Ministerstwo Spraw Zagranicznych (A.11): Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 1918-1945 RG-59.035

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Email: reference@ushmm.org

Descriptive Summary

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Custodial History

Existence and location of originals: The original records are held by the Instytut Polski i Muzeum im. Gen. Sikorskiego, 20 Princes Gate, London SW7 1 PT, United Kingdom. Tel. 011 44 20 75 89 92 49. More information about this repository can be found at www.sikorskimuseum.co.uk.

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Historical Note

The Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum, commonly known as Sikorski Institute, is a Londonbased non-governmental organization of the Polish minority in United Kingdom. It was created after the Second World War to preserve the memory of Polish armed forces in the West and their contribution to World War II, when the communist takeover of Poland made it hard and dangerous for many Poles to return home, and research and publication on those issues were banned or censored in the People's Republic of Poland. To that goal, the Sikorski institute, named after General Władysław Sikorski, has acted as a museum, archive and publishing house for much of Western Polonia, particularly with regards to Poland and Second World War issues. 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-inexile 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 Zegota, which offered aid to Jews throughout occupied Poland. New Polish government 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-inexile 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.

Scope and Content of Collection

Contains selected records of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Polish government-in-exile relating to the Polish Army in the USSR; Jews in the Polish Military Forces; desertions in Poland, USSR, North and South America, and Asia; Jewish refugees in Europe and other continents; exchange of Jews for Germans interned in the USA; Polish-Soviet relations; war crimes and criminals; medical experiments in Ravensbrück and Dachau; and the Congress of Polish Jews, organized in 1945. Documents also include correspondence of the intelligence service, encrypted dispatches, reviews of the Jewish press of 1945, speeches of General Sikorski and

Minister Edward Raczynski in Washington, 1942, and name lists of prisoners of concentration camps evacuated to Sweden in 1945 (including Jews), and name lists of refugees and political prisoners.

System of Arrangement

This collection is arranged thematically.

Indexing Terms

Sikorski, Wladyslaw, 1881-1943.

Raczyński, Edward, 1891-1993.

Rzeczpospolita Polska (Government-in-exiles)

Delegatura Rządu Rzevzypospolitej Polskiej na Kraj.

Poland. Polskie Siły Zbrojne. Armia Krajowa. -- History.

Ravensbrück (Concentration camp)

World War, 1939-1945 -- Governments in exile -- Sources.

World War, 1939-1945 -- Underground movements -- Poland.

World War, 1939-1945 -- Desertions -- Europe.

World War, 1939-1945 -- Prisoners and prisons, Jews.

World War, 1939-1945 -- Campaigns -- Eastern front.

World War, 1939-1945 -- Prisoners and prison, Poles.

Jewish soldiers -- Europe.

Jewish refugees -- Europe.

Jewish refugees -- Asia.

Jewish refugees - Americas.

Poland -- History, Military -- 20th century.

Poland -- Emigration and immigration -- History.

Europe -- Emigration and immigration -- History.

References

Guide to the Archives of the Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum, vol. I, compiled and edited by: Waclaw Milewski, Andrzej Suchcitz and Andrzej Gorczycki, Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum, London 1985.

CONTAINER LIST

File Description

A.11.755/1-3 Polish Army in the USSR, 1941-1943

Order #1730 of Władysław Anders of Nov. 14, 1941 of Buzułyk conc. the percentage

of Jews in the Polish Army

- **A.11.E.87** Jews in Palestine. Correspondence of the intelligence service, encrypted dispatches, reviews of the Jewish press, 1945
- **A.11.E.88** Jews in the USSR, 1945
- **A.11.E.89** Jews in Asia, conc. repatriation from Shanghai (rabbis and students of the rabbi schools, including the Mir Yeshiva) via Japan, dispatches, 1945
- A.11.E.124 War crimes, 1945

 Press cuttings, the right for asylum conc. war criminals, various reports and briefs
- **A.11.E.142** Jews in America the USA, Brazil, Chile, Peru, Canada, 1944-1945 Correspondence concerning various matters
- A.11.E.149 Jews in Polish Military forces, 1944-1945

 Correspondence conc. Jewish deserters from the Polish Army and their enlistment to the British Army the Jewish Brigade, nominations of Jewish officers
- **A.11.E.150** Exchange of Jews to Germans interned in America, the so-called Vittel matter, correspondence, 1945
- **A.11.E.151** Jews miscellaneous, 1945
- A.11.E.239 Polish-Soviet relations. Talks held by Gen. Sikorski between March 23 and 30, 1942 and by Minister Edward Raczyński between Feb. 12 and 30, 1942 in Washington, 1942
- A.11.E.315. Poles in Germany. Camps. Correspondence with the Polish legation in Madrid and Lisbon, reports conc. medical experiments in Ravensbrueck, Dachau, encrypted dispatches of the Ministry of foreign Affairs conc. a.m. camps, "List of individuals that should be found on the territory of Reich and whose evacuation to the UK is of the state importance" (260 names), press cuttings, 1945
- **A.11.E.380.** Jewish refugees in Europe (Portugal, Spain, France, Romania, Hungary, Switzerland, Palestine, Turkey, Belgium), 1944-194
- A.11.E.381 Jewish refugees Polish citizens and other individuals overseas (Palestine, Jamaica, Tangiers, English Indies, Mexico, Canada and other countries), 1945
- **A.11.E.382** Jewish refugees in China (Shanghai), their conditions of life and financial aid, 1944-1945
- **A.11.E.528** Lists of prisoners (incl. Jewish names) of concentration camps evacuated to Sweden, 1945 staying in the following permanent or transient camps:
 - Huskvarna (Sund) 57 people, List 61
 - Smaland Annaberg (Missionshuset) 62 people, List 39
 - Viks Havsbad 71 people, List19
 - Hasslehom 308 people, List 20

- Eldsberg 63 people, List 21
- Vitemolla 96 people, List 22
- Gamla Bogar Skolan w Malmo 12 people, List 23
- Skottorp 73 people, List 25
- Kristanstad 17 people, List 26
- Harplinge 125 people, List 27
- Mollarp 114 people, List 28
- Ystad 83 people, List 29
- Amalands 26 people, List 30
- Simrishamn 6 people, List 31
- Hallaborg 52 people, List 32
- Valberga 97 people, List 33
- Hallaryd 25 people, List 34
- Morup 103 people, List 35
- Halleryd-Krakeryd 34 people, List 36
- Falkenberg 51 people, List 37
- Onsunda 159 people, List 38
- Gamla Borgar Skolan w Malmo 71 people, List 23
- Skottorp 73 people, List 24
- Kristianstad 478 people, List 25
- Kristanstad 17 people, List 26
- Harplinge 125 people, List 27
- Mollarp 114 people, List 28
- Ystad 83 people, List 29
- Amalands 26 people, List 30
- Simrishamn 6 people, List 31
- Hallaborg 52 people, List 32
- Valberga 97 people, List 33
- Hallaryd 25 people, List 34
- Morup 103 people, List 35
- Halleryd-Krakeryd 34 people, List 36
- Falkenberg 51 people, List 37
- Onsunda 159 people, List 38
- Gamla Borgar Skolan w Malmo 71 people, List 23
- Halsingborg Raa, Norra Hedsskolan 226 people, List 14
- Ambjornsgarden Nassjo 55 people, List 15
- Norrboda Nassjo 52 people, List 16
- Nya Museet w Malmo 236 people, List 10
- Mellersta Forstadsskolan 343 people, List 7
- Esperid w Nassjo 45 people, List 18
- Backfall Skola Nassjo 54 people, List 17
- Tranda 175 people, List 13
- Ostre Folkskolan w Ystad 92 people, List 12
- Ostra Folkskolan w Ystad 100 people, List 11

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Additionally, some dozen of lists without the name of camps, as well as List 3, of children:

- Burzyńska Renia, born Jan. 12, 1930 in Łódź, parents: Icek, Jadzia, last place of residence: Łódź
- Cymerman Sabina, June 14, 1930, Moniek, Sura, Łódź
- Druker Anna, Jan. 19, 1928, Gabriel, Jetke, Łódź
- Fajtlowicz Sala, Feb. 2,1930, Hersz, Sima, Łódź
- Fajtlowicz Malina, Feb. 28,1931, Hersz, Sima, Łódź
- Kempler Anita, June 2, 1934, Leon, Zofia, Kraków
- Kempler Bernard, May 8, 1936, Leon, Zofia, Kraków
- Kamińska Fela, Sept. 15, 1930, Ezel, Ruchla, Ozorków
- ...rsztajn Sala, June 15, 1931, Jonas, Łaja, Lipno
- Laks Rózia, June 18, 1928, Alter, Chaja, Chmielnik
- Lewi Judid, Dec. 27, 1933, Mikołaj, Gizela, Michałowice
- Mapa Ewa, Oct. 04, 1929, Josek, Tema, Chmielnik
- Preiss Sola, Sept. 27, 1928, Motel, Rozalia, Kraków
- Senator Fryderyka, June 27, 1931, Szmul, Szpedka, Radom
- Sonabend Freda, Aug. 19, 1935, Izak, Fela, Łódź
- Szpiro Regina, Aug. 12, 1930, Fiszel, Jadzia, Będzin
- Warszawska Inka, April 25, 1931, Jankiel, Mania, Łódź
- Żarnicka Chaja, July 03, 1928, Josek, Hena, Chmielnik

A.11.E.565 Concentration camps, 1945:

- Ravensbrueck, 41 women
- Mauthausen, Linz and in Germany: Dachau, Bergen-Belsen, Hasag, Dassel, Malsdorf
- Buchenwald
- Correspondence conc. specific people

A.11.E.681 Jews, 1945

The Congress of Polish Jews (ended on June 1, 1945), the list of delegates to the congress, the study prepared by the Headquarters of the Commander-in-Chief. The Department of Information and Intelligence: "Jews in Palestine" (based on the news of press agencies and data from publications and press) – 36 pages, the list the rabbi's students in the USSR and others.

- **A.11.E.745** Correspondence concerning the stay in London (since April 1945) of Mordka Lichtensztein, who was a prison of KL Auschwitz and escaped together with a group of English prisoners of war) and other correspondence.
- **A.11.E.932** Jews in Europe (Belgium, Switzerland, Romania, France, Bulgaria, Germany, Italy and Turkey), 1945
- **A.11.E.942** Jews in the UK, the matter of desertion (resolution of the Polish Jews organization in Sydney), 1945

- A.11.E.943 Jews in Poland: the situation of Jews in the communist Poland on the basis of the Lublin radio, the letter of Polish Consulate in Sydney conc. Jews in Australia (90% of them came from Poland), the letter of the Polish Consulate in Jerusalem conc. articles in the Jewish press (about the anti-Semitism in Poland), the hand copy of the letter signed by A. Barman and Ringelblum of March 01, 1944 to YVO in NYC, 1945.
- A.11.49.Sow.9 Aide memoire (notes, memos) February- June 1943. The notes as above, notes to the Prime Minister and ministers, "white Russians", information conc. anti-Polish propaganda in the USA, 1942

 Notes 1944, Entire file, ca 150 pages
- A.11.49.Sow.10 Reports of the embassy in Moscow and in Kuybyshew 1941, 1942, 1943, a/o the report from the talks of Ambassador Romer with Molotov and Stalin (March 4, 1943); Soviet resolutions, together with translation, concerning the matter of citizenship; correspondence conc. the Polish-Soviet negotiations; the paper "Krakauer Zeitung" of May 28, 1943; the report of Romer from his talks with Molotov (March 21, 1943); reports of the Welfare Office at the Polish Embassy Entire files contains ca 150 pages
- **A.11.49.Sow.11** Encrypted dispatches of the Embassy in Moscow to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs 1942-1943
 Entire file ca 100 pages
- **A.11.49.Sow.21** The matter of citizenship of ethnic minorities, 1942, a/o are:
 - a note to the Minister concerning the enclosed letter of Dr. Schwarzbart referring to the citizens of the Polish nationality disregarded by the Soviet authorities; a short study of TJ/RW entitled The matter of the Polish citizenship of the People of non-Polish origin (original copies plus type copies), a report in that matter of Ambassador Kot of Feb. 16, 1942, letters with the request for intervention in the matter of people sentenced by the Soviet authorities (Poles and Jews); a top secret letter signed by Gen. Bohusz-Szyszko (with a remark: burn after reading!) of April 22, 1942, conc. the enlisting of ethnic minorities to the Polish Armed forces (the Soviet authorities disregard the Polish citizenship of people living on the Polish-Soviet Borderland (Kresy) and the Soviet authorities deliberately disseminate rumors that they are Chief Officers of the Army that disagree to enlist ethnic minorities to the Polish Army); letters of Polish citizens requesting to enlist them to the Polish Army or restoring their Polish citizenship and other letters. Entire file contains ca 80 pages.
- **A.11.49.Sow.22** Cases concerning the passports of Polish citizens in the USSR. Correspondence of the Polish Embassy in Kuybyshev with the Ministry of foreign Affairs in London, 19442-1943:
 - A study (encl. 1) entitled: The action of sovietization of Polish citizens deported to the USSR

- A letter of the Polish Embassy in Moscow with enclosed original questionnaire of Mojżesz Abram Ładno filled on the Soviet form of August 16, 1942 (born in 1917 in Wilejka), the commentary of the Embassy; the questionnaire made out by Soviets for the known reasons.
- Correspondence, a/o a letter of the Polish Embassy in liquidation (Teheran) of Oct. 9, 1943 with the enclosed list of people who obtained dates for the extension of the validity of the Polish passports (a lot of Jewish names) and a letter entitled Remarks conc. the matter of passports of the Polish citizens in the USSR, a study entitled Taking away of the Polish documents and the reaction of the people.

Entire file ca 250 pages

A.11.49.Sow.24 Social welfare. The situation of Polish citizens in the USSR during 1941-1942 Entire file ca 80 pages.