

The presidential plane catastrophe

Task 1. Do you remember the catastrophe of the presidential plane? What was the date of the crash?

What is 'national mourning' and when does it take place?

Task 2. Listen to the text and complete the blanks with appropriate words.

The sentences are sometimes a bit different from those spoken in the film.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DSPAvgzuhyg>¹

1. Poles pray in shock and _____.
2. People pray for the dead president, lost parliamentary and _____, military _____ and families.
3. According to Russian authorities, the pilot ignored their advice and didn't _____ the flight to another airport.
4. The plane's take-off was filmed by a/an _____.
5. The plane crashed because of poor _____ while trying to land in _____.
6. The _____ made the decision to land in Smoleńsk but they didn't _____ to the landing _____.
7. A/An _____ tells how the plane came down.
8. The delegation was on the way to a _____ in Russia, commemorating 70 years since the _____ by Soviet _____ of Polish _____ of _____ during WW2.
9. The Russian president expresses compassion _____ of Russians to Polish people.
10. Losing so many public figures in a _____ will bring confusion to many spheres of Polish society, e.g. in politics, economy, _____ or foreign relations.
11. According to constitution Poland will have to elect its president within next _____.
12. At the moment Poland has a week of _____.

Task 3. Are planes more dangerous than cars? Discuss.

¹ Poland mourns loss of national leaders by Al Jazeera English (access date 15.10.2015)

The key

On April 10, 2010 the presidential plane crashed near the city of Smolensk, Russia, killing all 96 people on board. The plane was arriving from Warsaw to attend an event marking the 70th anniversary of the Katyń massacre, which took place near Smolensk.

1. Poles pray in shock and grief.
2. People pray for the dead president, lost parliamentary and political figures, military leaders and families.
3. According to Russian authorities, the pilot ignored their advice and didn't redirect the flight to another airport.
4. The plane's take-off was filmed by a/an amateur.
5. The plane crashed because of poor visibility while trying to land in fog.
6. The crew made the decision to land in Smoleńsk but they didn't make it to the landing strip.
7. A/An eyewitness tells how the plane came down.
8. The delegation was on the way to a memorial in Russia, commemorating 70 years since the massacre by Soviet forces of Polish prisoners of war during WW2.
9. The Russian president expresses compassion on behalf of Russians to Polish people.
10. Losing so many public figures in a single tragedy will bring confusion to many spheres of Polish society, e.g. in politics, economy, armed forces or foreign relations.
11. According to constitution Poland will have to elect its president within next 2 months.
12. At the moment Poland has a week of national mourning.