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**Title:** Kolekcja Jana Ciechanowskiego, Polskiego Ambasadora w Waszyngtonie = Ciechanowski Jan Collection [Polish Ambassador in Washington], 1941-1945

**Extent:** 2,077 digital images, JPEG; 2,077 digital images, PDF; 8 digital files, PDF

**Provenance:** From the Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum, London, England, created by the Polish Government in Exile, records of the Kol. 82. Jan Ciechanowski collection. The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives received the digitized collection via the United States Holocaust Museum International Archives Programs in Nov. 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 correspondence and other documents of the Polish Embassy in the USA, 1939-1945. Includes records relating to aid for refugees from USSR, relations with the USSR, arresting of the staff of the Polish Embassy in USSR, help rendered by the USA to the USSR, the conference Churchill-Roosevelt, U.S. attitude toward the war, policy of FDR towards Poland, the Ambassador's reports to the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, evacuation of Polish children from USSR, denouncing Polish Citizens to Germans by the Vichy Government, Jewish affairs: mass extermination of Jews in the German occupied Poland, persecution of Jews and their life conditions in occupied Poland, worsening of the Polish –Soviet relations, the arrest officials of the Polish Embassy in USSR, breaking relations of the Soviet government with Poland, the United Nations conference on relief, the Soviet policy in Europe (1944), press releases regarding fights of the Polish Home Army In Warsaw (The Warsaw Uprising), Aug. 08, 1944, relief for Poland during the Warsaw Uprising, publications relating to extermination of Jews in German occupied Poland, and other Jewish matters, etc.

**Inventory:**

**Col. 82/19**

Correspondence and documents of the Polish Embassy in USA, 1939-1945

**Col. 82/30**

Reports of the Ambassador to the Ministry of foreign Affairs, March 10, 1941-Dec. 24, 1941

1. About the activity of congressmen of the Polish origin
2. The United States vs. The war in Europe
3. The address of President Roosevelt on May 27, 1941
4. About the atmosphere in the US conc. the German-Soviet war
5. About the deputy State Secretary conc. the Polish-Soviet relations
6. About the talks with the deputy State Secretary conc. the Polish-Soviet relations
7. About the rally of the "Czech Darlings" in Chicago
8. About the matter of sending the garrison of the US Navy to Island
9. About the talk with the deputy State Secretary, Welles
10. About the talk with the deputy State Secretary of July 22, 1941
11. About the address of the deputy State Secretary on the occasion of opening of the new wing at the Norwegian diplomatic post
12. About establishing diplomatic relations with the soviet Ambassador on August 16, 1941
13. About the analysis of the situation in the US in respect to the question of participation of the US in the war

14. About the intensification of contacts with the competent American agents
15. About establishing of diplomatic relations with the Soviet Embassy; the return visit of Ambassador Oumański at my place, August 19, my intermediation conc. the action of the American Red Cross
16. The visit at the President of the American Red Cross in the morning of August 19, 1941
17. The talk with the State Secretary of August 20, 1941
18. The President's Declaration on the occasion of the allocation of the war propaganda material for the Polish refugee camps in Canada
19. Analysis of the US situation conc. the stimulation of the US activity in the war
20. The matter of the Polish gold in respect to the chance of acknowledgement of Gen. De Gaulle by the US Government
21. The matter of relief for the Polish refugees and deportees in Russia. The talk with Ambassador Oumański.
22. About the personal instruction of President Roosevelt conc. the US policy towards Poland
23. The action of the Embassy conc. the support within the Catholic circles for the US aiming at the considerable relief for Soviets
24. About the execution of the instruction about the religious liberality practiced by the Soviets towards Polish citizens
25. The speech of the deputy State Secretary, Sumner Welles of Oct. 07, 1941
26. Development of the political situation in the US conc. their attitude towards the war
27. The matter of forming of the Polish squads in the Soviet Russia
28. The session at the deputy State Secretary conc. the forming of the Polish Army in Russia and possible evacuation of the army to Iran and the supply and weapon for them
29. The talk with the Assistant State Secretary Atherton in the Department of State
30. The talk with W. Averell Harriman of Nov. 14, 1941
31. The conference Churchill-Roosevelt

### **Col. 82/31**

Ambassador's reports to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Jan. 02, 1942-Nov. 30, 1942

1. Signature of the Declaration of the United Nations
2. Political situation in USA in respect to the events of the war and on the background of the conference Churchill-Roosevelt
3. About the declaration of the United Nations
4. The matter of the Polish army in the US
5. Anti-British atmosphere among the US society
6. Execution of the Prime Minister's instructions for me before my trip to the US
7. The talk with the deputy State Secretary, Sumner Welles, April 14, 1942
8. Report from the meeting with the deputy State Secretary, Sumner Welles of April 18, 1942
9. Report from the meeting with the deputy State Secretary, Sumner Welles of May 05, 1942
10. The matter of Baltic Countries and Lithuania

11. The matter of the Slovenian congress
12. Inauguration of the Polish Institute in America
13. Radicalization of the internal and economic policy in USA
14. Talks with the deputy State Secretary, Sumner Welles. Evacuation of Polish children from USSR.
15. Jewish matters, may 28, 1942
16. The address of the deputy State Secretary, Sumner Welles on the occasion the Day of Garlanding (Crowning) of Graves of those who died for the American Independence
17. The talk with the deputy State Secretary, Sumner Welles on June 02, 1942 conc. the execution of the telegraphic instructions of Prime Minister referring to the Molotov's stay in Washington
18. The talk with the Head of the Europe Division, Ray Atherton at the State Department
19. The talk with the State Secretary, Cordell Hull, June 13, 1942
20. Concerns Hungary
21. Execution of the telegraphic instruction of June 21 conc. the Prime Minister's declaration relating to the need for employing means of intimidation and revenge in order to stop acts of terror on the German side
22. The matter of evacuating children from Russia
23. Conc. the alleged discrimination of Jews practiced by the Polish Embassy in Kuybyshev
24. The report of a four-day-stay in California, June 15-19, 1942
25. Conc. the Polish-Soviet relations. The talk with the deputy State Secretary, Sumner Welles on July 13, 1942
26. The talk with the deputy State Secretary, Sumner Welles about the Polish-Soviet Relations
27. Analysis of the speech given by the State Secretary, Cordell Hull of July 23, 1942 entitled: "The War and the Human Freedom"
28. Execution of the telegraphic instructions conc. the aggravation of the Polish-Soviet relations due to the arresting of the staff of the Polish Embassy in USSR.
29. The visit at the President's office on August 05, 1942
30. The visit of the deputy State Secretary, Sumner Welles conc. the intervention in Moscow relating to the arresting of our delegates and relief officers as well as the stoppage of the distribution of the relief goods in Russia
31. Execution of the instructions conc. Mr. Willkie's intervention at the Stalin's pertaining the Polish-Soviet relations
32. Talks in the Department of State conc.:
  - a) planned visit of Prime Minister in Washington
  - b) denouncing Polish Citizens to Germans by the Vichy Government
  - c) Soviet propaganda in USA for territorial arguments
33. Talks with the State Secretary, Cordell Hull on the fol. Matters:
  - a) The visit of the Prime Minister
  - b) acceleration of the next installment of the American credit
  - c) Denouncing of Polish citizens by the Vichy Government
34. Talks with the deputy State Secretary, Sumner Welles in the Department of State

35. Talks with the US Ambassador in Russia, Admiral Stanley
36. Talks with the deputy State Secretary, Sumner Welles in the Department of State
37. Conc. the address of President Roosevelt at the Congress
38. Talks with the deputy State Secretary, Sumner Welles in the Department of State
39. Conc. the Polish gold
40. The stay of Minister Strasburger in Washington
41. Talks with the deputy State Secretary, Sumner Welles in the Department of State
42. President of the US appoints the special commission for the supply of the countries released from the invaders' yoke when the war is over

**Co. 82/32**

Reports of the Ambassador to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Jan. 21, 1943-June 25, 1943

1. The matters of the fol. Countries: France, the UK, Dutch Indies, Hong-Kong, Singapore and Russia
2. Talks with the authoritative American agents after the departure of the Prime Minister
3. Attitudes conc. the matter of the European federation and the relations with Soviets
4. The talk with the head of the European Division, Mr. Ray Atherton Jan. 19, 1943
5. Initial report conc. the conference Churchill-Roosevelt in Casablanca
6. Talks with the deputy State Secretary, Sumner Welles on Jan. 30, 1942 conc. the Polish-Soviet Relations
7. Talks with the deputy State Secretary, Sumner Welles
8. Current attitudes in the USA in the view of Soviet victories, the conference in Casablanca and the developing powers in the new US Congress
9. Conc. the initiative of senator Gillette
10. Execution of the Prime Minister's instructions pertaining the letter of the Prime Minister to the British Prime Minister, Churchill and the talks with the deputy State Secretary, Sumner Welles
11. The talk with President Roosevelt on Feb. 16, 1943
12. Talk with the deputy State Secretary, Sumner Welles on Feb. 17 conc. the analysis of the talk with President Roosevelt of the previous day
13. Talks with the deputy secretaries and the high-rank officials of the State Department from Feb. 17, 1943 through Feb. 19, 1943
14. American attitudes towards Soviet matters
15. Hand copy of March 10, 1943 to President Roosevelt signed by F.X. Świetlik and others (American citizens of the Polish origin) and further correspondence on that matter
16. The talk with Lord Halifax
17. Talks with the deputy state secretary, Berle on March 13, 1943
18. The talk at the Department of State conc. the Polish-Soviet relations
19. The stay of Min. Eden and mine with Mr. Strang and Mr. Oliver Harvey
20. Report from the talks and activities conc. the Polish-Soviet relations
21. Talks at the Department of State since April 26, 1943 conc. the breaking off of the Soviet Government with Poland

22. Analysis of the Polish-Soviet attitudes and the relations towards Soviets in general in the view of the recent events
23. The talk with Lord Halifax conc. the alleged mission of Lord Beaverbrook and his role at the conference of President Roosevelt with Prime Minister Churchill
24. Talks with the head of the European Division, Mr. Henderson of May 14 and May 18, 1943
25. The President Benesz's stay and activities in Washington
26. The stay of Prime Minister Churchill and the expert who accompanied him in Washington
27. Conc. „The United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration”
28. Information conc. the British-American Conference from May 12 through May 24, 1943
29. The talk with the deputy State Secretary, Sumner Welles of May 27, 1943
30. Conc. the Polish-Soviet Relations

**Col. 82/33**

**Reports of the Ambassador to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, July 22, 1943-Dec. 27, 1943**

1. Talk with the State Secretary, Cordell Hull of July 21, 1943
2. Dealing with the matter of the prolongation of special credit for the war efforts of Poland
3. Talks with the diplomatic advisor of the State Department, Mr. James C. Dunn conc. the establishment of the “Committee of Free Germany” by the Soviets
4. Conc. the benefits of the Jan Karski's stay in the US, Aug. 05, 1943 plus a note of J. Karski from the talk with President F.D. Roosevelt on Wednesday, July 28, 1943 in the presence of Ambassador J. Ciechanowski
5. Talk with the State Secretary, Hull of Aug. 04, 1943
6. Report from the two talks with the head of The European Division of the State Department, Loy W. Henderson plus a “Memorandum on the establishment of “The National Committee of Free Germany” in Soviet Russia”
7. Talk with the deputy State Secretary, Dean Acheson conc. the relief conference of the United Nations
8. Talk with the head of The European Division of the State
9. Conference Churchill-Roosevelt in Québec and in Washington
10. Talk with Minister Dunn on Sept. 03, 1943. Aide-Memoire conc. The sending of the 1st Division of Gen. Berling to the German-Soviet front
11. The matter of the political questionnaire distributed among the Americans of the Polish origin by the OWI. The talk with Minister Dunn of Sept. 03, 1943
12. Talk with Minister Donn of Sept. 13, 1943
13. Further development of the question of applicants for the post of the US Ambassador in Moscow
14. Talk with Minister James C. Donn In the Department of State
15. The talks with the deputy State Secretary on the matter of:
  - a) the interest of Poland with Hungary and Romania,
  - b) correspondence between Berle and Davil

16. Execution of the telegraphic instructions conc. the Polish-Soviet relations and others. The talk with the State Secretary, Hull of Oct. 06, 1943
17. Talks held during the several day-stay in NYC
18. Talk with the new deputy State Secretary in the State Dept., Mr. Edward R. Stettinius
19. Talk with Mr. Tibor Eckhardt of Oct. 15, 1943
20. The US-Soviet relations
21. Conc. The participation of USA In the post-war conference of safety
22. Conference in Moscow and its further development in Washington
23. Report of the talk with the State Secretary Hull
24. The address of C. Hull at both chambers of the American Congress on Nov. 18, 1943
25. Current affairs as above
26. As above
27. New forms of the Soviet assaults by the "Kościuszko" radio on the Polish Government on Exile and the clandestine organization. The talk with Mr. Harrison F. Matthews
28. Mr. President comes back from the conferences in Cairo and in Teheran
29. Further talks with the top executives in the State Department
30. As above plus the note written by Władysław M. Berstemanto Mr. Ambassador
31. The letter of Ignacy Jan Paderewski, NYC, June 26, 1941

#### Col. 82/34

Reports of the Ambassador to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Jan. 08, 1944-Dec. 26, 1944

1. Talks held on connection with the crossing of the east borderline of Poland by Soviet mars
2. Execution of the telegraphic instruction conc. the declaration of the Polish Government of Jan. 14, 1944
3. Report of the talk with the deputy State Secretary and further talks with Ambassador Biddle of Jan. 17, 1944
4. Resignation of Ambassador Bidle
5. Report of the talks conc. the Polish-Soviet matters
6. General report
7. Talk with the State Secretary Hull
8. Reply of the President for the question asked by the Polish Prime Minister through my intermediation as per the telegraphic instruction received on Jan. 24, 1944
9. The matter of the American Embassy at the Polish Government
10. Contacts with the Swedish M.P., Bostrom conc. the soviet policy in Europe
11. General report
12. As above
13. The farewell talk with the Minister Donn
14. Report of the situation I found in Washington after my return from Europe. The talk with Minister Dunn of March 27, 1944

15. Talk with the State Secretary, Hull of March 29 and the Ambassador Bulit of march 31, 1944
16. European matters. The talk with the Archduke Otto of March 28, 1944 and with Tibor Eckhardt of March 30, 1944
17. Talk at the Department of State with the head of the Polish section at the European Division on April 01, 1944
18. General report
19. Talk with the head of the European Division, Both about the information of the State Department conc. the possible chances of collaboration of the Polish Underground Army with the Soviet Army on the territory of the Republic of Poland
20. Correspondence with the deputy State Secretary, Stettinius before his trip to London
21. General report
22. The current picture of the Polish Master
23. Orientation report
24. Farewell talk of the Polish Prime Minister with President of June 14, 1944
25. Report of the stay on NYC, June 26-3, 1944
26. Talks with the deputy State Secretary on July 11, 1944 conc. the credits for the Polish Underground Army, its maintenance, the Stalin's reply for the Roosevelt's dispatch, the activity of the Polish Underground Army, interpretation of the moral support of the USA for the Polish Government
27. Execution of the instruction conc. the letter of the Polish Prime Minister to President Roosevelt of July 20, 1944, the talk with Councilor Durbrow, the talk with the State Secretary and with General Donovan about the situation in Poland
28. Execution of the telegraphic instruction of the Polish Foreign Minister conc. the "Pro Memoria" submitted by the Polish Minister to Min. Schoenfield on July 25, 1944
29. Execution of Mr. President and of the Min. Kwapiński's telegraphic instructions
30. Press release coc. The fights of the Polish Home Army In Warsaw (The Warsaw Uprising), Aug. 08, 1944
31. My personal contacts with the leaders of the American citizen of the Polish origin
32. The matter of assistance for the Polish Home Army
33. Talks with the head of the European Division, Matthews and the State Secretary, Hull
34. Intervention at the deputy head of the European Division, Mr. Durbrow
35. General report
36. Talk with the head of the East European Division, Mr. Bohlen about the Polish-Soviet situation in the view of the fights in Warsaw (The Warsaw Uprising)
37. Execution of the encrypted instruction of the Polish Minister of Sept. 03, 1944 conc. the immediate need for the assistance for Warsaw (The Warsaw Uprising)
38. General Report
39. As above
40. As above
41. The British Ambassador Harriman' stay In the USA
42. Delivery of the appeal conc. Lvov to the Ambassador

43. General orientation report
44. Talks AT the Department of State of Dec. 26, 1944

**Col. 82/36**

Report of the Ambassador to the Ministry of Foreign Office, Jan. 05, 1945-June 13, 1945

1. Account brief.
2. "Poland, Russia and our Honor". Extension of remarks of Hon. Alvin E. O'końsk
3. Memorandum submitted to the Dept. of State by a Committee of Americans of Polish Extraction from Detroit, Michigan
4. The matter of the relations with UNRRA
5. The matter of preparations to the conference of the US in San Francisco
6. Washington talks with Molotov
7. Attendance at the celebration of the anniversary of the May 3, 1789 Polish Constitution in Baltimore
8. The matter of Polish citizens in Germany, May 14, 1945
9. General report conc. the political situation based on the information of the most confidential sources
10. Evolution in the internal and foreign policy of the US
11. Talks about the current situation of the Polish Matter with the head of the East Europe Division of the State Department in connection with the delegation of Ambassador Harriman, Harry Hopkins and Charles Bohlen to Moscow, and ex-Ambassador Davis to London
12. The mission of Jopkins in the view of his talks with the head of the East Europe Division, Elbridge Durbrow on June 13, 1945

**Col. 82/54**

Jewish matters.

1. Letter of the Association of Polish Jews to Minister A. Zaleski with the declaration of co-operation with the government of Gen. Sikorski, Nov. 07, 1939
2. Excerpt of the Cpt. Lisiewicz's study "Current situation of the Jewish question in the Polish Army" – In France [1940?]
3. "The Jewish Bulletin" No 4, Dec. 1941, London
4. Appeal of the Chairman of the American Federation of Polish Jews on the occasion of the anniversary of the Battle of Grunewald in 1410.
5. Interview given in Yiddish by the Polish Socialist Republic, Jan Galewicz in the premises of the Polish Consulate General in NYC to Mr. Nowik, the envoy of "Morning Freiheit" published on Dec. 11, 1945
6. a press cutting
7. Letter of the lawyer, Ch. Carroll to Ambassador Ciechanowski about the threat in which Jan Weber, ex-consul of the Polish Government, found himself
8. Publication: "Jews in Nazi Europe, February 1933 to November 1944". A Study prepared by the Institute of Jewish Affairs. Submitted to the Inter-American Jewish Conference, November 23-24-25, 1941, Baltimore, MD
9. Publication: "The Mass Extermination of Jews in German Occupied Poland" Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> 1942

- 10.** Publication: "Persecution of the Jews. Conditions in Occupied Territories", No 6, London
- 11.** Publication: Ben Hecht, "The extermination of the Jews"
- 12.** Jewish Migrations. Past Experiences and Post-War Prospects by Eugene M. Kulischer, NY 1943
- 13.** S. Mendelsohn, The Battle of the Warsaw Ghetto, NY 1944 (YIVO)
- 14.** Jews in Post War Poland. A digest of documents. NY b.d.