

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives  
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**RG-59.039****Acc. 2010.284****Title:** A.20 Ministerstwo Sprawiedliwości = Ministry of Justice, 1939 – 1949**Extent:** 1,984 digital images, JPEG; 1,984 digital images PDF; 19 digital files, PDF**Provenance:** From the Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum, London, England, created by the Polish Government in Exile, records of the Ministry of Justice, A.20. The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives received the digitized collection via the United States Holocaust Museum International Archives Programs in October 2010.**Restrictions on Access:** No restrictions on access.**Restrictions on Use:** Fair use only. The Cooperative Agreement in process.**Language:** Polish, English**Preferred citation:** Standard citation for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Curatorial Affairs Division, Archives

**Biographical/Historical Note:** 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 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.

**Scope and Content Note:** Contains selected records of the Ministry of Justice of the Polish Government in Exile. Includes secret files of Katyn massacre, records related to Jewish affairs, communist actions (pro-Soviet atmosphere in ghettos), cruelty of the USSR and German occupants 1939-1940, crimes of Wehrmacht against civilians and Polish citizens interned in Palestine by the British authorities (mainly Jews). Contains the letter of the World Jewish Congress to the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs about the abolition of the law of 1938 depriving Jews of the Polish citizenship for desertion from the Polish Army, Polish Journal of Laws, 1939-1945, letters from Lwów citizens acting against the Polish state, and files of Polish lawyers, including Jews (correspondence, Curriculum vitae, name lists), etc. The Minister of the Ministry of Justice was Bronisław Kuśnierz.

### **Inventory:**

#### **A.20.1/2**

The files conc. Poland under occupation matters. Secret files. 1942-1943:

##### Year 1943:

- Aug. 20, 1943, Letter of P. Siudek, Head of the Social Department to Minister Komornicki w the enclosed list of Polish corpses excavated by April 18, in Kozie Góry near Smoleńsk (176 corpses) and the text untitled “Katyn and the German propaganda”
- July 02, 1943, Letter with enclosed material from occupied Poland entitled “Situation in Poland” (also relating to Jews)
- April 28, 1943, Letter with enclosed study entitled “German courts in GG”
- Jan. 27, 1943, Letter from Mikołajczyk to Komornicki with enclosed report of the PKP deputy “Political report from occupied Poland in January 1943”, 48 pages
- Letter of Minister of the Congress Works, Seyda with enclosed study “Riots in the Lublin province vs. the German national policy in GG”

##### Year 1942

- Oct. 26, 1942., letter with enclosed two reports about the communist action in Poland (also the chapter entitled Ghetto – the questions of communism and pro-Soviet atmosphere in ghetto)
- Study (on the bottom of the file, not fastened, entitled: “Terror of invaders on the Polish soil”

#### **A.20.1/5**

Political materials. Secret. 1942-1943.

- Feb. 25, 1942, Letter to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the content of the dispatch received by Ambassador Raczyński from Washington from the world Jewish Congress with the request to reverse all cases of deprivation of Polish citizenship based on the Law of 1938, 1 page
- April 25, 1942, Letter of the Commission for Research in Jerusalem signed by Al Robinson with enclosed paper entitled “Jewish National Institutions in Palestine”

written by the local Jewish activist (name has not been mentioned) – on the bottom of the file in a blue cover, not fastened to other documents – 11 pages

**A.20.1/11**

Various secret files. 1942-1943.

Oct. 6, 1942, Report of Aleksander Piskor, former head of the Polish Press Office on the Far East /written on the evacuation ship S.S. "Narkunda"/ conc. his arresting, imprisonment and sentencing by the Japanese authorities – to the Minister of Justice

**A.20.2/5**

Journal of Laws of the Republic of Poland, from Oct. 10, 1939 to May 25, 1945

**A.20.2/6**

Sub-commission conc. the decree "About the summary proceedings" 1943-1944 (incl. the texts of Minister's orders conc. the summary trials"

**A.20.4/16**

The case of interned people on the territory of Palestine by the British authorities (accused of Communism, spying, financial affairs, revisionism and the like – incl. Jews), 1945, 9 pages.

**A.20.4/54**

Kohn Adolf – avoiding military service, 1942-1944

The files of the field court in London

**A.20.4/127**

Deserters – the list of those who were avoiding to appear at the Consular Recruit Board for Nov. 10, 1942

**A.20.4a/35**

Commission for Research in Bucharest: Gutman Sender – ungrounded use of the name of Stanisław Gutowski and using the passport made out on that name (he had various problems with Yugoslav visas as a Jew), 1940

**A.20.4a/53**

Polish men of letters in Lvov acting against the Polish State, 1941-1942:

- Nov. 12, 1942, testimonies of Halina Pilichowska, the writer from Warsaw living in Palestine in 1942; she accused a/o the following people of collaboration: E. Szemplińska, T. Boy-Żeleński, A. Ważyk, A. Stern, A. Wat (Chwat), A. Dan, H. Górska, A. Polewka, J. Borejsza, F. Parecki, L. Szenwald, B. Piach (Zandberg), L. Pasternak, St. Dubois, W. Borejsza and others, 8 pages
- Clandestine paper published in Stanbul: Bulletin of Information No 8, 2<sup>nd</sup> year, June 05, 1941 entitled: Poland under the Soviet and German occupation"

**A.20.4a/103**

- Commission for Research in Jerusalem: Silberschlag (alias Zylkberszlag) Zygmunt – the case conc. the acting against the Polish State abroad, Jan.-Nov. 1942 (he was arrested for desertion in Palestine but came out with the claim to the Supreme Court in Palestine conc. ungrounded arresting, the notes in press appeared, etc.)

#### **A.20.4a/125**

- Commission for Research in Jerusalem: Polish-Jewish riots in Tel-Aviv, 1942 (the fight among students of the Polish and Jewish schools of Nov. 5 and 6, 1942, which developed into serious riots on the streets of the city)

#### **A.20.5/31**

Excerpts from various military reports and briefs conc. “German and Soviet cruelties 1939-1940) / Wehrmacht crimes committed on civilians, mainly bombing – see page 20 – information about Zduńska Wola and persecutions of Jews, as well as – page 27 – the burning of ca 20 Jews in the synagogue in Dynów, the burial of several people alive and similar cruelties

#### **A.20.7/12**

Polish lawyers worldwide, inc. correspondence, CVs and various lists and specifications – a lot of personal data (incl. Jewish ones)

- 12A – France and Italy
- 12B – Sweden, Switzerland, Yugoslavia and Portugal
- 12C – America and USSR (incl. the card file of NYC lawyers coming from Poland – they quoted the names which they read on the Polish Bar)
- 12D – South Africa and Australia
- 12E – Iran
- 12F