Preface

Brzezinski managed to get money for a Polish-Swedish interchange. One of the first to visit was his old teacher from Warsaw - Andrzej Bialynicki-Birula who came in the spring of 1995. I recognised him from a meeting we both attended in Bucharest in the summer of 1983, and it was understood that I would visit Poland that fall. This did not come about for various reasons, basically having to do with getting baby-sitters, so to speak, at home during my absence. Thus the trip was postponed several times until the fall of 1996, precisely scheduled so as to enable me to take part in the local quarter-Marathon race around our town.

I had never been to Poland, and as usual I was excited about a new place. I decided to go there by train, despite warnings about it not being totally safe. Fortunately I ignored such misgivings and travelled with my green backpack just as in the good old times of my youth. My stay in Warsaw was augmented by a detour via Krakow, Zakopane and Prague, before returning home. The last three days turned out to be the most intensive of the the trip, and the most memorable. Krakow I had always wanted to see. To hike in the mountains, even with snow, is always an adventure. And once again to revisit the Baroque city of Prague was too much of a temptation to pass up.

The trip is documented, as usual, in great, not to say tedious detail, for which I make no apologies.

Göteborg

April 27
1997