

**POLISH ANTI-SEMITISM**  
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3-1/2 million Jews destroyed or dispersed as a result of the Nazi holocaust, have been so designated.

"Ironically, Polish Jewry represents a community that contains a high percentage of elderly persons, as well as those who chose to remain after World War III in order to participate in the political, cultural, and economic reconstruction of the country.

"An intensified anti-Jewish campaign, which appears to be generating a program atmosphere among Polish Jews, was heralded by Slow Powszechna, the newspaper of Pax, the pro-Communist Catholic lay movement. The Communist official who heads the movement, Boleslaw Piasecki was the chief of the pre-World War II 'Falanga,' a semi-legal, conspiratorial, and pro-fascist nationalist movement. Piasecki found it simple to switch allegiances after the war, and with state help he built up the Pax movement into an organization with considerable influence.

"Two years ago, the AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE pointed out that anti-Semitism was on the rise within the Communist Party, with one wing of 'partisans' or nationalists using anti-Semitism to enhance its position. In a country where the economy is faltering and life is still harsh, the Jewish minority was a convenient target. Latent, but virulent, anti-Semitism was also exacerbated by an internal party struggle to eliminate the influence of 'intellectuals' and elevate 'workers' to leadership.

"The hard-line, pro-Stalinist clique has pressed for harsher measures against 'restless intellectuals', blaming them as well for many of Poland's economic ills. Until recently, the campaign produced official harassment of writers and journalists but restricted anti-Jewish sentiment to party circles.

"In the wake of the June, 1967, Six Day War in the Middle East, party chief Wladyslaw Gomulka, taking his lead from an anti-Jewish propaganda offensive launched in the Soviet Union, threatened Polish Jews and intellectuals with reprisals if they showed any signs of support for Israel. This marked a reversal of liberal pro-Jewish policies of the last decade. It was also taken as a sign that the hard line, anti-Semitic party faction, led by the Minister for Internal Affairs, Mieczyslaw Moczar, had gained the upper hand over the moderate wing. This led to the dismissal, a few months ago, of some Jews from government service. It also caused the suspension of relief activities among old and indigent Jews, by the Joint Distribution Committee, and the closing of ORT training centers that had been open to all Polish citizens.

"The official reactions to the current wave of protests apparently has brought latent

and traditional anti-Semitism to the surface, and accelerated the dismissal of Jews from academic and leadership circles. Jewish institutions, which had been permitted to develop, have been virtually accused of treasonous act as "instigators" of the riots, or of being 'Zionist.' Of ominous import is the condemnation by a leading newspaper, Kurier Polski, of the students and youth, Babel Club within the Communist-endorsed Cultural and Social Union of Polish Jews. The club and Polish Jews have been made to bear the sole responsibility for demonstrations that reportedly attracted tens of thousands of students and adults in Warsaw alone.

"We are painfully reminded, in this instance, of the anti-Semitic Stalinist purges that swept Eastern Europe in the 1950s, when Jews were euphemistically label-

led as 'bourgeois cosmopolitans.' Today, Polish Jews are denounced as 'Zionist,' implying they are disloyal.

"We snigger to think that a shift away from liberalism, with a concomitant attack on Polish Jews, is in the making. Any sign of a return to pre-war Polish anti-Semitism, as intimated by the free hand given to known anti-Semites like Piasecki and Moczar, must be eradicated. If not, anti-Jewish manifestations in Poland, including economic reprisals against fathers whose sons were allegedly involved in student unrest, can only be interpreted as a sign that those Jews who survived the Nazi persecutions will find themselves once again the victims of new Nazi-like outrages. This is an issue that must engage all men of good will, regardless of the social or political system in which they live."



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