Dipl.-Ing. Leszek Pituch †
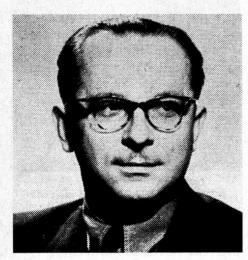
13 January 1923 – 11 August 1975

OSTIV regrets to announce the sudden death of Leszek Pituch, for several years a member of the Board of OSTIV.

Dipl.-Ing. Pituch, born in Jaroslaw in the south-east of Poland, on January 13, 1923, displayed already in his youth a great interest in aeronautics. As an active aeromodeller he had been awarded many national diplomas and prizes.

After the Second World War, as soon as the Polish universities resumed their activities, he started (in 1945) his studies in aeronautical sciences at the Technical University of Cracow, and graduated there as Dipl.-Ing./M. Sc. in December 1950, specialized in aircraft design and construction.

During his studies he occupied himself with gliding.

After having worked a short period in the Civil Aviation Department of the Ministry of Transport, Leszek Pituch moved to the Aero Club of the Polish People's Republic in 1951, where he was responsible for the development programs in gliding technology, and the co-operation between the Aero Club and the aviation industry, until his death. In this function he took the initiative in several new developments, especially in sailplane design.

Besides undertaking these activities, he was Technical Manager of the Polish team to the World Gliding Championships in Junin 1963, and Team Manager of Polish teams in several national and international gliding competitions. Thanks to his organizing ability and his capacity for co-operation, the OSTIV Congresses in Osieszna 1958 and in Leszno 1968 were very successful.

Dipl.-Ing. Leszek Pituch was an amiable man, appreciated by all his many friends for his often droll approach to looming problems, his sense of humour, and his honesty.

He was honored in many ways, and was posthumously awarded one of the highest Polish state awards, the Polonia Restituta Chevalier Cross.

In spite of his poor health, Leszek Pituch spared no effort to promote gliding to the highest level.

May he rest in peace.

L. A. de Lange
President OSTIV