
Register of the Jakub Berman papers

Finding aid prepared by Hoover Institution Archives Staff

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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

Creator: Berman, Jakub, 1901-1984.

Access

Collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Jakub Berman papers, [Box number], Hoover Institution Archives.

Acquisition Information

Acquired by the Hoover Institution Archives in 2008.

Accruals

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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 opponents of the communist regime. Berman died in retirement in Warsaw in 1984.

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.

Poland--Politics and government--1945-1980.

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
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Box/Folder 1 : 5	Schaff, Adam, 1955
	Memoirs
Box/Folder 1 : 6	General, 1945
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	Notes
Box/Folder 1 : 8	General
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	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
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	Polska Zjednoczona Partia Robotnicza (Polish United Workers Party)
	Educational policy
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	Writings and Speeches
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	Photographs
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