

Mr Grzegorz Lato
President
Polish Football Association
Bitwy Warszawskiej 1920 r. 7
Warsaw 02-366
Poland

Zurich, 10 April 2010

Dear President, *dear friends in football,*

It was with immense sadness that I learnt this morning of the tragedy which resulted in the loss of the lives of President Lech Kaczynski, his wife Maria and countless prominent figures from your nation's political, economic and military elite in this tragic accident in Smolensk.

President Kaczynski's strength, determination and unwavering principles made him extremely popular with the Polish people. His energetic patriotism was evident in everything he did and his decades of dedication played an influential role in shaping modern-day Polish society during a time of change. His passing will thus undoubtedly be the cause of great sorrow.

That he should lose his life while travelling to commemorate the anniversary of the loss of thousands of Polish lives in Katyn heightens this tragedy, yet at the same time it is indicative of his abiding devotion to his country and his compatriots.

I know that President Kaczynski was a huge supporter of Polish football, which manifested itself on one historic occasion at a meeting which I had the honour of attending alongside him in Warsaw in 2007.

On behalf of the worldwide football family, I would like to extend my condolences and deepest sympathy to you and the people of your nation at this harrowing time, and wish you strength and fortitude for the challenging days that lie ahead.

Yours respectfully,



Joseph S. Blatter

nb : As a further mark of our respect and solidarity, the national flag of Poland, as well as the flags of FIFA and UEFA have been lowered to half-mast at the Home of FIFA.