

Piast President in Berlin

Dr. Thaddeus Radzilowski, president of the Piast Institute, was the keynote speaker at a conference of German non-governmental organizations representing the migrant groups of Germany on governmental policy dealing with integration issues held in Berlin July 12 – 13th. The conference was called to provide wide input and policy recommendations to the government as it embarked on an effort to develop new approaches to help integrate the large migrant populations into German society. The meeting was also designed to act as a catalyst in helping groups to develop a common approach to influence government policy. The meeting was coordinated by the American Jewish Committee

office in Berlin. Migrants from Turkey represent the largest contingent of immigrants, but there are several large groups of newcomers from Europe, Asia, Africa as well as other Middle Eastern groups. One out of five people in Germany under twenty is a member of a minority group so that German society is facing major changes in the near future. The Polish migrant population of Germany is about 300,000.

After making the opening statement, Dr. Radzilowski joined a working group on the development of immigrant non-governmental (i.e. non-profit) groups to develop grass roots approaches to interface with new government integration policies. He also participated in

discussions on educational policy. On July 13th a national press conference was held to make recommendations for the official government summit on July 14th. Several representatives of German ministries participated in the proceedings as observers. The meeting was held in German and English with simultaneous translation.

Dr. Radzilowski's contribution to the conference was to compare the varieties of the United States and North American labor migration of the 19th and 20th centuries with the German experience and to suggest insights that could contribute to the development of successful policies that fit a German cultural and social context. Dr Radzilowski was the only American scholar invited to the conference.