Register of the Jakub Berman papers

Finding aid prepared by Hoover Institution Archives Staff
Hoover Institution Archives
434 Galvez Mall
Stanford University
Stanford, CA, 94305-6010
(650) 723-3563
hooverarchives@stanford.edu
© 2017
Title: Jakub Berman papers
Date (inclusive): 1941-1983
Collection Number: 2008C88
Contributing Institution: Hoover Institution Archives
Language of Material: Polish
Physical Description: 2 manuscript boxes (0.8 linear feet)
Abstract: Memoirs, other speeches and writings, notes, correspondence, and photographs relating to the Polish
communist movement and to post-World War II political conditions in Poland.
Physical Location: Hoover Institution Archives
Access
Collection is open for research.
The Hoover Institution Archives only allows access to copies of audiovisual items. To listen to sound recordings or to view
videos or films during your visit, please contact the Archives at least two working days before your arrival. We will then
advise you of the accessibility of the material you wish to see or hear. Please note that not all audiovisual material is
immediately accessible.
Publication Rights
For copyright status, please contact the Hoover Institution Archives.
Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Jakub Berman papers, [Box number], Hoover Institution Archives.
Acquisition Information
Acquired by the Hoover Institution Archives in 2008.
Accruals
Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. To determine if this has occurred, find
the collection in Stanford University's online catalog at http://searchworks.stanford.edu/. Materials have been added to the
collection if the number of boxes listed in the online catalog is larger than the number of boxes listed in this finding aid.
Related Collections
Stefan Jędrychowski papers, Hoover Institution Archives
Roman Zambrowski papers, Hoover Institution Archives
Henryk Jablonski papers, Hoover Institution Archives
Edward Osóbka-Morawski papers, Hoover Institution Archives
Biographical Note
Jakub Berman was born in 1901 in Warsaw into a Jewish middle-class family. He completed a degree in law at Warsaw
University in 1925. Three years later he joined the Polish Communist Party (KPP). After the Nazi-Soviet attack and partition
of Poland in September 1939, Berman moved to the Soviet side of Poland. Initially, he worked as a newspaper editor and
later became an instructor in the Comintern school, which trained activists for Josef Stalin's new party for Polish
communists, the Polish Workers' Party.
Stalin was favorably impressed with Berman's intellectual abilities and political commitment during meetings in the Kremlin
in 1943. In the summer of 1944, as the Soviet armies were driving the Germans out of occupied Poland, Berman became a
Politburo member, second only to Boleslaw Bierut, an ethnic Pole of peasant origin, chosen by Stalin to lead the new Polish
state. Between 1944 and 1956, during which he was a member of the Polska Zjednoczona Partia Robotnicza Biuro
Polityczne, Berman was one of the most powerful Polish communist politicians. Berman's responsibilities in the Politburo
included oversight of the Security Office (UB), ideology, and propaganda. During his tenure at least 200,000 people were
imprisoned for real or imagined political offenses, of whom some 6,000 were executed.
During the relative political "thaw" following the deaths of Stalin in 1953 and Bierut in 1956, Berman was forced to resign
from the Politburo and the Central Committee. He was officially blamed for "Stalinist errors and deviations" but never
prosecuted. His name is associated with the Sovietization of Poland following World War II and repressions against the
Scope and Content of Collection
Memoirs, other speeches and writings, notes, correspondence, and photographs relating to the Polish communist
movement and the Polish People’s Republic, post-World War II political conditions in Poland, and the Sovietization of
Eastern Europe.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Communism--Poland.
Polska Zjednoczona Partia Robotnicza.

Box/Folder 1 : 1  Biographical file, communist party identity cards

Correspondence
Box/Folder 1 : 2  General, 1945
Box/Folder 1 : 3  Dzierzynska (Dzherzinska), Zofia, 1942-1950
Box/Folder 1 : 4  Kasman, L. A., 1942-1943
Box/Folder 1 : 5  Schaff, Adam, 1955

Memoirs
Box/Folder 1 : 6  General, 1945
Box/Folder 1 : 7  Testimony for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs archives, 1983

Notes
Box/Folder 1 : 8  General
Box/Folder 1 : 9  1948

Subject File
Box/Folder 1 : 10  Centralne Biuro Komunistow Polskich (Central Bureau of the Polish Communists), 1944
Box/Folder 1 : 11  Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Information Bureau - plans to dissolve, 1956
Commintern, school of, 1942-1943
Box/Folder 1 : 12  Attendees, list of
Box/Folder 1 : 13  Cadre training
Box/Folder 1 : 14  Kosciuszko Radio Station
Box/Folder 1 : 15  Materials from Kuibyshev
Box/Folder 1 : 16  Notes
Box/Folder 1 : 17  Party strategy
Box/Folder 1 : 18  Polish communist couriers
Box/Folder 1 : 19  Political discussion
Box/Folder 1 : 20  European communist parties - conference plans, 1947
Box/Folder 1 : 21  Instytut Kształcenia Kadr Naukowych KC PZPR - theoretical conference, 1950-1952
Box/Folder 1 : 22  Komunistyczna Partia Polski (Communist Party of Poland) - release of members from prisons and rehabilitation, 1977

Box/Folder 2 : 1  Nowe Widnokregi, 1943
Polska Zjednoczona Partia Robotnicza (Polish United Workers Party)
Educational policy
Box/Folder 2 : 2  General, 1948-1953
Box/Folder 2 : 3  Conference on schoolbooks, 1953
Box/Folder 2 : 4  Membership statistics, 1949-1954
Box/Folder 2 : 5  Political Bureau, resignation from, 1955
Box/Folder 2 : 6  Polski Komitet Narodowy - resolution, 1941
Box/Folder 2 : 7  Skoniecki, Czeslaw, 1945
Box/Folder 2 : 8  World Congress of Intellectuals for Peace, Wroclaw - notes, 1948

Writings and Speeches
Box/Folder 2 : 9  1946
Box/Folder 2 : 10  1947
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box/Folder 2 :</th>
<th>Year(s)</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>1948</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>1949</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>1951</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>1952</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bolshevik revolution, 1950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
<td>European countries of people's democracy, 1951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
<td>General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
<td>Trip to China</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>