

But in Moscow, Georgy Matyushkin, the deputy minister of justice and its envoy to the European Court on Human Rights, told the Interfax news agency that the ruling showed that “the court does not have the conventional duty to investigate the events at Katyn” and that it would thus be “illogical” for it to address allegations of improper treatment of the victims’ relatives.

“The Russian authorities from the very beginning said that these events are located outside of the frame of the jurisdiction of the European court from the point of view of the time frame,” Mr. Matyushkin said. “And this point of view was accepted by the European court.”

The Polish prisoners, including nearly 5,000 senior Polish Army officers, disappeared in late 1939 and early 1940 during a period of German-Soviet cooperation, when Soviet forces occupied eastern Poland. In April and May 1940, they were taken to the Katyn woods, near Smolensk, west of Moscow, where they were executed and then buried in mass graves there and in two other villages.

After decades of denial, Russia admitted responsibility for the massacre in 1990, and opened a criminal investigation. The investigation was closed 14 years later, but much of its findings were classified and no one was publicly held responsible.

Relatives of the victims complained to the court in 2007 that the Russian inquiry had been ineffective and that the Russian authorities had displayed a dismissive attitude to requests for information about the event. The case was brought by 15 Polish citizens who are relatives of 12 victims of the massacre—police and army officers, an army doctor and a primary school headmaster—according to court filings.

The court’s highest panel, the Grand Chamber, ruled unanimously that “Russia had failed to comply with its obligation” under the European Convention on Human Rights to “furnish necessary facilities for examination of the case,” according to a statement from the court in Strasbourg, France.

But the ruling said the court had no jurisdiction to examine complaints over the killings themselves because the massacre took place a decade before the rights convention became international law and 58 years before Russia acceded to it, in 1998.

That period was too long for a “genuine connection” to be established between the killings and Russia’s accession to the convention, the ruling said. The court rejected an application for awarding damages.

The court also ruled that there had been no violation of the convention’s provision prohibiting inhuman or degrading treatment as it relates to the suffering of families of “disappeared” people. That part of the ruling overturned a lower court’s ruling in 2012, which found that that provision had been violated in the cases of 10 of the 15 Polish family members.

In its ruling, the Grand Chamber said Russia had not offered a “substantive analysis” for keeping the decision to classify the decision to close its investigation. “The court was unable to accept that the submission of a copy of the September 2004 decision could have affected Russia’s national security,” the ruling said.

Nikita V. Petrov, a historian for the Memorial human rights group, which has sought to declassify the decision, called the ruling a “light reprimand” that would do nothing to further the investigation.

“It’s like telling a criminal, ‘You haven’t behaved yourself very well,’” he said. “But it does not say that a crime is still taking place, because the government is hiding information about past criminal activities like the Katyn case.”

The massacre has continued to haunt Russian-Polish relations.

In April 2010, a plane carrying the Polish president and 95 other members of Poland’s political and military elite to a commemoration of the massacre crashed over Smolensk, killing everyone on board. The crash led to mutual recriminations over an event intended to help heal the wound.

In November 2010, the Russian Parliament approved a statement holding Stalin and other Soviet leaders responsible for the Katyn killings.

Despite protests from Communist Parliament members, the State Duma acknowledged that archival material “not only unveils the scale of his horrific tragedy but also provides evidence that the Katyn crime was committed on direct orders from Stalin and other Soviet leaders.”

IN RECOGNITION OF LESLIE A. WOOLLEY, FOR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF FEDERAL SERVICE

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2013

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, as we enter the season of giving thanks, I reflect on an individual who made a lasting impression on me and this institution. I rise today to recognize and congratulate Leslie Woolley, my former Chief of Staff of five years, on her retirement. A Capitol Hill veteran, Leslie has had a long and distinguished career in public service and the financial services industry.

Prior to working for me, Leslie was the Vice President, for Congressional Relations and International Banking at the Conference of State Bank Supervisors. She had previously spent over twenty years in the Senate and the House working as a professional staff member for the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs for Sen. Joe Lieberman (then D-CT), for U.S. Senators Zell Miller (D-GA), and Bob Graham (D-FL), who were both on the U.S. Senate Banking Committee. She also worked for U.S. House of Representatives Financial Services Committee members Bill McCollum (R-FL) and Wes Watkins (then D-OK), and as a professional staff member on a House Financial Services Subcommittee for U.S. Representative Norm Shumway (R-CA).

Leslie served in the Executive Branch at the U.S. Department of the Treasury, where she was Director for Business and Public Liaison in the Office of Legislative Affairs and Public Liaison, during Secretary Larry Summers’ tenure and at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) where she was the Deputy to the Chairman for Policy for the first woman Chairman of the FDIC, Ricki Helfer.

She had private sector experience as well, previously serving as the Vice President for Legislative Affairs at both the Investment Company Institute and at Chemical Bank.

Leslie has had the unique opportunity to provide 25 years of federal service doing what she has loved—working in financial services public policy. During her 35 years in Washington, the financial services issues were interesting and sometimes very challenging. In particular, Leslie guided the FDIC’s legislative involvement with the 1996 Deposit Insurance Funds Act which recapitalized the Savings and Loan Insurance Fund (SALF) and worked with Senator Miller to ensure that the internal con-

trols sections that applied to corporations under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 were more balanced than under the original drafts of the bill. Leslie worked with me on the 2010 Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act which was a response to the late-2009 economic recession, by bringing some of the most significant changes to financial regulation since the Great Depression and impacting all federal financial regulatory agencies and almost every part of the United States’ financial services industry.

She holds both a Bachelor in Science and Masters in Business Administration degrees from Oklahoma State University (OSU). In 1995, Leslie was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award from the OSU Alumni Association. In 2011, Leslie was named one of the top 50 MBA graduates from the OSU Spears School of Business at their 50th anniversary celebration. She has also received the Department of the Treasury’s, Secretary’s Honor Award (2001); and Women in Housing and Finance’s Distinguished Leader Award (2004).

In addition to her professional career, Leslie has made time for and been active in her community. She was President of Women in Housing and Finance 1984–85, and a Board Member from 2002–04; She held the office of Treasurer for Women’s Giving Circle of Alexandria from 2007–2011 and a Board Member from 2007 to the present; Leslie was President of the Oklahoma State Society in 1991; and the President of the D.C. Chapter of the Oklahoma State University Alumni Association from 1993–95, an Alumni Association National Board member from 1996–2001, and a member of the OSU Alumni Association Executive Committee from 1998–2001.

Even though the financial services industry has experienced its share of ups and downs, one thing has stayed consistent—the quality of the people, such as Leslie, who worked as colleagues and friends across different states, delegations, agencies, companies and trade associations for the betterment of our country. Upon her retirement, Leslie shared with me how blessed she was to have worked with each and every one of her colleagues and associates. Her husband, Doyle Bartlett and their two children, Ann and Cameron, have helped to make Leslie’s career possible and her life better.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join me in thanking Leslie for her 25 years of public service in the financial services arena; for her five years of support, help, and kindness to me, my Congressional staff and the constituents of the Fifth Congressional District of Missouri. I wish her the very best in all her future endeavors.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,149,193,429,752.16. We’ve added \$6,522,316,380,839.08 to our debt in 4 years. This is \$6.5 trillion in debt our nation,