Register of the Poland Sluzba Bezpieczenstwa Departament III Collection

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Descriptive Summary
Title: Poland Sluzba Bezpieczenstwa Departament III collection,
Date (inclusive): 1925-1989
Collection number: 92053
Extent: 33 manuscript boxes (13.2 linear feet)
Repository: Hoover Institution on War, Revolution, and Peace
Stanford, California 94305-6010
Abstract: Underground pamphlets, leaflets, flyers, bulletins, photographs, video tapes, and miscellany, collected by Polish internal security police. Includes some reports and bulletins issued by Polish security police.
Physical Location: Hoover Institution Archives
Language: Polish.
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], Poland Sluzba Bezpieczenstwa Departament III collection, [Box no.], Hoover Institution Archives.
Acquisition Information
Materials were acquired by the Hoover Institution Archives in 1992.
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.
Alternative Form Available
Also available on microfilm (36 reels).
Scope and Content Note
The Sluzba Bezpieczenstwa, Poland's security police, was created by the communist authorities in 1944 to deal with the anti-German and later also anti-Soviet underground operating in those parts of the country that had been "liberated" by the Red Army. It was known under different names but between the years 1956-1990, it operated under the name of Sluzba Bezpieczenstwa (better known as SB). It was established in the Ministry of the Interior (Ministerstwo Spraw Wewntrznych) and remained the most loyal supporter of the Polish United Workers Party. For decades, besides strengthening the position of the communist authorities, it directed its efforts against any signs of social opposition, relying on a network of secret agents and collaborators who were responsible for numerous provocations.

The events of March 1968 (reflected in this collection) led the SB to operate on a larger scale than before, as the communists cleaned the party ranks of internal opponents. It also took more and more repressive measures against workers' revolts in 1970, 1976, and 1980-1981, when it radicalized its attitude toward the church and free labor unions. The SB fought against them unscrupulously, but unlike what happened in other East European communist countries, it accomplished less, as the magnitude of those movements made control impossible. In fact, it became more desperate, as exemplified by the murder of the priest Jerzy Popieluszko.

Most of this collection consists of the publications issued by the underground and political opposition of the late 1970s and 1980s, which, not surprisingly, the SB monitored with particular interest. There are also materials analyzing opposition views on such issues as the economy, the attitude toward communist initiatives, as well as domestic and foreign politics. Additionally, there are documents that shed light on the circumstances that led to the Round Table Talks between the communists and the opposition, initiated as they were by the head of the secret services, General Kiszczak.

The history of the SB in its formative years is described in the bulletins and monographs issued by the Ministry of the Interior, albeit in a distorted fashion - a perfect example of manipulation of the facts relating to the origins of communist control in Eastern Europe. The extreme brutality, for example, with which the population was treated in the 1940s and early 1950s, especially because of the involvement of the NKVD, had to be justified.

The records of the Sluzba Bezpieczenstwa do not contain personal files or correspondence. They consist of either duplicate copies of typescripts or mimeographs intended for internal distribution to various SB departments and local branches, or opposition underground publications that have since been in public circulation.

The collection was acquired by the Hoover Institution in the early 1990s, and supplements other collections in the Archives, particularly those of Solidarity activists and the collection entitled "Polish Independent Publications, 1976-1990."

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the repository's online public access catalog.

Subjects
Internal security--Poland.
Subversive activities--Poland.
NSZZ "Solidarnosc" (Labor organization)
Labor movement--Poland.
Labor unions--Poland.
Poland.
Communism.
Anti-communist movements--Poland.

Genres and Forms of Material
Video tapes.

Other Index Terms Related to this Collection
Poland. Sluzba Bezpieczenstwa. Departament III.

box 1-22

Subject File, 1939-1989.

Scope and Content Note
Bibliographic publications, bulletins, catalogs, clippings, leaflets, fliers, underground mimeographed materials, pamphlets, typescripts, arranged alphabetically by subject
box 23  **Miscellaneous Materials, 1981-1988.**
Scope and Content Note
Banknotes, calendars, cartoons, fliers, miniature publications, phonotape cassette covers, postcards, arranged alphabetically by physical form

box 24-27  **Postage Stamp Albums, 1980-1989.**
Scope and Content Note
Postage stamps issued by the Underground in the 1980s in celebration of individuals and events

box 27-32  **Printed Matter, 1944-1988.**
Scope and Content Note
Rare, internal circulation bulletins and mimeographed publications issued by security forces in communist Poland, arranged into bulletins and monographs, and therein alphabetically by title or subject

box 32  **Videotape Cassettes, 1980s.**
Scope and Content Note
Two videotape cassettes issued by NSZZ "Solidarnosc" video services, covering social and political events in the 1980s

box 33  **Photographs, 1925-1988.**
Scope and Content Note
282 prints depicting individuals and events relating to Poland's 20th century history, especially the 1980s

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VIDEOTAPE CASSETTES, 1980s.
Scope and Content Note
Two videotape cassettes issued by NSZZ "Solidarnosc" video services, depicting various social and political events in the 1980s

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