

STUDIA WSCHODNIE

London, 19th of November 2019

To the participants of the funeral ceremony of the late Vladimir Bukowski

FAREWELL

On behalf of myself, the lecturers and the entire staff of the Centre for East European Studies at the University of Warsaw, I am saying goodbye to Vladimir Bukowski with great sadness.

Vladimir Bukowski is a symbolic figure for me personally and for my colleagues, lecturers of our Institute and generally for sovietology and post-sovietology researchers in Poland and the region. Of course, people of the 1960s, 50s and the earlier generations will remember Bukowski from the news of Radio Free Europe and Radio Svoboda broadcasts, from reports about his fight with the Soviet system, about staying in "psychuszki", and about resistance to the KGB. We will remember the loud ejection of him from the Soviet Union to the West - in exchange - for the communist, the secretary general of the communist party of Chile. We even received jokes and poems that were made on this occasion in the Soviet Union.

For 'Solidarity' and the anti-communist opposition in Poland of the 1980s, Vladimir Bukowski, already in exile, was a reliable support and wise adviser. He gave the West hard, unambiguous assessments not only of communism and the situation in the Soviet Union, but also of everything that was happening in the new Russia after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Our students could meet Vladimir Bukowski in two other situations. Firstly, because his famous book "And the wind returns" is an obligatory reading as part of our "Eastern Studies"! In addition, we have had the honor to host Vladimir Bukowski at our conferences several times. Making this more sad that he will not come to us anymore.

On our own behalf, on behalf of the team of the former underground magazine "Obóz" ("Camp") dealing with communism, and on behalf of the entire academic community of the Centre for East European Studies at the University of Warsaw, we would like to say goodbye to Vladimir Bukowski as our friend and all, to whom we owe so much. But above all we say goodbye to him as a great, brave fighter of an inhumane communist system, a man who dared to stand against the "Empire of Evil".

Honor to his memory.

On behalf of the Centre for East European Studies, University of Warsaw


Jan Mállicki, dr h.c.
Director

[Read by the Delegate for the Centre for East European Studies at the funeral ceremony of the late Vladimir Bukowski, prof. Leszek Zasztowt, lecturer of the Centre]