

*Andrzej Bisztyga**

**Polish-Kazakh Seminar, Warsaw,
Senate of the Republic of Poland, 15 June 2015**

The Senate of the Republic of Poland hosted another seminar in a series of Polish-Kazakh seminars. These seminars are an effect of the cooperation of Polish Senate, including the Senate Legislative Committee run by Senator Doctor Piotr Zientarski and the Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Poland headed by Ambassador Yerik Utembayev. These seminars serve the purpose of mutual closing and getting to know of the representatives of both countries' parliamentary, scientific and cultural environments.

The leading subjects of the June seminar were the issues of deportation of Polish people to Kazakhstan under Stalin rule and the relations of the Kazakh state with European countries – especially with Poland – in Middle Ages. In the seminar

participated among others Vice Director of the Eastern Department Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr Zdzisław Raczynski, Head for the Senate Legislative Committee and Deputy Head for Kazakh-Polish Parliamentary Group Dr Piotr Zientarski, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Poland Mr Yerik Utembayev, Head for the Department of Legal Systems and Human Rights of Zielona Góra University Faculty of Law and Administration Professor Andrzej Bisztyga, Head for the Department of Public Law, Human Rights and European Law of the University of Social Sciences and Humanities Faculty of Law and Administration and President of the Asia-Pacific Society Doctor Adam Marszałek. The active participants of the seminar were Doctor Władysław

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Sokołowski, former Ambassador of the Republic of Poland in Kazakhstan and Professor Andrzej Wierzbicki of Warsaw University. The seminar was attended by numerous Members of Parliament and representatives of various academic centres.

Key to the first set of topics was the lecture by Professor Burkitbay Ayagan. In his speech Professor Ayagan outlined the time, circumstances, process and locations of the Polish people deported to his country. Fates of Polish people in Kazakhstan have been the subject matter of the scholar's research for many years. He has collected materials for his study outside Kazakhstan, including the USA. Imposed by an external force the deportations of our compatriots to the Soviet Kazakhstan enforced relations between Poles and the natives. These relations were not hostile. On the contrary, on many occasions Kazakhs who had remembered the inflicted hunger in the Steppe in the 1930s and their unfortunate situation they found themselves in suffering shortages offered help and support to Polish newcomers who were led out of the freight wagon usually into the wild steppe. It can be assumed that if it had not been for the help many more Poles would not have survived that toughest first period of „settlement”.

The speakers in the second set of topics were Senator Piotr Zientarski, Amba-

sador Yerik Utembayev, Professor Andrzej Bisztyga and President Adam Marszałek. Senator Piotr Zientarski emphasised the importance of the current and building up political as well as scientific and business cooperation between Poland and Kazakhstan. Ambassador Yerik Utembayev pins hopes on the recently established institution – Centrum Al Farabi – Kopernik, which aims to act for the closing of respective environments in both countries and organises undertakings serving this purpose. Professor Andrzej Bisztyga's lecture focused on the historical relations between the Republic of Poland and the Kazakh state and Tatars. He indicated that apart from the dominating in the history of Kazakhs oral tradition there were also significant monuments of written law, such as for instance *True rules of Qasim Khan*, also known as Qasim Khan's Code of the turn of the 16th and 17th century or *Žeti Žargy (Seven Rules)*, also called Tauke Khan's Code of the turn of the 17th and 18th century. Also, Professor Bisztyga shared his impressions from his scientific stays in Kazakhstan and meetings with the Polish residents living there. President Adam Marszałek dedicated his presentation to the publishing cooperation of the Adam Marszałek Publishing House with Kazakhstan, showing among others the newly published by the publishing house book edited by Andrzej Bisztyga and Piotr Zientarski under the title *Doświad-*

czenia ustawodawcze Polski i Kazachstanu w zakresie polityki samorządowej i mniejszości narodowych (Legislative experiences of Poland and Kazakhstan in the scope of self-government policy and national minorities).

The effect of the arrangements made by the seminar organisers is a declaration to publish a book containing the outcomes of the seminar. It is to be published in two language versions: Polish and Kazakh.