

# San Francisco Chronicle

## Letters to the editor

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

### **S.F. gesture of peace by Poles, Russians**

The tragic death of the Polish president and a large part of Poland's leadership en route to a memorial for the Katyn Massacre in Russia ("Nation's top leaders killed in plane crash," April 11) could have resulted in further complicating relations between the two countries.

But in the aftermath of this tragedy, the Russian people have acted with compassion and openness to the Polish nation, and the two countries have moved instead toward reconciliation. Last week, at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, representatives of the two governments, leaders of the Russian Orthodox and Polish Catholic Church and the Pacific Boychoir came together for a memorial service and concert in honor of the victims of this accident and the Moscow subway bombings two weeks prior.

Polish Consul General Joanna Kozinska-Frybes and Russian Consul General Vladimir N. Vinokurov both spoke eloquently of each country's loss, and ecumenical prayers were offered for peace. The boys choir sang Rachmaninoff's Vespers in the sublime beauty of the cathedral.

In the city where the United Nations was founded, we made one small but important gesture toward an improved relationship between these two Slavic countries.

*Christopher Kerosky, San Francisco*