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President addresses UN General Assembly session

A military-first approach is not the proper way to solve difficult internal conflicts, Poland's President Bronisław Komorowski told a UN General Assembly session in New York on Wednesday.

"The hopes raised by the Arab Spring have only partially come true," the Polish president said and stressed that "the civil war in Syria and its victims as well as the inability of the UN and Arab League to stop it" negatively influence the situation in the region. The Polish president added that the tragic death of U.S. diplomats also required serious thought.

According to President Komorowski, with the experience of the recent years "the world is still in a difficult position". He stressed the "the inability of international institutions to solve problems" was indisputable and added this also concerned the Security Council, especially in the light of the conflict in Syria.

"We have been following with concern the tension caused by the Iranian nuclear programme. We have been concerned about the threat of the proliferation of mass destruction weapons and arms race in the Persian Gulf," Komorowski said and added the results of the Afghan mission could not be described as fully satisfactory.

"We have to draw conclusions from the weakness of to date strategy in that country. A military-first approach is not the proper tool to solve difficult internal conflicts," the Polish president said.

Referring to the Polish democratic change, Solidarity and the Round Table, President Komorowski said that (over 20 years ago in Poland - ed.) the two sides of the sharp social conflict, namely on the one side the Polish communist authorities and on the other the Solidarity movement fighting for democratic changes, in fact for overthrowing communism, had enough wisdom to reach agreement. "None of the two sides was fully satisfied but the compromise opened up prospects of further changes," Komorowski stressed.

According to the Polish president, the ability of self-control and the strength of a wise compromise is a much better solution than escalation of demands and settlement of conflicts by force.

The Polish president stressed that the world needed today an effective United Nations Organisation. "An effective UN is not less necessary today than it was in the times of cold war," the Polish president stressed. "Superpowers will not disappear but stability and rules of the international order in a greater degree



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will require multilateral institutions, norms and mechanisms that will ensure their observance," Komorowski stressed.

According to the Polish president, the UN is the only institution to fulfill this goal.

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Statement by President of the Republic
of Poland, B. Komorowski at the UN
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