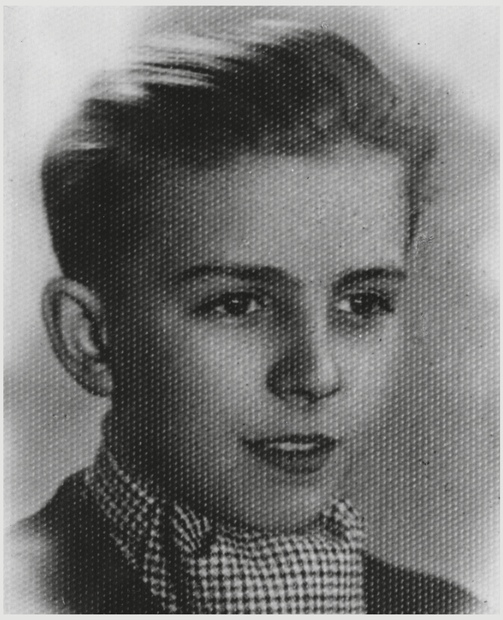
(Ryszard Kukliński)

INSTYTUT PAMIĘCI NARODOWEJ

1930

Childhood and war years

Born in Warsaw in 1930 in a family of unskilled workers, he lived with his parents in the so-called Northern District (around Nalewki Street, today's district of Muranów). After the outbreak of the war, his father was arrested and detained in the German Sachsenhausen concentration camp, where he died in 1943. At the beginning of the Warsaw Uprising he was deported to Germany for forced labor.



→ Ryszard Kukliński (photograph of 1945); when the war ended the fifteen-year old Ryszard was living in Lower Silesia.
IPGK



→ The Kuklińskis' apartment was close to the ghetto. The teenager Ryszard was an eyewitness to German crimes against his inhabitants. Phot. Warsaw Jews driven by the Germans to the Umschlagplatz, from where they were transported to the death camp in Treblinka – April 1943.
AIPN

INSTYTUT PAMIĘCI NARODOWEJ

The system's proselyte

1945



↑ The first years of Soviet domination over Poland were seen by the teenager as a real liberation from the nightmare of the German occupation. In the photograph, the 17-year-old Kukliński as a soldier of the "People's Army" in uniform, 1940s.
📷 IPGK

After the war he settled in Wrocław. In early 1946, he joined the Polish Workers' Party (PPR) and the Volunteer Reserves of the Citizens' Militia (ORMO). One year later he volunteered for the Polish "People's" Army and was directed to Infantry Officers' School No. 1. Accused of membership in an underground organization of the "Sword and Plow" (Miecz i Pług) during the war (which was deeply penetrated by the Gestapo), he was expelled from the university during his final year of studies and removed from the Polish United Workers' Party. By decision of the Party Audit Commission, the verdict was shortly canceled, so that Kukliński could complete his studies.

↓ In 1950 Kukliński was promoted to the first officer's rank – cadet.
📷 IPGK



INSTYTUT PAMIĘCI NARODOWEJ

1950

Polish "People's" Army Officer





↑ Kukliński's in a family photo with his wife and first-born Waldemar.
📷 IPGK

← Wedding photo of Ryszard and Joanna Kukliński.
📷 AIPN

Kukliński started his studies at the High Infantry School in Rembertów. In 1952, he married Joanna Christ. One year later, they had their first-born son, Waldemar. The second son, Bogdan, was born in 1955. Until the end of the decade, Kukliński served in Kołobrzeg in anti-amphibian and mechanized detachments. It was there that he developed a passion for sailing, building his first yacht, "Legenda". He was quickly promoted, from the 2nd Lieutenant in 1951 to the rank of Captain in 1955.



← On the military training ground at Kołobrzeg – Lt. Ryszard Kukliński third from the right in the upper row. 1955 photo.
📷 Henryk Biegalski

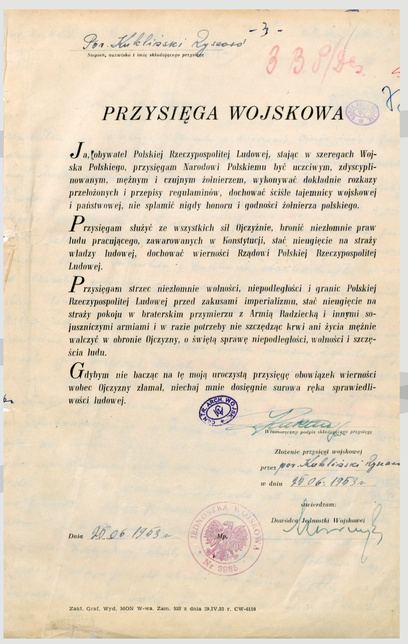
↓ Following the change of the military oath in 1950, Kukliński had to re-take it , committing himself, among others, to "to staunchly defend peace in brotherly alliance with the Soviet Army".
📷 AIPN



↑ Ryszard Kukliński, in the uniform of a Captain of the "People's Army".
📷 WBH

↓ Captain Kukliński (left) and his army colleagues founded a yacht club in Kołobrzeg named after Joseph Conrad. Second half of the 1950s.
📷 IPGK





Por. Kukliński Ryszard -3-
Nazwisko, nazwisko i imię składającego przysięgę

PRZYSIĘGA WOJSKOWA

Ja, obywatel Polskiej Rzeczypospolitej Ludowej, stając w szeregach Wojska Polskiego, przysięgam Narodowi Polskiemu być uczciwym, zdyscyplinowanym, mężnym i czujnym żołnierzem, wykonywać dokładnie rozkazy przełożonych i przepisy regulaminów, dochować ściśle tajemnicy wojskowej i państwowej, nie splamić nigdy honoru i godności żołnierza polskiego.

Przysięgam służyć ze wszystkich sił Ojczyźnie, bronić niezłomnie praw ludu pracującego, zawarowanych w konstytucji, stać nieugięcie na straży władzy ludowej, dochować wierności Rządowi i Polskiej Rzeczypospolitej Ludowej.

Przysięgam strzec niezłomnie wolności, niepodległości i granic Polskiej Rzeczypospolitej Ludowej przed zakusami imperializmu, stać nieugięcie na straży pokoju w braterskim przymierzu z Armią Radziecką i innymi sojuszniczymi armiami i w razie potrzeby nie szczędząc krwi ani życia mężnie walczyć w obronie Ojczyzny, o świętą sprawę niepodległości, wolności i szczęścia ludu.

Gdybym nie hacząc na tę moją uroczystą przysięgę obowiązek wierności wobec Ojczyzny złamał, niechaj mnie dosięgnie surowa ręka sprawiedliwości ludowej.

Wyznaczony pogłos składającego przysięgę

Złożenie przysięgi wojskowej
przez por. Kukliński Ryszard
w dniu 29.06.1953 r.
stwierdzam:
Dowódca Jednostki Wojskowej

Dnia 29.06.1953 r.

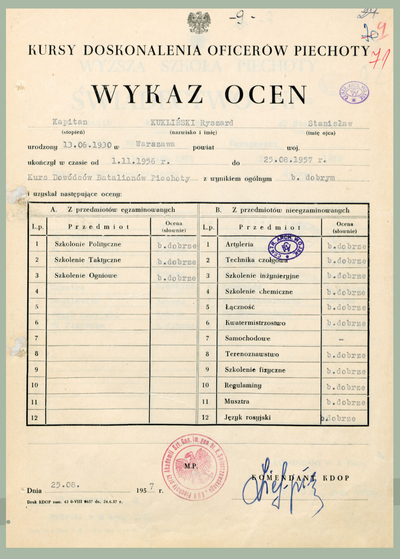
Zakł. Graf. Wyd. MON W-wa. Zam. 339 z dnia 29.IV.53 r. CW-4159

INSTYTUT PAMIĘCI NARODOWEJ

1961

At the General Staff Academy

At the end of the 1950s. Kukliński became an adviser to the Chief of Staff for Operations of two mechanized divisions (first the 12th Mechanized Division at Szczecin and the 8th Mechanized Division in Kołobrzeg), under Brigadier General Wojciech Jaruzelski. In 1960, he passed his school-leaving examination. His superiors saw his considerable talent in military strategy and one year later, he was directed to study at the General Staff Academy at Rembertów.



KURSY DOSKONALENIA OFICEROW PIECHOTY

WYKAZ OCEN

Kapitan (stopień) KUKLIŃSKI Ryszard (nazwisko i imię) Stanisław (imię ojca)

urodzony 13.06.1930 w Warszawie powiat woj.

ukończył w czasie od 1.11.1956 r. do 25.08.1957 r.

Kurs Dowódców Batalionów Piechoty z wynikiem ogólnym b. dobrym

i uzyskał następujące oceny:

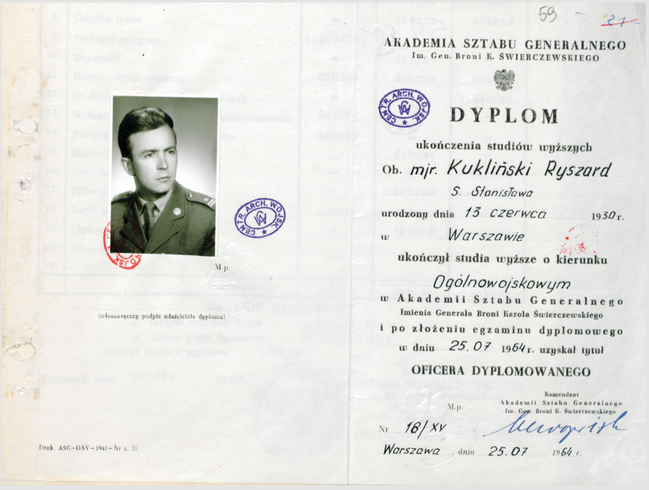
A. Z przedmiotów egzaminowanych			B. Z przedmiotów niegzaminowanych		
Lp.	Przedmiot	Ocena (słownie)	Lp.	Przedmiot	Ocena (słownie)
1	Szkolenie Polityczne	b.dobrze	1	Artyleria	b.dobrze
2	Szkolenie Taktyczne	b.dobrze	2	Technika czołgowa	b.dobrze
3	Szkolenie Ogniowe	b.dobrze	3	Szkolenie inżynieryjne	b.dobrze
4			4	Szkolenie chemiczne	b.dobrze
5			5	Łączność	b.dobrze
6			6	Kwatermistrzostwo	b.dobrze
7			7	Samochodowe	–
8			8	Terenoznawstwo	b.dobrze
9			9	Szkolenie fizyczne	b.dobrze
10			10	Regulaminy	b.dobrze
11			11	Musztra	b.dobrze
12			12	Język rosyjski	b.dobrze

M.P.

Dnia 25.08. 195 7 r.

KOMENDANT KDOP

Druk KDOP zam. 41 S-VIII 8657 dn. 24.5.57 r.



AKADEMIA SZTABU GENERALNEGO
Im. Gen. Broni K. ŚWIERCZEWSKIEGO

DYPLOM

ukończenia studiów wyższych

Ob. mjr. Kukliński Ryszard

S. Stanisława

urodzony dnia 13. czerwca 1930 r.

w Warszawie

ukończył studia wyższe o kierunku

Ogólnowojskowym

w Akademii Sztabu Generalnego
Imienia Generała Broni Karola Świerczewskiego

i po złożeniu egzaminu dyplomowego

w dniu 25.07 1964 r. uzyskał tytuł

OFICERA DYPLOMOWANEGO

M.P.

Komendant
Akademii Sztabu Generalnego
im. Gen. Broni K. Świerczewskiego

Nr 18/XV

Warszawa dnia 25.07 1964 r.

Druk. ASG–OXV–1961–Nr z. 56

(własnoręczny podpis właściciela dyplomu)

↑ Ryszard Kukliński graduated from the General Staff Academy in 1964 with excellent grades. One year earlier, he was promoted Major.
AIPN

← Cpt. Kukliński's certificate of completion of a course for Infantry Battalion Commanders at Wesoła (General Staff Academy, Rembertów).
AIPN

INSTYTUT PAMIĘCI NARODOWEJ

1964

The phantom of World War III

After completing his studies, he started working for the General Staff of the Polish Army. Kukliński was involved in planning operational training for the command staff, developing war games, and preparing large-scale maneuvers. In the process, he established numerous contacts with Polish, Soviet, East German and Czechoslovak generals. one year later, he took part in the "Winter 1964" exercises, where missile launchers with nuclear warheads were presented. They were deployed in Soviet bases on Polish territory. For Kuklinski it became clear that the Soviet war doctrine, contrary to the propaganda slogans, was an offensive one.



↑ Marshal Andrei Grechko (in the middle) with the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party, Władysław Gomułka and the minister of National Defense, Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski, 1968. It was the commander of the United Armed forces of the Warsaw Pact that presented the missile launchers to the top brass of the Polish Armed forces at the military training ground at Borne Sulinowo.
📷 public domain

↓ It was a symbol of the military alliance of the communist states during the Cold War. Inscription reads: "Warsaw Treaty – Alliance of Peace and Socialism".
📷 public domain





↑ Long-range strategic missiles rockets on parade in the Red Square in Moscow, 7 November 1969. Soviet weapons of mass destruction were capable of delivering nuclear warheads at a distance of 12,000 km.
📷 AIPN

INSTYTUT PAMIĘCI NARODOWEJ

Vietnam

1967

At the end of 1967, Kukliński was sent to Vietnam as a member of the Polish delegation to the International Supervisory and Control Commission. After a few days' stay in the capital of the "democratic" Vietnam, Hanoi, he arrived in Saigon controlled by the U.S. Military. It was on the eve of the Tết offensive launched in January 1968 by the communist forces on the major cities of South Vietnam, including the capital.



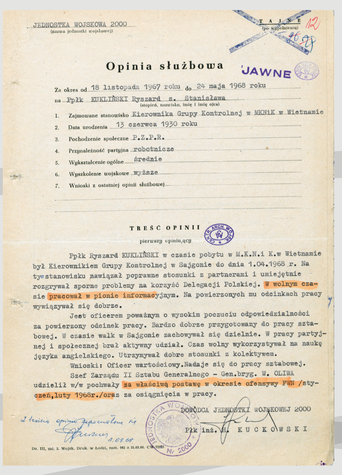
↑ Ryszard Kukliński (first from the left) in among officers of the International Supervisory and Control Commission in Saigon.
IPGK



↑ Kukliński remained loyal to the Soviet masters, making it difficult for the Commission to investigate the crimes committed by the Vietnamese Communists. In the photograph of the funeral of the victims of the massacre at Huế, where the Vietnamese killed almost 3000 people (and a further 2 000 are considered missing).
public domain

↙ Official opinion issued to Kukliński on his return from Vietnam. Prior to his departure, he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.
AIPN

↓ Report by Col. Kuklinski from his stay in Vietnam. The six-year mission in Indochina, where he met American soldiers, was an important experience in the life of the Lieutenant Colonel. However, there is no indication that it was then that then he started cooperating with US intelligence, of which was subsequently wrongly accused.
AIPN



JEDNOSTKA WOJSKOWA 2000
(nazwa jednostki wojskowej)

TAJNE
(nie ujawniono)

Opinia służbowa

JAWNE

Za okres od 18 listopada 1967 roku do 24 maja 1968 roku
na Ppłk KUKLIŃSKI Ryszard s. Stanisława
(nazwisko, imiona, imię i nazwisko ojca)

1. Zajmowane stanowisko Kierownika Grupy Kontrolnej w MKNIK w Wietnamie
2. Data urodzenia 13 czerwca 1930 roku
3. Pochodzenie społeczne P.s.P.W.
4. Przynależność partyjna robotnicze
5. Wykształcenie ogólne średnie
6. Wykształcenie wojskowe wyższe
7. Wnioski z ostatniej opinii służbowej

TREŚĆ OPINII
(pierwszej opinii służbowej)

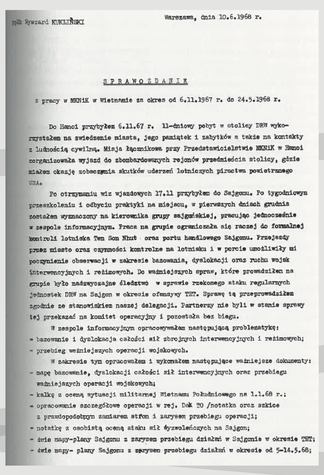
Ppłk Ryszard KUKLIŃSKI w czasie pobytu w M.K.N.i K.w Wietnamie był Kierownikiem Grupy Kontrolnej w Sajgonie do dnia 1.04.1968 r. Na tym stanowisku nawiązał poprawne stosunki z partnerami i umiejętnie rozgrywał sporne problemy na korzyść Delegacji Polskiej. W wolnym czasie pracował w pionie informacyjnym. Na powierzonych mu odcinkach pracy wywiązywał się dobrze.

Jest oficerem posiadającym wysoki poziom poczucia odpowiedzialności za powierzony odcinek pracy. Bardzo dobrze przygotowany do pracy sztabowej. W czasie walk w Sajgonie zachowywał się dzielnie. W pracy partyjnej i społecznej brał aktywny udział. Czas wolny wykorzystywał na naukę języka angielskiego. Utrzymywał dobre stosunki z kolektywem.

Wnioski: Oficer wartościowy. Nadaje się do pracy sztabowej.

Szef Zarządu II Sztabu Generalnego – Gen.bryg. W. GLIŃA
udzielił w/w pochwały za wzorowe wykonanie zadań w okresie służby w Wietnamie.
Warszawa, styczeń 1968r./ora za osiągnięcia w pracy.

DOWÓDCA JEDNOSTKI WOJSKOWEJ 2000
płk inż. W. KUCKOWSKI



Ppłk Ryszard KUKLIŃSKI

Warszawa, dnia 10.6.1968 r.

SPRAWOZDANIE

z pracy w MKNIK w Wietnamie za okres od 6.11.1967 r. do 24.5.1968 r.

Do Hanoi przybyłem 6.11.67 r. 11-dniowy pobyt w stolicy DRW wykorzystałem na zwiedzenie miasta, jego pamiątek i zabytków a także na kontakty z ludnością cywilną. Misja Kanadyjska przy Przedstawicielstwie MKNIK w Hanoi zorganizowała wyjazd do zbombardowanych rejonów przedmieścia stolicy, gdzie miałem okazję zobaczyć skutków ostrzału lotniczych pirackim powietrznego USA.

Po otrzymaniu wiz wjazdowych 17.11 przybyłem do Sajgonu. Po tygodniowym przeszkoleniu i odbyciu praktyki na miejscu, w pierwszych dniach grudnia zostałem wyznaczony na kierownika grupy zajmującej, pracując jednocześnie w zespole informacyjnym. Praca na grupie ograniczała się raczej do formalnej kontroli lotnisk Ten Son Nhut oraz portu handlowego Sajgonu. Przejazdy przez miasto oraz czynności kontrolne na lotnisku i w porcie umożliwiły mi poczynienie obserwacji w zakresie bazowania, dyslokacji oraz ruchu wojsk interwencyjnych i rezimowych. Do wzmiankowych spraw, które przedstawiam na grupie było nadzorowanie śledztwa w sprawie rzekomego ataku regularnych jednostek DRW na Sajgon w okresie ofensywy TET. Sprawę tą przeprowadziłem zgodnie ze stanowiskiem naszej delegacji. Partnerzy nie byli w stanie sprawy tej przekazać na kanale operacyjny i pozostała bez biegu.

W zespole informacyjnym opracowywałem następującą problematykę:
- bazowanie i dyslokacja całości sił zbrojnych interwencyjnych i rezimowych;
- przebieg ważniejszych operacji wojskowych.

W zakresie tym opracowałem i wykorzystam następujące ważniejsze dokumenty:
- mapę bazowania, dyslokacji całości sił interwencyjnych oraz przebiegu ważniejszych operacji wojskowych;
- kalkę z oceną sytuacji militarnej Wietnamu Południowego na 1.1.68 r.;
- opracowanie szczegółowe operacji w rej. Dak To /notatka oraz szkice z przedpodanym zamiarem stron i zarysem przebiegu operacji;
- notatkę z osobistą oceną stanu sił dyweizyjnych na Sajgonu;
- dzie mapy-plany Sajgonu z zarysem przebiegu działań w Sajgonie w okresie TET;
- dzie mapy- plany Sajgonu z zarysem przebiegu działań w okresie od 5-14.5.68;

INSTYTUT PAMIĘCI NARODOWEJ

1968

Between the Prague spring and December 1970



↑ Kukliński consulted his work on the "Spring 69" war game at the highest level in Moscow. This made it possible for him to have direct access to Soviet marshals and generals. In the picture, Lt. Col. Kukliński in the Red Square (left), turn of the 1960 and 1970s.
IPGK

↓ In December 1970, the Polish army aimed its tank guns against its own people. Military blockade on the streets of Gdynia on "Black Thursday" 17 December 1970.
AIPN



Upon return from Vietnam, Kukliński took part in the development of the "Cloudy Summer'68" maneuvers. He was seconded to Legnica, where the temporary seat of the Warsaw Treaty military command was located. He soon realized that these exercises were in fact preparations for invading Poland's southern neighbor. After the massacre of workers on the Baltic coast in December 1970, he realized the real role of Polish Army was not only that of intervention that pacified the protests in the "friendly" Czechoslovakia's, but also that of an internal gendarme.

↓ The military commander of the troops engaged in the pacification of the Prague Spring was Ivan Yakubovsky, Commander of the United Armed Forces of the States Parties to the Warsaw Pact and of all the troops involved in pacifying the Prague Spring (phot. 1945). The staff of operation "Danube" was stationed in Legnica.
public domain



INSTYTUT PAMIĘCI NARODOWEJ

1969

Cruises to the West

From 1962, Kukliński collaborated with the Military Internal Service, as the captain of a yacht, conducted intelligence missions on behalf of the Military Intelligence of the People's Republic of Poland (under the cover of private sailing voyages). Their aim was to identify future locations of landing areas for Warsaw Pact troops invading the Baltic Sea and the North Sea. The first fact-finding voyage took place in 1969 on the "Legia" yacht.
At that time, the „tourist" Kukliński „visited" the coasts of the Federal Republic of Germany and Sweden.

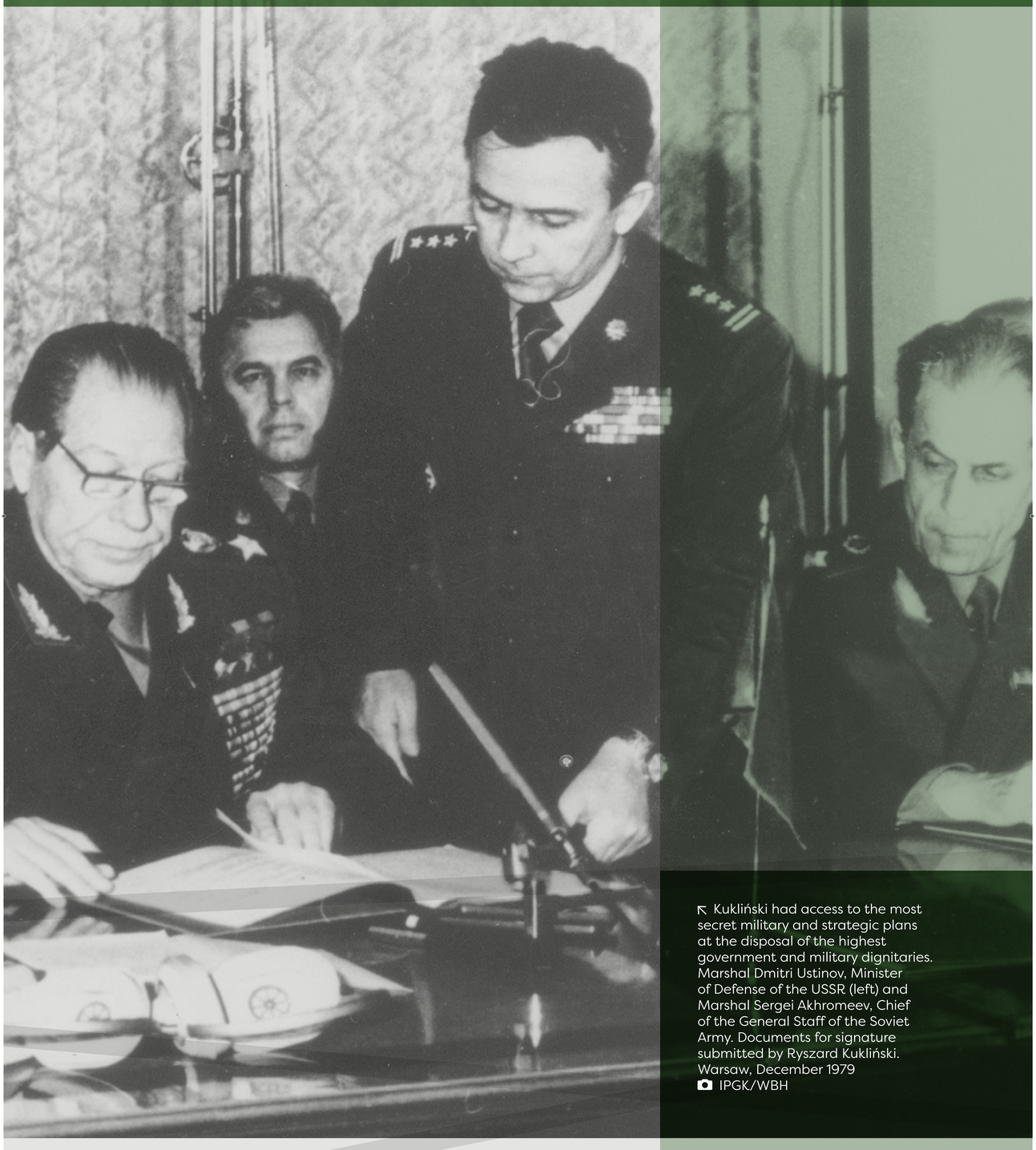


↑ Yacht "Legia" in the marina named after Mariusz Zaruski in Gdynia (photo taken in 2021). Built in 1968 in Gdansk's Conrad boatyard; The yacht was used by the Col. Kukliński during his spy voyages to the ports of Western Europe
Tadeusz Lademann/żeglarski.info

INSTYTUT PAMIĘCI NARODOWEJ

Free knights [...] are allowed to choose their arms,
And to strike equal forces in the open field.
Thou art a slave, the only weapon of slaves – subterfuge

Adam Mickiewicz, *Konrad Wallendrod*



↖ Kukliński had access to the most secret military and strategic plans at the disposal of the highest government and military dignitaries. Marshal Dmitri Ustinov, Minister of Defense of the USSR (left) and Marshal Sergei Akhromeev, Chief of the General Staff of the Soviet Army. Documents for signature submitted by Ryszard Kukliński. Warsaw, December 1979
IPGK/WBH

INSTYTUT PAMIĘCI NARODOWEJ

"Paul no longer Saul"



When did the exemplary officer of the "people's" army become an anti-communist? The turning point of this global reorientation was his tenure in the General Staff, when he became familiar with the Soviet war plans against NATO, which envisaged a nuclear destruction of Poland. One of the reasons for the colonel's internal transformation as if that of Saul into Paul was also the suppression of the Prague Spring and the pacification of the Polish workers' protests in December 1970.

← Ryszard Kukliński in a Colonel's uniform. Suggestions that cooperation with the CIA had already begun in Saigon were made by the communists themselves, who were investigating the case of Kukliński's "betrayal" and "desertion" after 1981.
AIPN

INSTYTUT PAMIĘCI NARODOWEJ

Colonel... "Jack Strong"

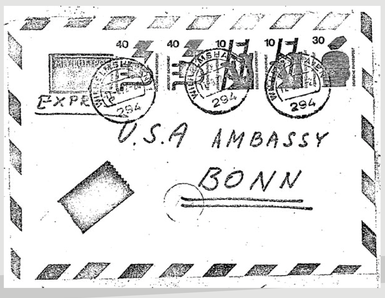
1972

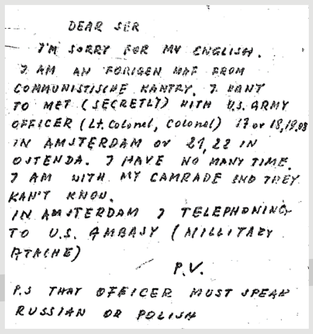
→ At the meeting held on 18 August 1972 at the "Central" Hotel in the Hague, the American side was represented by three CIA operational officers: Walter Lang, Victor van Jung and a third, not known by name. Ryszard Kukliński as Polish Army Colonel. He was promoted to this rank in autumn 1972, as soon as cooperation with the CIA began.
AIPN



On 11 August 1972, during a study trip to the Netherlands, Kukliński contacted the Americans for the first time. On that day, the "Legia" was moored at Wilhelmshaven harbor, where the captain of the yacht sent a letter to the US Embassy in Bonn proposing a meeting. The recruitment interview took place seven days later in the Hague. At the beginning of the next year, the American "military personnel" revealed their actual affiliation ("CIA") and proposed Kukliński a code name ("Jack Strong").

↓ The letter containing the a proposal to cooperate with the U.S. military. Kukliński signed his offer with a mysterious acronym "P.V"., whose meaning was revealed many years later ("Polish Viking/Polish Victory"). Further meetings took place in Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Ostend, Brussels and Kiel.
IPGK




DEAR SIR
I'M SORRY FOR MY ENGLISH.
I AM AN FORIGEN MAT FROM COMMUNISTISCHE KANTRY. I WANT TO MET (SECRETLY) WITH U.S. ARMY OFFICER (Lt. Colonel, Colonel) 17 or 18, 19, 20 IN AMSTERDAM or 21, 22 IN OSTENDA. I HAVE NO MANY TIME. I AM WITH MY CAMRADE AND THEY KAN'T KNOW.
IN AMSTERDAM I TELEPHONING TO U.S. AMBASY (MILLITARY ATACHE)
P.V.
P.S THAT OFFICER MUST SPEAK RUSSIAN OR POLISH

↑ In 1973, the operation to recruit "Jack Strong" by the CIA was given the code name "Seagull". Access to information provided by Kukliński was made available to the US President and six of his closest associates, not counting a few of the Agency staff involved in the operation itself. The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) seal.
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INSTYTUT PAMIĘCI NARODOWEJ

1973

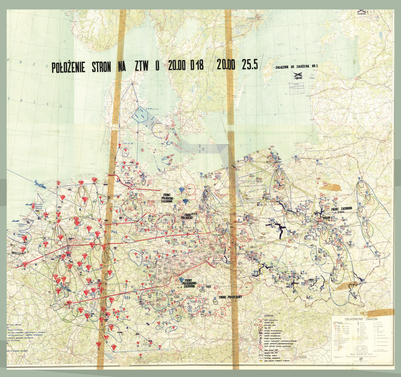
"Early Warning Instrument"

For nine years, Kukliński, unpaid by the Americans in any form, provided them with 40,000 pages of documents. Among them were plans for the Soviet launch of World War IIII. Plans envisaged the death of half of the 800,000 mobilized Polish troops, and in the second phase of the conflict, a NATO counterattack, which would bring 400–600 nuclear strikes in the Vistula valley. Only one year after the establishment of the cooperation, Kukliński was recognized by the CIA as an "early warning instrument" and an agent with a particular degree of importance to global security.



↗ Map-Annex to the 1970 draft operation plan approved by the Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski. It presents the assault directions of the Sea Front (Polish) on West Germany, Denmark, Belgium and the Netherlands. The invasion of the West and North of Europe was part of the plan to launch World War III.
AIPN

↓ Map of 1979 showing the deployment of Warsaw Pact troops on the 18th day of the war against NATO. It shows the "neutron bomb" strike zones and the vast areas of "toxic agents" pollution, a large proportion of which are located in Poland. It was assumed that in the first days of the conflict, 30% of the Polish people would die. The map was developed and then copied and handed over to the Americans by Kukliński.
AIPN







↑ Marshal Viktor Kulikov, Commander of Warsaw Pact troops (left) and Gen. Anatoliy Gribkov, Chief of Staff of the United Armed Forces of the Warsaw Pact. Behind them Col. Kukliński. The meeting took place in the Polish United Workers' Party Central Committee building in Warsaw on 14 January 1980 .
IPGK

← The colonel was one of the closest co-workers of the chief of the Minister of National Defense of the People's Republic of Poland between 1976 and 1981, including liaison officer with the staff of Marshal Victor Kulikov. Moscow, 1980
IPGK

INSTYTUT PAMIĘCI NARODOWEJ

1980

"Soyuz ’80" and "Solidarity" pacification plans

After the August 1980 strikes that ended with the legalization of the Solidarity Trade Union, Gen. Jaruzelski assigned Col. Kukliński to the special strategical staff. The objective of the new cell was to develop a plan for the imposition of martial law. In parallel, preparations for the invasion of Warsaw Pact troops in Poland continued. This was to take place in December 1980 under the pretext of the "Soyuz ’80" maneuvers. Through Kukliński, this information reached the desk of US President Jimmy Carter. In spring 1981, the Colonel was chief of the team planning operational variants of the imposition of martial law.

The Soviets want to avoid intervention, but they are making intensive preparations for it.

(Kukliński’s report for the CIA, 24 June 1981)



The colonel was aware that the Soviet aggressive plans toward NATO meant that Poland was to be scarified in the name of communism. (From the left) Marshal Kulikow, Gen. Jaruzelski and Col. Kukliński at the meeting of the Committee of Ministers of Defense of the States Parties to the Warsaw Pact in Moscow, spring 1980.
IPGK



← The show of force toward Solidarity was the "Soyuz ’81" maneuvers taking place in Poland in spring 1981. From the right Gen. Jaruzelski, Gen. Heinz Hoffmann, Minister of Defense of the GDR and Marshal Victor Kulikov, Commander of the Warsaw Pact forces.
EN

INSTYTUT PAMIĘCI NARODOWEJ

1981

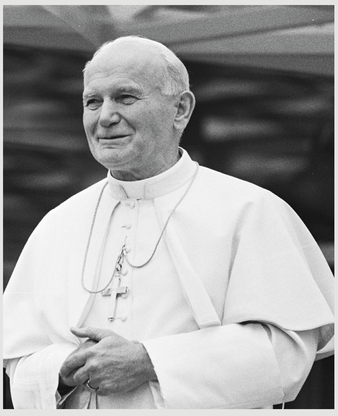
Unmasking and evacuation

In October 1981, a meeting took place between William Casey and John Paul II. Without realizing that there was a communist "mole" among the Holy Father's staffers, the head of the CIA provided the pope with the latest version of the martial law plans. The People's Republic of Poland civil intelligence residency at the Vatican alarmed the headquarters in Warsaw. On 2 November 1981 Gen. Jerzy Skalski revealed that the "leak" came from one of the five senior officers of the General Staff. One of them was Col. Kukliński. On the night of 7/8 November 1981, the Americans immediately evacuated "Jack Strong" from the territory of the People's Republic of Poland.

I think my mission is coming to an end. Long live free Poland, and long live Solidarity, which brings freedom to all oppressed nations. Jack Strong.

(A message sent by Kukliński to the U.S. Embassy by means of the "Iskra" transmitter on 2 November 1981)





↑ William Casey and John Paul II discussed the dramatic situation in Poland at a meeting in the Vatican. The recklessness and effusiveness of the CIA chief could have unmasked the most valuable American agent in Eastern Europe.
public domain

↓ Gen. Jerzy Skalski, General Staff Deputy Chief for Operations. He convened a special meeting attended by: Col. Kuklinski Gen. Wacław Szklarski (head of the Directorate of Operations) and his deputy: Col. Franciszek Puchała and Col. Czesław Witt. Apart from Gen. Jaruzelski only these five had access to the most secret operational plans of the Polish Army.
public domain



↓ The operation to evacuate Kuklinski from Poland was coordinated by the CIA cell at the US Embassy in Warsaw (Photo). The colonel and his family landed in the United States on 11 November 1981. They had traveled via West Berlin, where they arrived in an American diplomatic vehicle.
Bartosz Januszewski



INSTYTUT PAMIĘCI NARODOWEJ

In the last 40 years, no one in the world did greater damage to communism than this Pole.

William Casey, CIA chief in a report for US President Ronald Reagan



↖ US President Ronald Reagan and CIA director William Casey, 1980s.
📷 RRPLM

↓ The obverse of the Distinguished Intelligence Medal. Ryszard Kukliński was the first foreign national to receive this high American decoration awarded by the CIA. Unlike the Americans, the Third Polish Republic has not yet honored the colonel with a state decoration.
📷 public domain



INSTYTUT PAMIĘCI NARODOWEJ

1984

From "Renegade" to the first Polish officer in NATO





↖ Only in 1998, after 17 years of absence, the colonel could come to his homeland. "Jack Strong's" visit Gdansk on 3 May 1998: meeting in St. Mary's Basilica and the laying flowers at the Monument to the Fallen Shipyard Workers 1970.
SG

↓ During the only visit to the Third Republic of Poland, Col. Kukliński visited the terminally ill poet Zbigniew Herbert. Warsaw, May 1998
IPGK



Following Kukliński's disappearance, an operational investigation code name "Renegat" was opened. In 1984, "Jack Strong" was demoted to the rank of private and was sentenced to death in absentia. After the fall of communism in Poland, in 1990 the sentence was commuted to 15 years. Until 1997, Kukliński had to wait for the cancellation of the investigation and rehabilitation. The clearing of the colonel of the charges was a condition for the Americans to join NATO.



↑ The Kuklińskis after evacuation to the USA. The family's idyll did not last long. The colonel was to pay a high price for his contribution to the defeat of communism. Picture taken in the 1980s
AIPN

↓ His younger son Bogdan (right) was killed in mysterious circumstances during a sea voyage on New Year's Eve 1993. The older son, Waldemar (left), was brutally murdered half a year later in Phoenix. The perpetrators who ran him over by a car at the university campus have never been found
AIPN





INSTYTUT PAMIĘCI NARODOWEJ

"The heroes are always lonely..."

Colonel Ryszard Kukliński is a heroic figure in my understanding and thus will be judged by history.

Jan Nowak-Jeziorański

Col. Kukliński was the most important anti-communist ace of intelligence of the Cold War. For nine long and lonely years, like Adam Mickiewicz's Konrad Walenrod, he effectively "disarmed" the Soviet Behemoth from the inside. By providing the Americans with the latest weapons and Soviet plans to use nuclear weapons, he made a significant contribution to preventing the outbreak of World War III. Making NATO realize the dangers of Détente policy in the face of the aggressive intentions of the USSR resulted in a change in NATO's strategy. "The first Polish officer in NATO" died on 11 February 2004 in Tampa, Florida. On 19 June of that year, he was buried in the Honor Lane at the Powązki Military Cemetery. In 2016, he was promoted posthumously by the President of the Republic of Poland to the rank of Brigadier General.

→ In the struggle to restore the good name and the hard-earned place in Polish history. Col. Kukliński was consistently supported by John Paul II, Zbigniew Herbert, and Józef Szaniawski. Holy Father's audience shortly after the death of his sons, the Vatican, 15 October 1994
IPGK



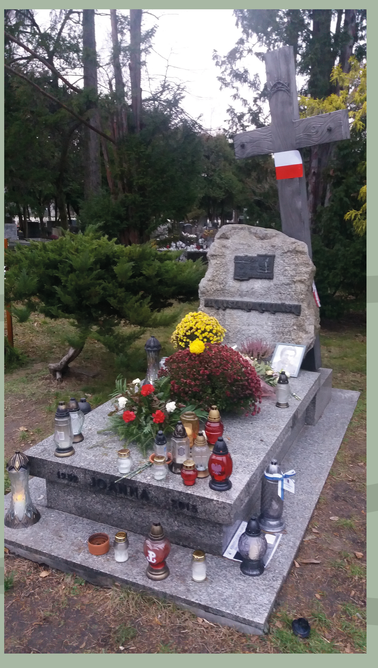
↓ In the 1980s Ronald Reagan (right) implemented a program of intensive arms race and technological rivalry with the USSR. This significantly influenced the dismantling of the Soviet system in Central and Eastern Europe. In this struggle against the "empire of evil", John Paul II was the closest ally of the US President. Meeting of both statesmen in Alaska – 2 May 1984.
RRPLM





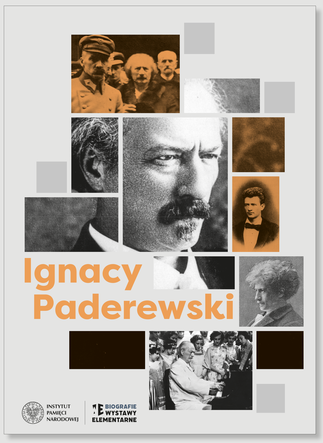
→ Despite his enormous contribution to defeating communism, the colonel was unable to count on the support of the post-communist governments of Poland. Neither President Aleksander Kwaśniewski, nor Prime Minister Marek Belka, took part in his solemn funeral.
Bartosz Januszewski

↙ Ronald Reagan (left) and Mikhail Gorbachev at the United States-USSR Summit at Reykjavik – 11 October 1986. During this discussion, the American leader revealed to the Russians his knowledge of fallout shelters for the Warsaw Pact Command in the event of World War III (the "Albatros" project). The US President received information on this matter from Col. Kukliński. The meeting of the leaders of the two superpowers was a milestone on the road to the end of the Cold War.
RRPLM

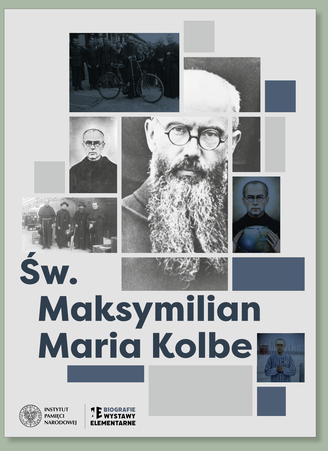


INSTYTUT PAMIĘCI NARODOWEJ

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