

Retinger Józef, Dr. (Kol. 68)

RG-59.049

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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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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Biographical Note

The Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum, commonly known as Sikorski Institute, is a London-based 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. 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. Dr. Jozef Retinger , 1888 -1960, was a Polish political adviser and a founder of the European Movement that would lead to the founding of the European Union. Politically active during WWI in London and Paris. Later during WWII he was one of Gen. Sikorski's closest advisers. In 1944, aged 56, Retinger parachuted into occupied Poland with 2nd Lt. Tadeusz Chciuk-Celt, in Operation Salamander, to talk with leading political figures and deliver money to the Polish underground.

Scope and Content of Collection

Contains drafts and copies of addresses of Gen. Sikorski and other documents related to political activities of Retinger. Includes study, letters, notes, reports, correspondence, e.g. with S. Brodetzki, Stanisław Kot, Jan Karski, S. Gruszka, the Joint, New Zionist Organization and "The Jewish Chronicle", Polish Embassy in Washington, etc. related to various issues, e.g. relives of Jews to the Army in Palestine, Polish refugees in Italy, Jewish emigrants in Trieste, and Jewish matters.

Indexing Terms

Brodetzki.
Karski, Jan, 1914-2000.
Kot, Stanisław.
Gruszka, S.
Retinger, Józef, 1888-1960.

Rzeczpospolita Polska (Government-in-exile)

Diplomatic and consular service, Polish -- Washington D.C.
Polish refugees -- Italy.
Jewish emigrants -- Trieste.

Poland -- History -- Occupation, 1939-1945.

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

Inventory:

File	Description
File 20 Drafts and fair copies of Gen.Sikorski speeches 1939-41	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No. 7. Addresses delivered by Gen.Sikorski in Canada, of 4.04.41 (in English)• No. 8. The Address delivered by Gen.Sikorski, the Prime Minister of Poland in Detroit, of 22.04.41 (in English)• No. 10. The Address delivered by Gen.Sikorski at the Meeting of the Polish National Council on the 4th June 1941 (in English)• No. 11. Poland and the „New Order” by Gen. Sikorski, of 2.07.41• No. 14. The speech of Gen.Sikorski by the Opening of the National Council on the 24th Feb. 42

**File 21 Political
activities 1939-
1940**

- **No. 24** Elaborate of J.H.Retinger „Political-propaganda Polish action in London”, 31.01.40
- **No. 46.** The letter of Ambassador E.Raczynski on the meeting with Mr.Brodetzki, representative of Jews in England; in enclosure the letter of Brodetzki to Ambassador, 14.03.40
- **No. 50.** The letter of Retinger to Amb.Raczynski on the meeting with Brodetzki, 19.03.40
- **No. 53.** The letter of St.Kot on the meeting with Brodetzki, 5.04.40
- **No. 54.** Notes on the meeting with Bishop Mathew, i.e. on his foreword to the publication „Jews matter in Poland”, 8.04.40
- **No. 70.** The letter of St.Kot i.e. on relives of Jews to the Army in Palestine, 6.06.40
- **No. 74.** The letter to Gen.Sikorski on propaganda action in USA by Artur Szyk, 13.06.40

**File 29 Jewish
issues 1940-44**

- **No. 1.**The letter of Min. J. Ciechanowski on the contacts with Mr. Brodetzki, 2.03.40
- **No. 2.** The copy of the letter from File 21, **No. 50**
- **No. 3.** Correspondence with S.Brodetzki on his trip to France and intended meeting with Gen.Sikorski, March-April 40
- **No. 4.** Letters to Polish Embassy in London from S.Katz, publisher of „Jewish Standard” and from A.Abrahams, Head of Political Dep. of Presidency of the New Zionist Organization”, 2.04.40
- **No. 5.** The minutes from the meeting of Prof. Brodetzki, Dr.Brotman and Dr.Stein, 4.04.40
- **No. 6.** Article from „The Jewish Weekly: „Polish Jewish Confusion”, 5.04.40
- **No. 7.** The letter from Prof. Brodetzki on the meeting with M.Gralinski, Polish Underscretary for Foreign Affairs, 8.08.40
- **No. 8.** Memo of Central Committee of „Bund” to Min. St.Kot delivered by S.M.Zygielbojm, 18.04.40
- **No. 9.** The letter to St.Kot about Gralinski’s meeting, 19.04.40
- **No. 10.** The letter form „Joint” in London to Retinger on Jewish organizations in England, 19.04.40
- **No. 11.** The letter to Brotman, 25.04.40
- **No. 12.** The letter from „Aguda” in London to Retinger, 22.04.40
- **No. 13.** The letter from solicitor Dogilewski on sending the report about Polish Jews in England, 26.04.40
- **No. 14.** The letter from „Joint” in London with proposal to meet Raczynski and Gen.Sikorski, 26.04.40

- **No. 15.** The letter from A.Abrahams on planned meetings in Paris, 1.05.40
- **No. 16.** As above, 14.05.40
- **No. 17.** Invitation to meeting with representatives of Jewish organizations in England (for Retinger), 15.05.40
- **No. 18.** Thanks letter from „Joint” for sending the lampoon „Free Europe”, 15.05.40
- **No. 19.** The letter form New Zionist Organization asking for passes prolongation, 20.05.40
- **No. 20.** The letter from „Joint” on 150 Jewish emigrants in Trieste, 24.05.40
- **No. 21.** The letter to Mr.Abrahams with proposal to meet, 31.05.40
- **No. 22.** The letter to „My dear Jacø” on help for Jews in Trieste, 6.06.40
- **No. 23.** Correspondence with Brodetzki on help for Jews in Trieste, 4 - 6. 06.40
- **No. 24.** Thanks letter for invitation from Brotman (Joint), in enclosure the letter form Brodetzki on help for 1000 Polish refugees in Italy, 7.06.40
- **No. 25.** Correspondence with „The Jewish Chronicle”, 12.06.40
- **No. 26.** Correspondence with Brodetzki on evacuation of Poles from Italy, 13.06.40
- **No. 27.** Correspondence with „Joint”, June 1940
- **No. 28.** The letter to Brodetzki, 16.06.40
- **No. 29.** The letter to New Zionist Org., 17.06.40
- **No. 30.** As above, 29.06.40
- **No. 31.** The letter from L.Berezowski from Warsaw to Zygielbojm, the member of Polish Government in London, on extermination of Jews, 31.08.42
- **No. 32.** The letter from I.Szwarzbart to Gen.Sikorski, 19.11.42
- **No. 33.** As above, 19.11.42
- **No. 34.** The letter from A.Tartakower (World Jewish Congress) to Amb.J.Ciechanowski, 2.12.42
- **No. 35.** Anti-Semitic, anonymous letter to Gen. Sikorski, 27.04.43
- **No. 36.** The letter form Podoski (manuscript), Legation of Poland in Ottawa, 27.01.44
- **No. 37.** The letter of Jan Karski (manuscript) on his visit in USA, 21.02.44
- **No. 38.** The letter from Witek Retinger, no date
- **No. 39.** Elaborate of Retinger „England and war”
- **No. 40.** Four brochures on Jewish matters (prints):
 - Next Year in Jerusalem
 - The Deputies. A short historical Survey by Sidney Salomon,

M.A.

- Annual Report 1939 by the London Committee of Deputies of the British Jews
- The Purpose and Program of the World Agudist Organization, London 1937

File 30 Jewish issues 1941

- **No. 2.** The notes from Dr.M.Dogilewski on Polish Jews Federation in Great Britain, 24.07.41
- **No. 3.** The letter from New Zionist Org., 8.08.41

File 35 The correspondence with different persons 1940-44

- **No. 7.** Correspondence with General Consul of Poland in NY, S.Gruszka
- **No. 11.** Correspondence with Polish Embassy in Washington, 19.07.41
- **No. 13** Minutes on general meeting, British Committee for Polish Welfare held at 27.01.42
- **No. 15.** The letter from Lieut. Juliusz Źu³awski from Oflag II E in Germany, 9.03.42
- **No. 37.** The list of many addresses