

Poselstwo Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej w Hawanie (A. 62): Polish Legation in Havana

RG-59.081

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Descriptive Summary

Title: Poselstwo Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej w Hawanie (A. 62): Polish Legation in Havana

Dates: 1935-1948

RG Number: RG-59.081

Accession Number: 2011.185

Creator: Rzeczpospolita Polska (Government-in-exile)

Extent: 942 digital images: PDF; 65.1 MB; 1 DVD-ROM, 4 ¾ in.

Repository: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place,
SW, Washington, DC 20024-2126

Languages: Polish and Spanish

Administrative Information

Access: No restrictions on access.

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Acquisition Information: Purchased from the Instytut Polski i Muzeum im. Gen. Sikorskiego.

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.

Processing History: Aleksandra B. Borecka

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 Government of the Republic of Poland in Exile (Rząd Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej na Uchodźstwie) 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.

Scope and Content of Collection

Contains selected records from the Havana consulate of the Polish Government-in-Exile, including a list of Polish citizens (mostly of Jewish origin), 1935-1946; as well as other records relating to applications for entry visas to Cuba, primarily from Polish Jews, 1946-1947.

System of Arrangement

This collection is arranged alphabetically and chronologically.

Indexing Terms

Rzeczpospolita Polska (Government-in-exile)
Poland. Poselstwo (Cuba)
World War, 1939-1945 -- Governments in exile -- History.
Diplomatic and consular service, Polish -- Cuba -- Havana -- Registers.
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945) -- History -- Poland.
Jews, Polish -- Cuba -- Havana -- History -- Registers.
Havana (Cuba) -- Foreign relations -- Poland -- History.
Poland -- History -- Occupation, 1939-1945.
Passports.
Photographs
Questionnaires.

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
A.62.46	Alphabetical list of Polish citizens (mostly of Jewish origin), in two volumes, 1935-1946 Spisy alfabetyczne obywateli polskich (w większości żydowskiego pochodzenia) – w 2 książkach, w każdej od litery A do Z, 1935-1946 Całość ok. 100 stron
A.62.52	Consular matters: Polish Jews (documents including photographs, ID cards and passports), 1946 Sprawy konsularne, przede wszystkim. Żydzi polscy (w tym zdjęcia, dowody osobiste i paszporty) 1946 Całość ok. 400 stron
A.62.53	Consular matters: Polish Jews, 1947 Sprawy konsularne, m.in. Żydzi polscy 1947 Całość ok. 100 stron

A.62.54 **Consular matters: Polish Jews, 1947 (passports forms, photographs, Polish passports), 1948**
Sprawy konsularne, m.in. Żydzi polscy (kwestionariusze paszportowe, zdjęcia, polskie paszporty) 1948