

President's Secretary's File
Diplomatic Correspondence
Poland: Jan - July 1944
Box 47

June 6, 1944.

*file
Confidential*

1-14

MEMORANDUM FOR MISS TULLY:

Dear Grace:

Here are two confidential reports on the Polish situation.

I think we sort of handled the Buffalo conference so that we pulled some of the fangs out of it.

D. K. N.

DAVID K. NILES

May 24, 1944.

This is a comprehensive survey of the Polish situation. It is an unbiased, clear presentation of a serious matter embodying some very serious political consequences. It is based on numerous interviews - perusal of records and in some cases confidential data, conversations with some of the outstanding Polish leaders in both Republican and Democratic ranks. In this inquiry, I received splendid cooperation from Detective JOE KOCZUBA of the Hamtramck Police Department and Detectives MACK and BARRY of the Special Investigation Squad of the Detroit Police Department - all three of them being assigned on the matter in question to the F.B.I. where, I understand, they have rendered splendid service.

This inquiry covers the left and the reactionary factions of American Poles and it is predicated on fact not rumors. This writer has purposely disregarded rumors and has also disregarded the series of stories run by Philip Adler in the Detroit Daily News. It is my understanding that Adler on one of his trips to the Soviet Union as a newspaper correspondent ran some stories of unfavorable nature to the Soviets and that since then has been endeavoring to reenter Russia without any success. Hence the reason for his present attitude, which is more or less one sided to reestablish his standing with the Soviet Government. At any rate his stories were primarily of a pro-Soviet nature and created a terrific resentment among the Poles in Detroit and the Detroit Daily News has been and still is being bombarded by thousands of letters of protest. Being a Jew, Adlers' stories are being utilized by professional Jew-baiters as an example of Jewish sentiment on the Polish question.

In this inquiry the writer has devoted some attention to the allegations that this Polish question is being injected as a political issue and it is being financed by monies granted to the Polish Government under the lend-lease arrangements.

Some attention was also paid to the accusation that the liberal Polish Movement is being fostered and financed by the Soviet Government through an organization set up in Moscow, known as "The COMINSLAV" aimed to link millions of Americans of SLAV extraction to Soviet Russia. It is the writer's understanding that the Dies Committee is coming out sometime in the middle of June with some sensational data directed against the Cominslav and its' American agency known as the AMERICAN SLAV CONGRESS.

In dealing with the liberal movement among the American Poles one and only one organization can be singled out and that is the KOSCIUSZKO LEAGUE. This league was formed in the late Fall of last year and Father ORLANSKI is being credited with its founding. On this particular league this writer approached a number of outstanding liberal Poles, who while being in opposition to the formation of a National Polish Congress, are skeptical in their attitude toward the Kosciuszko League. They motivate their skepticism to several outstanding facts----. One is that the League is not representative, does not possess any standing whatsoever among the broad masses of the American Poles, and two, that the League is the Brain-child of the American Communists, whose tactics are similar to the ones used in the American Labor Party, the League for Peace and Democracy and the American Slav Congress. Those liberals insist that the top-ranking leaders of the League are honest, sincere patriots. The machinery of the organization particularly its propaganda and agitation departments as well as the organizational operation is definitely controlled by the Comies. They insist

that the same tactics which were employed by the Communist International have been transferred to the Moscow Cominform which, apparently directs this work in this country, based on their experiences in Russia, without any fundamental understanding of American life and psychology. The result is that this League is packed with well known Communists who represent organizations with astronomical figures as to membership but who actually do not represent anybody but themselves. Several illustrations were cited wherein individuals who happened to be members of the C.I.O. Union, claiming to be representatives of that Union - actually - no mandates of representation were ever used to them. Those Polish liberals whom this writer interviewed insist that the League is more or less of a paper organization and further cite, based on reliable source, the fact that Father Orlemanski upon his return was faced with some impressive data accumulated by his superiors and it was this data that forced him to ~~him~~ bow to the mandates and orders of his church. They insist that Father Orlemanski is the victim of Communist machination and was forced to repent when he was ready and could render tremendous service to the cause of Democracy.

In the membership of the League in Detroit are elements that are not even Poles. Some possessing Polish names and some distant Polish ancestors. They insist that the man who actually organized the League and was responsible for its formation was BILL GEBERT, former National Secretary of the Polish Federation of the Communist Party of America and member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party. On the other hand the Poles who are holding the highest positions in the League are fine outstanding men with unquestionable integrity and standing, sincere and honest in their purposes, but men who have never taken any part in the organizational activities of the American Poles, but who achieved a certain prominence by their contributions to science and education. The President of the League is ANTHONY KORCZMARZYK. He was born in Lublin, Poland, came to Detroit in 1925. He holds Bachelor and Masters degrees from the University of Detroit. He attended the University of Warsaw on a scholarship in 1932-33 and now is employed by the City of Hentronack in its Board of Education. The City of Hentronack is predominately Polish. The resentment against him among the people is so terrific that the Board of Education was forced to serve notice on him that he would be replaced as of July 1, of this year. He was the victim of several physical assaults. His life has been threatened and his position, generally speaking is very precarious.

Other leaders of the League are (1) DR. OSCAR LANGE, Professor of Economics of the University of Chicago since 1937. He is a scholar of international repute. He taught at the University of Michigan, University of California, Stanford and Columbia University. He came to the U. S. in 1934 as a Fellow of Mr. Rockefeller's Foundation. He is a typical scholar and at no time did he have any Polish organizational affiliations. He is now on his way back from Moscow.

(2) JOSEPH A. VEDDA - considered as being one of the most brilliant men in the League, an educator and politician - with 42 years of service in the City affairs. He enjoys the respect of the Community, but again his standing in the Polish organizations is zero.

(3) WACLAW SOYDA - managing editor of a Polish weekly - NACZ SWIAT. He is a liberal with a contention that the Polish Government in exile did not live up to its democratic professions and commitments. Neither of the above named men are or have been affiliated with the Communist Movement. It appears that they have entered the League either in complete ignorance of the League's origin or motivated by a burning desire to serve the cause of Democracy, irrespective of with whom they are to collaborate. It is a tragic situa-

ation that is doomed to failure as far as the broad masses of the Poles in America are concerned.

The League was incorporated under the laws of the State of Michigan.

The following persons are officers of the KOSCIUSZKO LEAGUE:

Anthony Karczmarczyk, president, (very friendly with Thomas X. Dombrowski)
Detroit correspondent of the Daily Worker.
Harry Kijowski, secretary, (part owner of the Glos Ludowy)
Antoine Sojtowski, vice-president.
John Rosycelsi, 1st vice-president.
Marion Jciskowicz, 2nd vice-president
Leon Chocesanowicz, financial secretary
Apolinary Wondolowski, treasurer.

This league was incorporated in Michigan, in February, 1944.
The following individuals are listed as incorporators:

Joseph Wodda, 18984 Muirland
Anthony Krczmaczyk, 9454 Charest, Hamtramck
A. olinary Wondolowski, 17191 Caldwell
Marion Jackowicz, 13276 Bloom
Leon Chocesanowicz, 13157 Koenart
Antonette Saikowski, 13670 Nadine, Royal Oak.

The board of directors listed in the papers of incorporation are:

Anthony Karczmarzyk, 9454 Charest, Hamtramck
Frank Niescierenek, 4511 Sobieski
Walter Golauski, 5412 Chene
Vincent Klein, 13703 Gable (active member of Plymouth unit of Com. Party)
Adam Nowicki, 3242 Evaline -

May 26, 1944.

The coming American Polish Congress, which will take place on May 28th, in Buffalo, will go down in history as the most colossal piece of organizational work. There is really something to learn from the Poles in the manner this congress was created. It is, FRANK JANUCZEWSKI, publisher of the Polish Daily News, who is being given the credit for perfecting this tremendous piece of organizational machinery.

The idea of this Congress was originated and proposed at an intimate conference held on March 4, 1944, at 1309 N. Ashland Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. There were exactly 38 men present at this conference. The list of those present will be incorporated in the latter part of this report. At this conference a decision was reached to organize a country wide movement that would embrace within it every Polish known organization and parish. On March 12, 1944, coordinating committees were formed in Detroit, Chicago, New York and other parts of the country and machinery was perfected for the election of delegates to this Congress. Since that date, the work of those various coordinating committees was devoted toward the election of delegates and based on my perusal of reports from various parts of the country at this date, which is only a couple of days before the Congress, this will be the most representative assembly that was ever called together in the history of the American Poles.

There will be over 4,000 delegates and each delegate is to deposit a sum of \$25.00 at the time of his registration, which money will be used to render the cause of Poland as effective as possible. In addition to the monies which will be collected at the Congress, (sum amounting possibly to \$125,000.00) pledges are being received from actually thousands of localities that will considerably augment the financial resources of this body.

This writer interviewed some of the outstanding Polish leaders and politicians in the City of Detroit and can testify to the most unprecedented burning enthusiasm to this country-wide Polish outburst. I have secured assurances from responsible Polish leaders to the effect that political issues will be scrupulously avoided. That nothing will be permitted to be injected that would have any reference to the forthcoming election---at least as far as the official records of the Congress are concerned. But in talking to those leaders, one cannot help in detecting a terrific resentment against the Administration, which will eventually crystallize in some unfriendly form. One thing that this writer can state affirmatively is, that the official Catholic Church is taking a very positive position on the matter and through its' affiliated bodies is urging the Poles to take off the gloves. In this field, the Association of Catholic Trade Unions, a powerful body within the C.I.O. and the A.F. of L. is most militant, urging the Poles at the instigation of the Clergy, to be more aggressive, to fight and to use every means within their command to exercise in this fight. They urge to abandon "quietism".

Conspicuous in approving militant action is PAUL LEBER, the head of the Associated Catholic Trade Unions. It is Paul Leber who is injecting the forthcoming election campaign in the Polish issue. Positive evidence is available to the effect that plans are under way to utilize voting blocs, as a threat to foreign policy decisions of our Government.

There is no evidence to the effect that lend-lease money is being used to propagate the cause of the Polish Government-in-exile. The financial response on the part of the Polish-American citizenry is so big that it can amply take care of any monetary outlays or commitments. There is no evidence to the effect that the Polish information center of New York City is in any way involved, directly or indirectly, in the propaganda outpouring in connection with the forthcoming Congress. This information center, however, is the source of a widespread distribution of various literature in connection with the Polish question. This literature is being printed in this country and a large amount of it is being shipped from England and distributed here by the center.

Polish Consular officials throughout the country are keenly watching the developments of the work of the Congress and are in touch with the situation in some sort of a consultative capacity. Daily conferences and consultations between the Consulate officials and the Polish leadership are taking place quite frequently.

The backbone of the Congress is the Polish-American Press who have been devoting pages of publicity material to further its success. The main aim of this Congress according to various pronouncements made in the Polish newspapers is to save Poland from a new partition. It proposes to unite Polish-Americans in common action and complete support of the Polish Government-in-Exile. Some of these newspapers advance an outright accusation that the American Government has forgotten about its pledges, alleging repudiation of the principle slogans of the Atlantic Charter. Other newspapers are advocating the creation of a black-list which would include the names of Government officials, newspapers who are known to be favorable to the Russian view on the Polish question. One accusation stands out particularly and that is that Russia aims to Communize Poland and later on the rest of Europe.

Ample evidence is available to the effect that this forthcoming Congress is receiving impressive backing from isolationist members of both houses of Congress. Some of those Congressmen later on will take on the Polish cause more effectively.

The top-notch leaders whose prestige and tireless work made this Congress possible are ROZMARSK, WLOPZYNSKI and JANUSZEWSKI, all of whom were and are very active in the Republican Party.

Januszewski was honored recently by the Republican Party of Michigan with an affair in the Book-Cadillac Hotel in which 1300 Poles participated. Senator Vandenberg and Governor Kelly of Michigan were the principle speakers.

file
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 6, 1944

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: MR. LUSIN
SUBJECT: POLISH PROPAGANDA IN THE UNITED STATES

Further information for your conversation with the Polish Prime Minister has been turned over to me by Jonathan Daniels. The attached memorandum from him is based upon information that he received from the Office of Strategic Services and the Department of Justice.

You will note that the newly created Polish American Congress is closely tied up with the Polish Government through one of the Congress's principal leaders who is Dewey's leader among the Poles.

The information thus far secured shows a close relationship between the Polish Information Center, which has been using funds made available for underground work by the United States Government, and KNAPP, which is an ultra-nationalistic and anti-Soviet Polish organization in the United States.

There is enough information available now to indict some of the Polish leaders who have been working with the Polish Information Center (a Polish Government agency) under the Foreign Agents Registration Act.

DECLASSIFIED
By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.
By W. J. Stewart Date FEB 1 1964

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 2, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR: The President
FROM: Jonathan Daniels

The formation in Buffalo on May 28th of the Polish American Congress, with Charles Rozmarek of the Polish National Alliance as President, means that a sounding board has been established by which an alliance of certain American Poles and certain European Poles can make themselves heard in American as well as international politics.

Some of the American Polish leaders are anti-Administration Republicans who hope to swing some votes to the Republican camp by agitating the Polish boundary issue. One of their principal leaders, Maximilian Wegrzynek, president of the KNAPP (National Committee of Citizens of Polish Descent) and editor of the ultra-nationalistic daily "Nowy Swiat", is Dewey's leader among the Poles. He was elected one of the vice presidents of the Congress.

The European Poles are reactionary ultra-nationalist colonels and politicians who hope to influence American and Polish foreign policy by propaganda, pressure, and the threat of weaning Polish-American voters from their traditional Democratic voting habits. Obviously these European Poles seek a Poland not only shaped in terms of old boundaries but also in terms of old economic and social patterns.

The Congress was created by the combined efforts of a group from the Polish-American Council, (the main coordinating agency for the Polish-American fraternal organizations) and the so-called Coordinating Committee for Polish Organizations in the East. This group in the Polish-American Council first called the Buffalo Congress when the Council was asked by the Department of Justice to cease issuing pro-Polish propaganda or register as a foreign agent. The Coordinating Committee is sponsored by KNAPP, which is the principal ultra-nationalist group among American Poles. The ideological leaders of KNAPP are three Polish Reserve Army Officers, who formerly held high positions in the Pilsudski government. A founder and former treasurer of KNAPP, and now also a vice president of the Congress, is Frank Januszewski, the editor of an ultra-nationalist Polish newspaper in Detroit and a member of the Michigan State Republican Committee. KNAPP's president, as pointed out above, is Dewey's chief Polish political supporter. Before the war he had a monopoly on the import of Polish ham to the United States. Another KNAPP man, Stanislaus Gutowski, is secretary of the Congress.

KNAPP and the Polish Information Center, an agency of the Government-In-Exile, have been working together for some time. The

Center has been subsidized by KNAPP by buying copies of its publications, and by paying fees to some of its employees for information services. There are indications that policies have been pursued by the Center which have been concealed from the Department of Justice. It is significant that the PIC spent a half a million dollars in 1943 and is spending this year at twice that rate. Its spendings do not cover propaganda funds spent by consuls and other diplomatic officials which are believed to be large. Though Poland now has gold of its own in the United States, some of these funds, in effect, came out of the \$12,000,000 which Poland has received from Presidential funds, presumably for work in the Polish underground, and taken in \$20 bills by Polish officials.

Two months ago Drohojowski, secretary-general of the Ministry of Information and Documentation of the Government-in-Exile, came to this country reportedly to step up the program of Polish propaganda in the United States because of the alleged feeling in Polish circles in London that the Government-in-Exile will stand or fall on support among U. S. Poles in the next three months.

The connections between KNAPP and the Polish Information Center on the one hand, and KNAPP and the Polish-American Congress on the other, are intimate enough so that steps should be taken to separate them. There are people in the Polish Government-in-Exile who are deeply disturbed by this situation and intercepts indicate that in this country Drohojowski and the Ambassador are at odds over the situation. Certainly any connection between U. S. funds for Poland and the use of such funds for anti-Administration propaganda in the United States deserves attention.

I believe that if the Polish Government-in-Exile cannot be prevailed upon to clean up this situation that it can be effectively dealt with under the terms of the Foreign Agents Registration Act.

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D. C.



file *Berenson* *Poland folder 1-44*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

June 24, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

The attached despatch, no. 18090 of June 7, 1944, transmits a copy of a letter addressed to Ambassador Messersmith by the Polish Minister of Labor and Social Welfare who recently visited Mexico. The letter requests the Ambassador to convey a message of appreciation from the Polish refugees at Santa Rosa to the President.

The situation at the Santa Rosa refugee camp under Polish Administration has been, according to reports received, bad. Sanitary and health conditions are reported as poor; the morale of the refugees is low; and the morals of the camp are said to be very poor. LIFE magazine has sent photographers and a reporter to Mexico and is planning a story on the camp. LIFE is given to sensational approaches to such stories and it has not been very friendly to Mexico. Presumably their story on the camp will be unpleasant.

This background may be of help in considering any publicity that may be desired regarding this message.

Enclosure:
Despatch, no. 18090,
June 7, 1944.

(copy of entire comm. filed - Mexico folder, 1-44)

CH

México, D.F., June 7, 1944.

No. 18090

Subject: With reference to the visit of Mr. Jan Stanczyk, Polish Minister of Labor and Social Welfare to Mexico.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform the Department that the Polish Minister of Labor and Social Welfare, Mr. JAN STANCZYK, has recently made a visit to Mexico for the purpose of visiting the refugee camp at Santa Rosa in the State of Coahuila, at which are lodged some Polish refugees who have been brought into Mexico for a temporary stay during the period of the war as a result of arrangements entered into between the Polish Government, the British Government and our Government and as a result of an exchange of notes, I believe, between the Foreign Office here and the Polish Legation. The Department is familiar with these arrangements and with regard to the procedure thereunder, in view of the voluminous reports of this Embassy thereon.

Mr. Stanczyk came to Mexico in view of the fact that certain difficulties have arisen in the administration and conduct of the camp at Santa Rosa, and he came here personally to inform himself on this matter, and while he was here, I understand, he consulted with the Polish Minister in Mexico. He was also in contact with Mr. O'Donoghue, one of the Secretaries of this Embassy, who has been following this matter very closely and also with Mr. Mason, the head of our Procurement and Development Office in Mexico City, and who is the U.S.A. Representative here.

I did not have an opportunity to see Mr. Stanczyk during his stay in Mexico City as on the occasions which he wished to see me, I was occupied with unavoidable duties, but he received from Mr. O'Donoghue, the Secretary of the Embassy with whom he had constant contact, all the information which he needed from us.

I have received today a letter from Mr. Stanczyk, dated June 5, in which he asks that a message be conveyed from the Polish refugees at Santa Rosa to President Roosevelt. A copy of his letter is transmitted with this despatch.

-2-

I am not able to determine why the Polish Minister of Labor and Social Welfare asked me to transmit this message instead of transmitting it through the Polish Embassy in Washington in view of the fact that I understand he has returned or is returning from Mexico City to Washington.

I am,

Respectfully yours,

George S. Messersmith
Enclosure:
From Mr. Stanczyk,
June 5, 1944.

(To the Department in quintuplicate)

File No. 800 - Refugees - Polish refugees

GSM/eas

ENCLOSURE TO DISPATCH NO. 18090 DATED JUNE 7, 1944.

COPY

POBIEDZNO REECSYFORPOLITRZJ POLSKIEJ

Mexico City, June 5th, 1944.

Dear Mr. Ambassador,

I should be very grateful if you would be good enough to convey the following message from Polish refugees at Santa Rosa to the President of the United States of America Mr. Franklin D. Roosevelt:

"Polish refugees at Santa Rosa assembled to greet Polish Minister of Labour and Social Welfare Mr. Jan Stanczyk, have the honour to convey to you, Mr. President, assurances of their deepest gratitude for your generous help owing to which they have found a haven in Mexico, after their long and tragic experiences.

The Polish refugees and with them the entire Polish nation will never forget what you did for them, Mr. President. We are firmly convinced that your magnanimity is fully appreciated also by all Americans of Polish descent."

With the assurance of my highest consideration,
believe me,

Yours sincerely,

(signed)
Jan Stanczyk
Polish Minister of Labour and
Social Welfare

His Excellency
Mr. George S. Messersmith,
Ambassador of the United States
of America,
Mexico City, D.F.