

wykład

א"י
ל"י
ל"י
א"י
א"י
א"י

Biurowo Zarządu ZGWZ w RP	Warszawa
Wpłynęło dnia	20.03.04
L. dr.	203

וְעֵד הַקְהָלוֹת הַיְהוּדִיּוֹת בְּפּוֹלְנָה
Związek Gmin Wyznaniowych Żydowskich w RP

00-950 Warszawa, Twarda 6

tel. 620-43-24, fax 620-10-31

Warsaw, 12 March 2004

Judge Edward R. Korman
Holocaust Victim Assets Litigation
P.O. Box 8300
San Francisco, CA 94128-8300
U.S.A.

Dear Judge Korman,

The Union of Jewish Communities in Poland would like to present its opinion concerning the report prepared by Professor Sergio Della Pergola, which indicates that the number of Jewish people in Poland in 2003 was 3300, and the number of people, who survived Holocaust 3561¹. This is an obvious discrepancy, which indicates, that the number of victims of Holocaust is actually bigger than the total number of Jews in Poland.

According to research undertaken by Polish historians and published in the year 2000 by the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw, in 1971, after the emigration in 1968, the number of Jews was not lower than 20,000². Amount of 22,000 seems to be more realistic. It is important to say that 40% out of these were people over 60 years of age. In 2004 the number of Jews is estimated to reach from 23,000 to 25,000 persons considering the criteria set by Della Pergola³.

¹ Sergio Della Pergola, Neediness among Jewish Shoah Survivors: A key to global Resource allocation, Jerusalem, January 2004, p.65.

² Studia z historii Żydów w Polsce po 1945 roku, Żydowski Instytut Historyczny, Warszawa 2000, p.145; Piotr Trojański, Robert Szuchta, Holocaust zrozumieć dlaczego, Warszawa 2003, p. 271.

³ Sergio Della Pergola, Neediness among..., p. 28.

This number results from a growth of population, which took place in Poland from 1970 until year 2000⁴.

Referring to the number of victims of Holocaust – 3,561 people, it does not include the people, who survived the war in USSR, the number of which in Poland is estimated to be 1,700 people. Considering the criteria in point “b” of Della Pergola’s elaboration one should assume, that the number of victims of Holocaust is at present at least **5,261 people**⁵.

This number is constantly changing due to the fact that many „children of Holocaust” and their descendants are finding out about their origin from foster parents.⁶ Numerous acts of anti-Semitism taking place after the war (in the years: 1946, 1956, 1968, 1981), caused that for many years many Jews were afraid to reveal their identity and did not affiliate with the Jewish organizations.

Due to that they were not included in the statistics in the 80’s. This thesis is confirmed by recent research in the archives of the former communist Security Service. The remaining documents shows, that the Ministry of Internal Affairs had information about people of Jewish nationality, who tried to conceal their origin and were never before registered in any Jewish organization because of the fear of repression by the totalitarian system⁷.

As research carried on, past few years shows, that the statistics written earlier did not include the specific situation in Poland (the “children of Holocaust and the traumatic problem of the “marranos”). We are truly concerned that such inaccurate informations as Dell Pergola report may have a negative for Polish Jewry impact on allocation of restitution funds. Taking in to consideration the documents available today it should be assumed that the number of Jewish

⁴ The yearly book of Główny Urząd Statystyczny indicates the in the years 1970-2000 the population growth Poland was from 32-38,6 million – more that 20%. Taking into the account that the growth of Jewish population due to its age structure could be lower and reached 15%, these values are accurate.

⁵ Sergio Della Pergola, Neediness among..., p. 11.

⁶ Based on the information from the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw

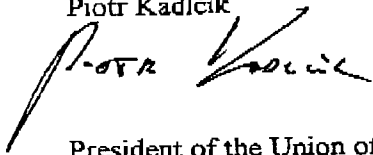
⁷ Research undertaken by Albert Stankowski in Institute of National Remembrance (Instytut Pamięci Narodowej) for CEU Nationalism Studies in Budapest, www.ceu.hu/nation

people in Poland is nowadays at the level of 23000 to 25000 people, including people over 65
- born before World War II from 5,500 to 7,000.

Hoping that you will take this letter into consideration and note our concern,

I remain sincerely,

Piotr Kadlčik



President of the Union of Jewish Communities of Poland