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Title: A.10. Ministerstwo Informacji i Dokumentacji = Ministry of Information and Documentation, 1940 – 1947

Extent: 1,236 digital images, JPEG; 1,236 digital images, PDF; 5 digital files, PDF.

Provenance: From the Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum, London, England, created by the Polish Government in Exile. The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives received the digitized collection via the United States Holocaust Museum International Archives Programs in October 2010.

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Biographical/Historical Note: Rząd Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej na uchodźstwie (Government of the Republic of Poland in Exile) was established after Germany and the Soviet Union occupied Poland in September 1939. The Polish government-in-exile was first based in France, but moved to London after the French army surrendered to the Germans in mid-1940. The Allies accepted the government-in-exile as the legitimate representative of the Polish people soon after it was created. The government-in-exile allied itself with the West, as its members believed that only a total military victory over Germany would restore Poland's independence and freedom. In addition, it amassed its own land, air, and naval forces. In 1942 reports about the mass murder of Jews in Poland reached London; at that point, the Polish government-in-exile made several public declarations on the subject, and officially demanded that the Allied powers stop the Germans from continuing on their murderous crusade. In early 1943 the Polish government-in-exile begged Pope Pius XII to condemn the Nazis' actions. From December 1942 onward, the government-in-exile backed the rescue work of Żegota, which offered aid to Jews throughout occupied Poland. New Polish government

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Scope and Content Note: Contains selected records of the Ministry of Information and Documentation, Division of National Minorities, mainly Jewish press, testimonies of the Jews within the period of 1940-1945, reviews of the Jewish press 1941-1943, Jewish matters 1940-1944, situation in the eastern provinces of Poland under the Soviet occupation: witnesses' testimonies and their studies, reviews of the Soviet press 1940-1945, and correspondence 1940-1941. The Ministry of Information and Documentation of the Polish Government in Exile between 1940-1949 was led by three ministers: Stanisław Stroński (1940-1943), Stanisław Kot (1943-1944), and Adam Pragier (1944-1949).

Inventory:

A.10.1.4

Correspondence 1940-1941:

1. Letter from May 14, 1940 from the Polish Embassy in London to the Center of Information and Documentation in Paris conc. the brochure printed by the "Free Europe" publishing house under the title "The Persecution of Jews in German Occupied Poland" with the preface of the suffragan bishop of the Westminster diocese, Rev. David Mathew. This was the first publication in England conc. the persecution of Jews in Poland. The very brochure is attached hereto – ca 31 pages (the letter and the brochure).

A.10.2.25

Review of the Jewish press 1941-1943 (Ministry of Information and Documentation. Department of Nationalities). "The herewith review explains particular articles and news maintaining its specific tone without any changes and comments"

Year 1941 (year 1), Nos. 6-44 (without No 8), the articles from the following papers are described: "Niw Hakwuca" (Palestyna), "Di Idysze Cajtung" (Buenos Aires), "Der Idyszer Kurjer" (Chicago), "Forverts" (NY), "Morgen Journal" (London), "Jewish Standard", "Zionist Review", "The Jewish Exponent" (Philadelphia), "The Congress Bulletin" (American Jewish Congress), "Der Tog" (NY), "Haolam" (Jerusalem), "Di Cajt" (London), "Jewish Chronicle", "Yivo Bleter" (NY), "Congress Weekly" (organ American Jewish Congress), "Haarec" (Tel Aviv), "Gazeta Żydowska" "Canadian Jewish Chronicle", "Contemporary Jewish Record" (bi-monthly of the American Jewish Committee), "New Judea", "Cajt" (London), "Freeland League", "The National Message" (British-Israel World Federation),

Year 1942, Nos. 1-9 (without No. 8)

Year 1943, Nos. 10-18

ca 250 pages

A.10.3.2

Jewish matters 1940-1944:

- No 114 of July 17, 1942 of the "Zionist Review" paper
- No 4 of March 15, 1942 of the "Jewish News" (a bulletin issued periodically by the Jewish Central Information Office, London)
- The letter of Ignacy Schwarzbart of Feb. 17, 1943 to the Ministry of Information and others, conc. the one-sidedness of describing Schwarzbart's reports in the article printed in the bulletin of the World Jewish Congress (No 3 of November 1942).
- Press and News office at the office of the National Council member, Dr. I. Schwarzbart, Bulletin No 5 of Feb. 19, 1943 (the meeting of the Polish Jewry representation with Min. St. Kot in Tel-Aviv)
- Circular letter of the United Committee for Help to the Polish Jews in Jerusalem of Sept. 1940 contains protocols of inquiries: Abraham Goldberg, who returned from the territories occupied by Soviets (came from Piotrków, escaped to Brześć, Kowel, Kiev, Odessa and Pireus); U.Sz. conc. Łódź; Dr. J.B. about Warsaw, M.F. about Włocławek, T.S. about Warsaw, H.P.L. about Warsaw)
- Some of the issues of the Jewish Press Review
- Letter of W.P., the field bishop conc. the character of the "Dziennik Polski" and "Wiadomości Polskie" papers
- Summary of the H. Gitlin text "Jewish State"
- Proposal conc. the calling into being of the commission for the Jewish question of March 2, 1940 (to min. Kozuchowski)
- Hand copy of the letter from the Polish Consulate in NY conc. the annual report of the session of the American Jewish Congress, Feb. 23, 1940
- The issue of "Przyszłość. The future" (Voices conc. Poland and Polish Jewry") OF Feb. 1942

ca 200 pages

A.10.4.29

Eastern provinces of the Republic of Poland. Soviet occupation. Testimonies.

Testimonies of witnesses ref. to the Soviet occupation – and studies of these testimonies (a lot about Jews) arranged as per counties and provinces:

- The County of Łuniniec, Polesie province (61 pages)
- The County of Nowogródek, Nowogród province (54 pages)
- The County of Postaw, Vilno province (48 pages)
- The County of Postwy., description, ca 10% of Jews (25 pages)
- The County of Wilejka, Vilno province (ok. 70 pages)
- The County of Działdowo, Vilno province (ok. 90 pages)
- The County of Baranów, Nowogród province (15 pages)
- The County of Brok, Tarnopol province (19 pages)
- The County of Kamionka, Tarnopol province (16 pages)

- The County of Sokal, Lvov province (69 pages)
- The County of Czortków, Tarnopol province (79 pages)
- The County of Żółkiew, Lvov province (37 pages)
- The County of Rawa Ruska, Lvov province (ca 24 pages)

ca 100 pages

A.10.5.21

Review of the Soviet press 1940-1945 (from Dec. 24, 1940 through Feb. 28, 1945)

ca 100 pages