

Aleksander Kwa niewski

President of Poland

(Since December 1995)

Aleksander Kwasniewski was born on November 15th, 1954, in Bialogard, (formerly Koszalin Voivodship, presently West-Pomeranian Province). Wife Jolanta, maiden name Konty, daughter Aleksandra (born 1981).

In the years 1973-1977, Aleksander Kwasniewski read for transport economics (foreign trade) at the Gdansk University. An activist of the student movement up to 1982, having held, among other functions, chairmanship of the University Council of the Socialist Union of Polish Students (SZSP) from 1976 to 1977, vice-chairmanship of the Gdansk Voivodship Union from 1977 to 1979. A member of the SZSP supreme authorities from 1977 to 1982. From November 1981 to February 1984 - editor in chief of student weekly "ITD," next editor in chief of daily "Sztandar Mlodych" from 1984 to 1985. A co-founder of the first computer-science periodical in Poland "Bajtek" in 1985.

From 1985 to 1987, Minister for Youth Affairs in the Zbigniew Messner government, and then Chairman of the Committee for Youth and Physical Culture till June 1990. A member of the Mieczyslaw Rakowski government, then a cabinet minister and Chairman of the government Social-Political Committee from October 1988 to September 1989. A participant at the Round-Table negotiations, co-chairing with Tadeusz Mazowiecki and Romuald Sosnowski the task group for trade union pluralism. A member of the Polish United Workers' Party from 1977 to 1990. A co-founding member of the Social Democratic Party of the Republic of Poland from January to February 1990, and its first chairman till December 1995. One of the founding members of the Democratic Left Alliance in 1991. A sports activist in the Student Sports Union from 1975 to 1979 and the Polish Olympic Committee (PKOL). PKOL president from 1988 to 1991. Distinguished with the Golden Olympic Order of the International Olympic Committee in 1998 and the Golden Order of Merit of the International Amateur Athletic Federation in 1999, and in 2000 Order of Merit EOC (European Olympic Committee).

Running for the Sejm (lower house of Parliament) from the Warsaw constituency, he won the largest number of votes, 148,533 to be exact. Leader of the parliamentary caucus of the Democratic Left Alliance in the first and second term (1991-1995). A member of the Foreign Affairs Committee and chairman of the Constitutional Committee of the National Assembly from November 1993 to November 1995.

Aleksander Kwasniewski won the presidential elections for the first time in 1995 on the election campaign slogans: "Let's choose the future" and "Common Poland," collecting 51.7 percent of votes, against 48.3 percent cast on Lech Walesa. In a year 2000 he won again collecting 53,9% of votes in the first run. His election campaign slogan was: "The home of all - Poland". Sworn

- Italy's Grand Cross of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic (1996);
- France's Grand Cross of the Order of the Legion of Honour (1996);
- Norway's Royal Order of Saint Olaf (1996);
- Greece's Grand Cross of the Order of the Saviour (1996):
- Latvia's Order of Three Stars (1997);
- Finland's Grand Cross of the Order of the White Rose of Finland with Collar (1997);
- Malaysia's Royal Order of Merit (1997);
- Ukraine's Order of Yaroslav the Wise, 1st class (1997);
- Portugal's Order of Infant Henry with Grand Ribbon (1997);
- Estonia's Grand Cross with the Ribbon of Terra Mariana (1998);
- Romania's Order of the Star of Romania with Ribbon (1999);
- Chile's Grand Chain of the Order of Merit (1999);
- Belgium's Grand Ribbon of the Order of Leopold (1999);
- Turkey's Order of the Republic (2000);
- Croatia's Great Order of King Tomislav with the Ribbon and Great Star (2001);
- Spain's Order of Catholic Isabelle with Chain (2001)
- Federal Republic of Brasil's National Order of Southern Cross (2002)
- Republic of Peru's Special Grand Cross of the Order of Merit (2002)
- Federal Republic of Germany's Grand Cross of Merit (2002)
- Japan's Grand Ribbon of the Great Order of Chrysanthemum

Also decorated with the highest distinction of the Orthodox Church in Poland: The Order of Saint Magdalena, first degree with decorations (1998). Also honoured with television personality "Wiktor" prizes on 1993, 1995 and 2000.