

PRIME MINISTER

Łódź, September 9, 2022

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,
the Polish September 1939 opens a tragic chapter of unaccounted-for war crimes of such magnitude that it is impossible to capture in a legal framework. As a result of World War II, Poland lost generations of engineers, scientists, doctors, officers. The lion's share of our nation's elite was murdered. The victims of Nazi Germany are counted in millions, as millions of families lost the lifetime of work and possessions. Hundreds of towns and cities were turned to rubble and ash. Thousands of villages were burnt, industrial plants, schools and architectural monuments were destroyed, infrastructure was ruined, libraries and art collections were burnt.

World War II also left its tragic mark on an entire generation of Polish children and youth. Imprisoned in German concentration camps and Soviet Gulags, deprived of their family home, devastated by hunger, hard physical labour, they were sentenced to death or painful adolescence already forever present in their consciousness. The dramatic story of the Nazi German camp for Polish children on Przemysłowa Street in Łódź is one of the striking proofs of the ruthlessness of the German war machine of destruction, of which children became the youngest victims.

The suffering of Polish children in areas occupied by the Third Reich and the Soviet Union must be seen as one of the consequences of World War II, the war the effects of which are still being felt today. We are therefore particularly obliged to commemorate the fate of its youngest victims as well, to uphold the truth about the perpetrators of the crime, and to insist on elementary justice and reparation for the wrongs.

Today's conference organized by the Museum of Polish Children – victims of totalitarianism in Łódź is an undertaking that is part of the mission to commemorate the youngest victims of the Second Apocalypse, but also to introduce the knowledge of the forced labour camp in Łódź and other places of martyrdom of children and youth into the area of scientific research, educational activities, as well as reflections of a legal nature. The conference is also an accurate response to the need to integrate the circles representing the cases of Poles whose biography is marked by their childhood during the war. I am convinced that the presence of distinguished speakers, guests and participants is a guarantee of in-depth reflection on issues aimed at both tribute to the victims, but also the future of the generations to come.

Best regards,

[signature: M. Morawiecki]

Mateusz Morawiecki

Organizers and participants of the 1st scientific and didactic conference of the Museum of Polish Children – victims of totalitarianism in the context of German crimes against Polish children during World War II