

3 Apr 96

Re: Medical Ambassador Committee

Dear Andy:

I forgot to tell you this story when you called this week. You may have noticed we have not been invited back to Poland for another Project Free Enterprise. My counterpart there, Alex Swarc, has been having some health problems. He called last week and wanted to know if I could arrange for a diagnostic second opinion at Texas Heart Institute. He has a blocked artery that they want to operate in Warsaw.

Alex had visited St. Luke's when I had the Polish contingent here a year ago. He had forgotten we began the arrangements for specialty training which we now call Medical Ambassadors.

I told Alex that I had gotten a Christmas card from Zygmunt Mackiewicz, now the current president of the Bydgoszcz Rotary Club, in which he told me how much their cardiology program there had been upgraded as a result of his stay at the Texas Heart Institute. Zygmunt was one of the first two doctors we hosted here for two weeks at THI. I suggested he speak to Zygmunt first before we try to deal with THI. Bydgoszcz is about 200 Km away and Alex went there to see him before submitting for surgery.

Zygmunt's stay cost us about \$135 in social expenses, which my club paid for. That small investment may have saved Alex' life, and no telling how many more.

Just thought you would find it interesting how unpredictably these projects turn out. This one came to roost rather close to home. I have worked with Alex since 1989, and he has done a lot of good for his country and people. This time it worked for him.

David Taylor

