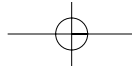


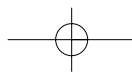
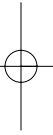
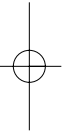
# EXPANDING THE DIALOGUE

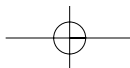


TEN YEARS OF THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE  
OF POLISH AFFAIRS



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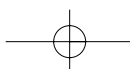
The history of the Institute has been an enriching experience.  
This book documents many of its highlights so that this  
important initiative is not forgotten.

Executive Committee  
October 2001

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Bajkowski, Eugene  
Bajkowski, Yolanta  
Barbara, Richard Z.  
Basinski, Jan J.  
Basinska, M.  
Besemeres, John  
Bilski, Andrew  
Boniecki, Jerzy  
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Borucki, Ewa  
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Buras, Izabella  
Buras, Juliusz  
Burdajewicz, Marek  
Burdajewicz, Ileana  
Collins, Ewa  
Czajor, Waldemar J.  
Czerkowski, Robert  
Doktor, Hania  
Doktor, Karol  
Dowoyna-Millicer, Krystyna  
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Ehrenkreutz, Andrzej S.  
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Fairweather, Ewa  
Firek, Marcin  
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Forkasiewicz, Anna  
Friedman, Helen  
Gancarz, Aleksander M.  
Gancarz, Anna  
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Golian, Anna  
Golian, Cezary  
Grafman, Wlodzimierz W.  
Graszkievicz, Ewa  
Graszkievicz, Piotr  
Gray-Grzeszkiewicz, Jerzy  
Gross, Yoram  
Gruzewski, Jan  
Guzowska, Janina  
Guzowski, Andrew  
Guzowski, Elizabeth  
Hadzel, Franciszek  
Hadzel, Rozalia J.  
Harasymow, Stanislaw  
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Hempel, Stanislaw  
Hempel, Madeleine  
Henner, Jeanette  
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Kijek, Anna  
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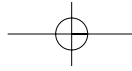
Kowalski, Gina B.  
Koziell, Piotr  
Koziell, Urszula  
Krajka, Dorota  
Kreisler, Adam  
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Krodkiewski, Irena  
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Krol, Izabella  
Krygier, Martin  
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Krystek-Treister, Anna M.  
Kuczborska, Maria  
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Lada, Anna  
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Landau, David John  
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Leszczynski, Stanislaw  
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Lew, Leon  
McNaughton, Eva  
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Maslanka, Teresa  
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Meysztowicz, Edward  
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Milosinski, Cezary  
Nadolski, Ewa  
Nadolski, Liza  
Nadworny, Mieczyslaw  
Nowacki, Christopher  
Nowak, Anna  
Nowicki, Kazimierz

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Ordon-Bardyszewski, Elaine	Schenkel, Leon	Witchen, Barbara
Ordon-Bardyszewski, Stanley A.E.	Selway, George	Witchen, Zdzislaw
Ozdowski, Hanna	Sikora, Anna	Wojak, Irena
Ozdowski, Seweryn	Sikora, Henryk	Wrobel, Grzegorz
Paciej, Alicja	Smaczny, Tomasz	Wrobel, Katarzyna
Pakulski, Jan	Sobski, Jozefa	Wronska-Friend, Maria
Pakulski, Zofia	Strusinski, Jan	Wykrota, Mick (Mieczyslaw)
Pichel-Smaczny, Sylwia	Strusinski, Maria	Wylie, Antonette
Pluta, Wojciech	Strzelecka, Grazyna	Wylie, john
Polish Youth & Family Assoc. in Victoria Inc.	Stuart-Nawratowicz, Barbara	Zagala, Barbara
Poplawski, Wojciech A.	Syta, Katarzyna	Zagala, Wojciech
Porebski, Andrzej J.	Szafjanski, Jerzy. M.	Zagorska Frentzel, Janina
Pudlowski, Zenon J.	Szymanski, Bozena	Zagorski, Krzysztof
Prus-Wisniowski, Tadeusz	Szymanski, Leszek	Zandler, Halina
Radajewski, Wacław	Thomas, Ian D.	Zandler, Janusz
Rakowski, Eudoksja	Thomas, Krystyna	Zapasnik, Danuta
Randla, Elzbieta	Warhol, Margaret	Zapasnik, Marian
Randla, Ryszard	Warzel, Adam	Zapasnik, Tadeusz
Rossleigh, Krystyna	Warzel, Malgorzata	Zarebski, Maria
Rossleigh, Roman	Wierny, Gertruda ("Kula")	Zarebski, Wieslaw
Sadurski, Anna	Wierny, Zbigniew	Zarnowski, Lila
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Saporta (Heilberg), Marie R.	Wilczewski, Tomasz F.	Zdanowicz, Irena
Saporta, Yaacov	Williams, Barbara	Zubrzycki, Aleksandra
	Williams, John B.H.	Zubrzycki, Jerzy

## In Memoriam

Andrzej and Stefan Ehrenkreutz, Krystyna Gawronska, Zofia Landau, Halina and Janusz Zandler wish to honour the memory of the following members who have passed away during the ten years of AIPA's existence. Without their whole-hearted participation the Institute's work would have been much the poorer.

Basinski, Jan	Gawronski, Andrzej	Hempel, Jan	Krygier, Roma
Basinski, Maria	Grafman, Wlodzimierz	Hempel, Zofia	Landau, Janek David
Dunin-Karwicki, Jan	Hadzel, Franciszek	Karbownik, Wladyslaw	Nowicki, Kazimierz
Ehrenkreutz, Blandyna	Hadzel, Rozalia	Kowalak, Lech	Selway, George



## MESSAGES FOR THE ANNIVERSARY

### From Mrs Margaret Adamson, Australian Ambassador to Poland

I am honoured to have been invited to contribute to this publication issued to mark the tenth anniversary of the Australian Institute of Polish Affairs.

AIPA has become a synonym for all that is positive in Australia-Polish relations: it contributes actively and creatively to expanding the dialogue between the two countries, to promoting Poland's profile within Australia, and discussion within the Polish and broader Australian community on Polish issues.

As Australia's Ambassador to Poland at a time of rapid, profound change, I have been greatly assisted in my work by AIPA and its members. My primary task is to actively support stronger trade and investment between Australia and Poland. In order for this to happen business and opinion-makers in both countries need to know more about the other country: in the case of Poland, it means a re-packaging for the Australian audience of Poland as the modern democracy and large, dynamic market economy it has become over the course of the past decade, well launched towards membership of the European Union, and of the mainstream of Western democracies and their economic interaction. The image of Poland as part of the "Eastern Europe" of the Cold War years needs to be radically updated with the country's current and future reality in order to catch the attention and imagination of the Australian business community. As one of the top six members of the enlarged EU (which already constitutes Australia's largest global economic partner) Poland must be regarded as one of Australia's potential significant trade and investment partners in 21st Century Europe.

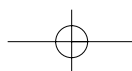
And, in Poland, the challenge has been to overcome the "tyranny of distance" which Poles all too frequently fasten on in connection with Australia. The 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games have helped to bring modern, multicultural Australia more into focus, and "closer", in Poland. Our business community has an opportunity to capitalise on this favourable environment.

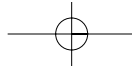
Beyond commercial considerations, Poland's coming membership of the European Union represents for Australia a further partner within the Union to engage on a range of issues impacting on our national interests.

AIPA's activities are an invaluable element in developing stronger, more diversified ties between the two countries across the broader spectrum of socio-political affairs, culture and academia: the building blocks of a multi-dimensional relationship.

Through its program of inviting prominent Polish representatives to Australia for public speaking engagements and contact with relevant sectors of the Australian society, the Institute has both introduced Australians to "new Poland", and has also extended Australia's support network in Poland with an ever larger group of enthusiastic, influential multipliers.

I congratulate AIPA on reaching this important milestone, and wish the Institute continued success in the future.





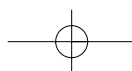
## From Dr T. Szumowski, the Polish Ambassador to Australia

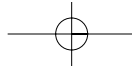
My first encounter with the Australian Institute of Polish Affairs was during my mission at the Polish Embassy in Great Britain. Sometime around the middle of 1993, the then Polish Ambassador to Vienna and later twice (so far) Minister for Foreign Affairs, Prof. Wladyslaw Bartoszewski, visited London. He was returning from Australia where he had stayed at the invitation of AIPA. During this short stopover in London, the Professor told us about the Institute, stressing in particular its open character, reaching out to Australians, transcending the limits of the Polish community. He told us of the Institute's efforts to promote among Australians greater understanding of Poles and their Polish homeland. He was greatly impressed with the Institute's engagement in matters as difficult as Polish-Jewish relations. His opinions came at a time when in Poland and in Polish communities abroad discussions and debates were held on the necessity of establishing a "Polish lobby" to provide support to a reviving democratic and sovereign Polish Republic.

How apt Prof. Bartoszewski's evaluations and opinions were I was to find out personally on the spot, in Australia, where I was posted as Ambassador of the Republic of Poland towards the end of 1997. I have been a participant in many events organised by the Institute, in open meetings with distinguished guests of AIPA, and their talks with representatives of the Australian political, academic and economic establishments. This has given me the opportunity to witness how the initiative of a handful of people heading the Institute suffices to develop and enhance relations between Poland and Australia, Poles and Australians, and Poland and its Polish community abroad.

I hold very dear my cooperation with the Institute over the past three years. It was through the Institute that I was able to establish direct contacts with many outstanding and distinguished Australians, and had better access to opinion-forming and scientific circles. Of special importance, to me and for the work of the Polish Embassy in Canberra, was participation in the organisation of the itineraries of many of the Institute's guests from Poland. A great contribution was made to Australian-Polish relations by the visit to Canberra of prominent Polish politicians such as parliamentarians Janusz Lewandowski and Czeslaw Bielecki, and of the President of the National Bank of Poland, Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz, and by their meetings with high-ranking representatives of the Australian government and parliament, ministries and government institutions, NGOs and the ANU. They helped to improve the understanding of each other's country and built a better image of Poland among Australians. Numerous meetings at the Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Prime Minister's Office and the Office of National Assessments provided opportunities for discussions, for exchanges of opinions and information, for increasing Poland's knowledge of Australia and its politics, and for broadening Australia's knowledge of Poland and its place in the world. I very much enjoyed and benefited from taking part in those meetings.

Pursuing the causes of the country that you left in the country that has become your new home is never an easy task. Quite often it poses the difficult question of loyalty to that which is new and that which is connected with the past. The Institute's activities can serve as an example of the reconciliation of this potential conflict. It is through political, social and national openness, the Australian spirit blending with the Polish one (or alternatively the Polish spirit fused into the Australian one), and through the drawing together of Australian friends of Poland and opening the doors to those without much previous contact with Poland or Poles, that conditions are created for "the old dream





to come true of having a Polish lobby abroad". (These are the words of Czeslaw Bielecki, chairman of the Polish Sejm Committee for Foreign Affairs and one of the previously-mentioned guests of the Institute in 2000, as quoted in his interview in the Tygodnik Polski Wprost of 19 March, 2000).

The Institute's work and the position it has secured in Australia's multicultural society merits the AIPA, after merely a decade of operation, a place among institutions that further the causes of Poland and Poles, Australia and Australians, and that contribute to the development of Polish-Australian relations and the understanding of the complex problems of the world we live in today.

I wish the Institute all success in the years to come.

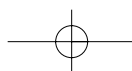
### From Shmuel Rosenkranz, President of the Federation of Polish Jews in Australia

The tenth anniversary of the establishment of the Australian Institute of Polish Affairs provides a splendid occasion to reflect on the role played by this distinguished organisation in fostering the Polish-Jewish dialogue in Australia.

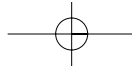
My contacts with AIPA go back to 1992. I remember meeting, for the first time, members of the Institute's executive committee in the apartment of the late David (Janek) Landau. We talked at length about our respective communities, their mutual relations and how to deal with some of the stereotypes in perceiving each other, which have developed over the years. I remember being very impressed with the way AIPA members approached the issues we discussed but I did not anticipate that over the coming years both of our organisations, the Federation of Polish Jews in Australia and the Australian Institute of Polish Affairs would embark on so many high calibre projects which, as it turned out, have substantially expanded our knowledge of each other's community.

During the next few years, my committee had the pleasure to work closely with members of the Institute in organising memorable visits to Australia of such important and historic figures from the point of Polish-Jewish relations as Prof. Wladyslaw Bartoszewski and Prof. Jan Karski. I and members of Australia's Jewish community still remember visits of Adam Michnik, Prof. Daniel Grinberg, Henryk Grynberg and Prof. Stanislaw Obirek. I have been impressed with both the Institute's superb organisational capabilities and most importantly with its vision and courage with which it has tackled some of the complex issues related to the common history of Poles and Jews.

On behalf of the Federation of Polish Jews in Australia, I wish the Australian Institute of Polish Affairs another ten years of very successful work. It has been both a privilege and pleasure to know and work with members of the Institute.







## Australian Experience From Stanislaw Obirek SJ, Krakow

It is not easy to write briefly about my three-week visit in Australia as a guest of the Australian Institute of Polish Affairs. During this time, in May 2000, I visited three cities – Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne. Whilst I was dazzled by their beauty, the most important experience was just to meet people and to share with them my experience of being a Catholic priest in Poland at the time of transition. When I say "people", I have in mind the mosaic of different groups which made my experience so exciting. And when I now think of Australia as a country (or continent) of multiculturalism, I understand better the meaning of this concept for Catholics and others in their daily lives.

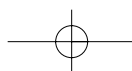
I was really grateful for the opportunity to have a deep and honest exchange with both Christians and Jews on what it means to have a common and often difficult history and a different religion or to witness an increasingly secular society. I am still maintaining valuable contacts which I forged during my visit (mostly via email) and they are not without influence on my way of being a priest in Poland – a country which only now begins to face challenges and opportunities presented by cultural pluralism and where writing undistorted history is becoming a new experience.

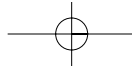
What is the future? I am delighted to see an increasing number of guests from Australia. Prof. Abraham Cykiert taught our students how Jews understand the Tora, Prof. Zubrzycki shared his social visions, Prof. Smolicz showed how important it is to be active in a country which opened its door to Polish refugees and Prof. Wierzbicka will attend a conference in our Centre for Culture and Dialogue on 11th June 2001. I find that through those contacts I am also able to gain valuable knowledge about myself. In this process of learning, the journey to Australia was an important step. So I'm deeply grateful to those who invited me to come to Australia and who so generously devoted their time for making my stay in Australia not only very interesting but also joyful.

## Jubilee Reflections From Prof. Jerzy Zubrzycki

The first decade of the Australian Institute of Polish Affairs (AIPA) coincides with the first phase of Poland's history since the country regained its independence from the Communist rule in 1989. The same decade also coincides with the often slow, painful and poorly understood historical and sociological process during which the Emigracja was slowly transformed into a diaspora-like collectivity usually referred to as Polonia.

The Polish Emigracja (capital E) was a product of processes as old as humankind. The exile experience seen in the paradigm of the Wandering Jew, of the early Christians and their religious successors such as the Huguenots and the Puritans of a later age was followed by those whose flight was the legacy of the English Civil War, the Glorious Revolution of the seventeenth century and later the Terror in France after 1789. Some of these exiles survived to witness restoration. But most other exile groups in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries did not return to their country of origin for fear of persecution. Adam Czartoryski and his countrymen in Paris, London and Brussels, the German 48ers in America, Russian revolutionaries like Herzen and Bakunin, did not live to see the awaited upheaval. Nor did the Russian emigration of 1917 which was torn apart by divisions among the monarchist, liberal and socialist camps.





Considered against this historical perspective the Emigracja, with its largely political objective of remaining outside Poland and working for the country's independence and promoting the survival of Polish culture with its plethora of organisational forms, has been exceptionally fortunate. The political objectives of the Emigracja have been, by and large, fulfilled. And this has few, if any, precedents in the history of European political emigrations.

What are the consequences of the changes which took place in Poland after 1989 for those who, until then, proudly declared their abiding commitment to the Emigracja in its various organisational forms, largely linked to the overriding political objective? A sociologist studying this continuing process is looking not at fixed attitudes which had been de rigueur for many decades of an émigré life, not at structures and forms of social organisation, but at the dynamics of change affecting the Polish minority group in all the generational, functional and cultural divisions.

Using this approach we begin to perceive the Polish ethnic group in Australia no longer as Emigracja but as Polonia – or a collectivity of persons whose attachment to Poland can be perceived by reference to a shared culture such as language, customs and infrequently shared social institutions.

Australian multiculturalism has favoured maintenance of a Polish-shared culture in much the same way as it has enabled other ethnic groups to retain their cultural distinctiveness. This has enabled Polish-Australians to claim distinctiveness without being perceived as culturally inferior and therefore politically subordinate.

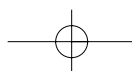
Their cultural and political emancipation in Australia has, by and large, succeeded and is assisting an ever-growing number of Polish-Australians to participate in the political structures of Australian democracy.

Upon its foundation AIPA set itself a goal of becoming a successful Polish lobby to build bridges between our two democracies and to promote Poland in Australia and, more recently, to promote Australia in Poland. This stand puts AIPA in the vanguard of those sections of the Polonia which strive to maintain pride in their roots while being able to cross and recross those cultural boundaries which identify Polish-Australians as an ethnic minority.

The AIPA has succeeded in showing the way for those who still hanker after the days of the seemingly safe, predictable, inward looking structures which were the mainstay of the Emigracja. We have been transformed into an ethnic group, which calls itself the Polonia, a group conscious of its roots, necessarily assimilated yet proud of its cultural heritage as one of a myriad of elements enriching a multicultural Australia.

As I watch the reins of power within AIPA gradually pass on to the younger generation of those born in Australia, I am conscious of a generational change in search of new horizons and new goals for the future. I wish the much-rejuvenated AIPA well for the next decade.

Jerzy Zubrzycki (President 1991-95)



## From Prof. Andrzej Ehrenkreutz

My time as AIPA's second president was made much easier by the accomplishments of the preceding "administration", which were inspired by the ideological and practical leadership of the inaugural president, Prof. J. Zubrzycki. The Institute's record during the terms of office of all three Presidents can be gleaned from the Chronicle which follows Prof. Krygier's statement, so I will focus on AIPA's operational mechanisms.

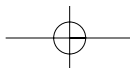
Sometimes the sphere of the imponderable overcomes the world of economic realities. The thing that has made AIPA work is the enthusiasm of its members, and their many and varied contributions. Its elected Executive Board, centred in Melbourne, its Trustees, its rank and file members, who are widely dispersed and led by dynamic regional "activists" (in Sydney and Canberra for instance) have all given much personal expertise, and energy. Full-board hospitality to AIPA's guests from across the seas, for instance, has often included their hosts taking them to scenic places outside the main cities at their own expense. Such contributions have always been totally voluntary. Equally important has been the timely payment of annual dues, which are indispensable for the Institute's existence. It goes without saying that this situation will prevail as long as the membership continues to trust AIPA's executive leadership.

The main feature of AIPA's activities has been public lectures delivered by authoritative speakers on different aspects of contemporary Poland. So the Institute has been continually searching for suitable specialists, whether academic or not, though preferably with an adequate command of English. This search has covered not only Australia, but Europe (mainly Poland) and the USA.

In trying to invite the selected candidates, the Institute has had to overcome one fundamental disadvantage. It could not afford to compensate them with any honoraria, beyond covering the costs of round-trip economy class flights, including travels in Australia, and sustenance. However, these modest offers were always happily augmented by one major inducement: the journey to Australia with an attractive program of visits to Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne and sightseeing trips to many renowned places while they were here. Establishing contacts and negotiating the journeys, though, has given AIPA's executive one unavoidable difficulty. In these days, of course, they use email and faxes. But differences in transcontinental time-zones have led to many late-night or pre-dawn conversations on the phone.

To grasp the scope of AIPA's communications, my experience may help. While I was President from 1995-97, I made 661 local phone calls, 264 long-distant ones and 24 internationally, a total of 949 telephone calls. Also, I sent 216 fax messages, 179 letters, 1000 printed invitations and five internal newsletters. And those were only my communications. If you combine these figures with the contacts made by other members of the Institute, you might multiply the figures by five. Add that all up in terms of invested money and time, and you can appreciate why AIPA's fruitful operations should be attributed to its collective, dynamic and voluntary nature.

Andrzej Ehrenkreutz (President 1995-97)



## From Prof. Martin Krygier

It has long been known that dwarfs do well to stand on the shoulders of giants. And so I am fortunate to have become President of AIPA after Professors Zubrzycki and Ehrenkreutz. They are representatives of the Polish inteligencja at its finest; people of nobility, intellectual distinction, and selfless devotion to what has been best in Polish traditions. They also share direct personal links with pre-War and pre-Communist Poland which none of their successors will be able to boast. As an organisation, we are exceedingly fortunate to have been founded and shaped by them. We may not be able to match their example, but we can strive to be faithful to it.

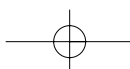
I say this not out of conventional politeness or routine piety, but because the present and future AIPA, whatever its fortunes, will be different from its founding generations. I am the first President born in this country. No doubt there will be more. That is an inevitable development and not an unhealthy one, if only because, as long as it lasts, it indicates that Poland is not suffering from the tragic events which so often expelled so many of its citizens to distant ends of the earth. Nevertheless, we should keep in mind our Institute's heritage and founding values, so well represented, indeed incarnate, in its first two Presidents. They, having lived through the worst tragedies of the last century, had a fine sense of the central values at stake. We, living in easier times, might be tempted to forget them. We should never do so. For we would lose something precious, instead of building on it and sustaining it in an organisation which is at the same time, and without diminution of either element, an Australian Institute of Polish Affairs.

One of the central aspects of our former Presidents' activities, and indeed of the activity of AIPA as a whole, has been its largeness of sympathies and its commitment to mutual regard and tolerance among different peoples. The particular issue to which that sensibility speaks most significantly among Poles is that of relations between Polish Catholics and Jews. However the issues raised there arise in many contexts and countries, as Australians will quickly recognise, if they think for a moment about controversies over multiculturalism wherever they occur. It is perhaps my greatest source of pride in the Institute that it has at all times, and as a matter of sustained policy, fought for openness, dialogue and mutual respect. For though these values have plenty of distinguished Christian and Jewish exemplars, sadly they are not, nor have they been, unchallenged in Poland or elsewhere.

My parents were Poles of Jewish origin. Both elements of their identity had deep significance in their lives. They caused them pride and they caused them pain. As their Australian son, I inherited their affinities without having to suffer their pain, but I have thought often about both. I am therefore delighted, indeed honoured, to be involved with an organisation which has seen affirmation of its loyalties to Polish culture as involving integrally, indeed centrally, the affirmation of the most civilised human values.

Because of its commitment to these values, the Institute has become not merely a beneficiary of Australian multiculturalism but a model of what, at its best, that complex achievement can be. That gives a depth and significance to the juxtaposition of the two nationalities in our title, Polish and Australian, which might otherwise seem simply to be a fortuitous product of historical dislocation on the one side, and a need for immigrants on the other. In fact the multicultural development of Australia has amounted to something altogether grander than the historical accidents which called it forth. AIPA is a fine example, and a fitting symbol, of that grand achievement.

Prof. Martin Krygier (President 1997 –2001)



## CHRONICLE of AIPA

The idea of establishing the Australian Institute of Polish Affairs (AIPA) emerged soon after the historic transformation of Poland in 1989. It became apparent that this new situation demanded of the Polish diaspora in Australia both a refocussing of its political goals and a restructuring of its activities. The traditional role of the Polish diaspora, to strive for Poland's independence, naturally came to an end. Many Polish migrants felt that in those changed circumstances the primary responsibilities of the emigre community should be the promotion of a new Poland.



MEETING OF AIPA MEMBERS. TOP ROW (L to R): KATARZYNA WROBEL, MALGORZATA WARZEL, MARYSIA LUBKOWSKA, ANDRZEJ EHRENKREUTZ, BARBARA ZAGALA, WOJCIECH ZAGALA, DOROTA KRAJKA-JONES, JACEK OLSZANKA. BOTTOM (L to R): ADAM WARZEL, MIECZYSLAW NADWORNYY, HALINA ZANDLER, STEFAN EHRENKREUTZ, JANUSZ ZANDLER.

### 1991

- The foundation meeting of the Australian Institute of Polish Affairs (3 August, 1991). Attended by: Blandyna and Andrzej Ehrenkreutz, Jan Hempel, Marian Juszczuk, Piotr Koziell, Jacek Olszanka, Barbara Schenkel, Henryk Sikora, Adam Warzel, Barbara and Wojciech Zagalowie, Halina and Janusz Zandlerowie.

The original statement of goals adopted by the initiators of the Institute included:

- (a) promotion of knowledge about Poland in Australia and fostering the development of Polish–Australian relations,
  - (b) monitoring and collection of information on Poland and Polish–Australian affairs,
  - (c) organisation of lectures and conferences,
  - (d) taking a public stand on matters concerning Poland and Polish–Australian affairs,
  - (e) liaison with academic, political, commercial and cultural organisations.
- The first Executive Committee of AIPA was elected on 27 October.
- Over the period of four weeks, in September 1991, the Constitution Sub-Committee comprising Peter Koziell, Wojciech Zagala and Adam Warzel, developed AIPA's Statutory Rules which were formally adopted by AIPA's first Executive Committee.

- Visit of the prominent Polish journalist and lobbyist, Jan Nowak-Jezioranski (11 –22 November, 1991).

Jan Nowak is known to millions of listeners in Poland and other Soviet Bloc countries as the former director of the Polish Broadcasting Service of Radio Free Europe in Munich, a post in which he served for twenty-five years. In 1976, Mr Nowak moved to Washington DC and has since gained prominence as an expert on Soviet and Soviet bloc affairs, as well as on German-Polish relations. He was a consultant to the US government's National Security Council. His political analysis and comment have appeared in *The Washington Post*, *East Europe*, *Problems of Communism*, *The Spectator*, *Kultura* and other English, French and Polish publications.

During the Second World War, Mr Nowak made secret journeys from Warsaw to London through German-occupied Europe as a courier of the Polish government-in-exile. There he met Churchill, Eden and other members of the War cabinet and witnessed the development of policies which abandoned Central Europe to Soviet Russia. He is a recipient of Poland's highest awards.



VISIT OF JAN NOWAK-JEZIORANSKI  
(L- R) JAN NOWAK-JEZIORANSKI, ANDRZEJ EHRENKREUTZ AND  
THE EDITOR OF THE AUSTRALIAN JEWISH NEWS, SAM LIPSKI

The program of Jan Nowak's visit comprised meetings with the mainstream media, political leaders and academic institutions as well as meetings with the Jewish and Polish communities. Interviews with him appeared in most of the major dailies including *The Age*, *The Australian* and *The Sydney Morning Herald* as well as ABC Radio and SBS TV. Jan Nowak also addressed the National Press Club, The Sydney Club and the special dinner organised by *Quadrant* magazine. During his addresses Jan Nowak outlined the situation in Poland and in other countries of Eastern and Central Europe. Meetings were also organised with Jan Nowak by the Centre for Soviet and East European Studies at Melbourne University and by the Polish Section of Macquarie University.

An important part of the visit was meetings with Australian politicians, senior bureaucrats and diplomats in Canberra.

- The Canberra Chapter of AIPA was formed with Dr Ozdowski as its convenor (5 December, 1991).
- A letter from Prof. Zubrzycki to Mr M. Moravski, the President of the Federation of Ukrainian Organisations in Australia, following proclamation of the independence of Ukraine. "Only free and independent Ukraine is able to bring prosperity for its citizens and work for peace and security of the European nations" – was the main message of the letter. The letter was published in *"The Australian"* (6 December, 1991).
- A protest letter from Prof. J. Zubrzycki to Mr Brian Jones, Director of the SBS TV and Radio stations, following a statement in the station's news program, describing the Nazi extermination camp in Treblinka as the "Polish Death Camp" (29 December, 1991).

## 1992

- An article by J. Nowak – Jezioranski "Poland at the Turning Point" was published in Quadrant (March 1992).
- A meeting with the Polish Australian community by the visiting Polish Minister of Defence and former Solidarity activist, Janusz Onyszkiewicz (29 March, 1992).
- Visit of Adam Michnik and Helena Luczywo (27 April – 9 May, 1992).

Adam Michnik is one of Europe's most prominent intellectuals, journalists and human rights activists. He is the Editor-in-Chief of Poland's biggest and Eastern Europe's first independent newspaper, *Gazeta Wyborcza*.

In 1968 he was the leader of a student revolt, and in 1976 he was the co-founder of KOR (Committee for the Defence of the Workers), the human rights organisation which evolved into *Solidarnosc*. For his pro-democratic activities he spent 6 years in prison. In 1989 he was elected to the Polish Parliament in Eastern Europe's first semi-democratic election.

Adam Michnik has received honorary doctorates from The New School for Social Research in New York, the University of Minnesota and the University of Michigan. He has been awarded the R. F. Kennedy Human Rights Award, The French Pen Club Freedom Award and the Shofar Award.

Helena Luczywo is one of Poland's most prominent and successful newspaper editors. She was instrumental in establishing *Gazeta Wyborcza*, the biggest daily in post-communist Central Europe. During the 80s she was the editor of one of *Solidarity's* most influential underground publications *Tygodnik Mazowsze*.

The visit of Adam Michnik and Helena Luczywo included public lectures on Central Europe at Melbourne University, Australian National University, and the Sydney Institute as well as at the dinner organised by *Quadrant* magazine.

The visit also included meetings with Jewish community leaders, the Australian Jewish community in Melbourne, Sydney and Canberra. A meeting with Ukrainian community leaders was held in Melbourne.

During the visit Adam Michnik was interviewed by *The Age*, SBS TV Program "Face to face". Helena Luczywo was interviewed by SBS's "Dateline" program.

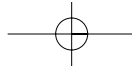
Adam Michnik and Helena Luczywo met also with Australia's business community leaders.

- A function hosted by AIPA for the Polish Parliamentary Delegation headed by the Marshal of the Sejm, Prof. W. Chrzanowski. Among Polish parliamentarians was Aleksander Kwasniewski, future President of Poland (25 May, 1992).



VISIT OF ADAM MICHNIK IN 1992  
(L- R): A SENIOR TRADE UNION OFFICIAL AND ONE OF THE MOST PROMINENT SUPPORTERS OF *SOLIDARNOSC*, JIM MAHER WITH ADAM MICHNIK





- The Vice-President of AIPA, Adam Warzel, was a guest speaker at the Ukrainian Congress held in Melbourne (6 June, 1992).
- The screening of the film in the Holocaust Centre depicting the activity of the Committee for Helping Jews "Zegota" during the German occupation of Poland (23 August 1992).
- A conference titled "The Demise of Communism: The Role of the Diasporas" was organised by AIPA and held at La Trobe University. Paul Kabaila and Mr. Gabriel Zemkalis spoke on the Lithuanian case; Prof. Michael Lawriwsky and Dr. Marko Pawlyshyn discussed the Ukrainian case. Polish presenters included Dr. Jan Pakulski and Prof. A.S.Ehrenkreutz. Mr. Adam Warzel presided over the Ukrainian segment of the conference (5 September 1992).
- Mrs. Maria Kabala represented AIPA at the World Convention of the Polonia delegations held at Krakow on 19-23 August 1992. Mrs. Kabala's article on the subject was published in the November issue of the Kurier Zachodni (11 September 1992).

## 1993

- Visit of Prof. Wladyslaw Bartoszewski (15 March – 4 April, 1993).

One of Poland's leading historians of the Holocaust. During the Second World War, W. Bartoszewski was one of the principal organisers of the clandestine Polish organisation "Zegota", which saved thousands of Jews from Nazi persecution.

In 1963, the Yad Vashem Institute in Jerusalem accorded him the recognition "Righteous among the Nations". He also holds an Honorary Citizenship of the State of Israel. Prof. Bartoszewski is a survivor of Auschwitz. In 1944, he took part in the Warsaw uprising as a soldier of the Polish Home Army (AK).

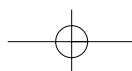
For his uncompromising stance on human rights, he spent a total of seven years in Communist prisons. He was an organiser of the pro-democratic "Flying University" (1977) which ran courses on subjects banned by Poland's Communist authorities. He has been an active member of Solidarity.

In the period 1995-2001 Prof. Bartoszewski was twice Poland's Foreign Minister and also served as the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to Austria.

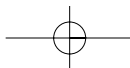
During his visit to Australia, Prof. Bartoszewski delivered public lectures at Melbourne & Monash Universities and at the Jewish Holocaust Museum, gave interviews for the "Australian Jewish News", The Age, had meetings with the Lord Mayor of the City of Melbourne, Robert Manne, the then editor of Quadrant, and Isi Leibler, then Co-chairman of World Jewish Congress.

- Visit of Prof. Leszek Balcerowicz (18 April – 1 May, 1993).

Prof. Leszek Balcerowicz is best known as the principal architect of the Polish economy's "Big Bang" radical stabilisation and transformation program, over which, during 1989-1992, he presided as Deputy Prime Minister







in Poland's first two non-Communist governments. During this time he chaired the Economic Committee of the Council of Ministers and led the Polish Government's negotiations with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. He again became Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance in the 1997-2000 coalition government. During 1995-2000 he was the leader of Freedom Union (UW) and in December 2000 became the President of the National Bank of Poland.

He is the author of numerous publications and has lectured extensively in Germany, Britain, Sweden, India, Hungary and the USA.



VISIT OF PROF. LESZEK BALCEROWICZ  
(L - R): COORDINATOR OF SBS POLISH RADIO 3EA, HALINA ZANDLER, DIRECTOR OF THE POLISH AIRLINES LOT IN AUSTRALIA, TADEUSZ WYRZYKOWSKI, PROF. BALCEROWICZ, JANUSZ ZANDLER, BARBARA ZAGALA

Prof. Balcerowicz's visit to Australia involved meetings in Canberra, Melbourne and Sydney, in addition to several public lectures. In Melbourne

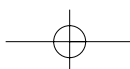
a lecture was organised by the Institute of Public Affairs, and he participated in a high level conference in Sydney. Prof. Balcerowicz gave lengthy interviews to SBS Radio and to Radio ABC 3LO and appeared on the national TV program "Face to Face" (5 May, 1993).

- A lecture: the Institute hosted Mr. J. Juszczyk, Canberra-based Australian diplomat, who gave a lecture entitled "Is Australia a part of Asia?" (7 August, 1993).
  - "The Bulletin" published Dr. Ehrenkreutz's letter to the editor concerning the use of the term "Polish concentration camps". A similar protest was lodged by Dr. Seweryn Ozdowski with the authorities of the ABC (14 September, 1993).
  - The First Biennial General Meeting of the Institute (2 October, 1993).
- Re-elected President Prof. J. Zubrzycki gave a talk "Czym jest dla mnie Polska" (What is Poland to me?).
- Visit of Prof. Jan Karski (29 October – 19 November, 1993).

Prof. Jan Karski is the Second World War hero who first informed the world of the extermination of six million Jews. Between 1939 and 1942, he made four secret missions to Poland as a courier between the Polish government-in-exile and the Polish underground. For his courageous role during the war, Dr. Karski has been awarded Israel's "Righteous Gentile Among Nations" award, Virtuti Militari and a United Nations citation.

Until his retirement Dr. Karski was a professor at Georgetown University.

Prof. Jan Karski visited Melbourne, Canberra and Sydney. He met with Australian VIPs, university professors, gave public lectures and numerous radio and press interviews. On 7 November he was given an award by the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League for his role during the Second World War.



## 1994

- Visit of Dr. Hanna Suchocka (13-25 March, 1994).

Dr Hanna Suchocka was the Prime Minister of Poland in 1992-93.

A member of the Freedom Union, she is an eminent constitutional lawyer specialising in human rights. She has had considerable involvement in the process of European integration. Prior to becoming Prime Minister, she was deputy chair of the Council of Europe's Parliament. Between 1997 and 2000 she was Poland's Attorney General.

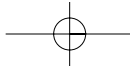
The purpose of Dr. Suchocka's visit was to inform Australia's political and business leaders as well as academic experts about the progress in reforming post-communist Europe and about prospects for European integration.

She travelled to Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra. The numerous academic lectures ( the University of New South Wales, Macquarie University, the University of Melbourne, Australian National University ), the appearance at the National Press Club and Federal Parliament , the meetings with over 34 foreign ambassadors at a reception in the Embassy of the Republic of Poland; with the Vice-Chancellors of the University of NSW and of the University of Melbourne; with Australian business figures (at a special seminar in Sydney, or at private visits with high level representatives of BHP, Western Mining Corporation and Telstra) and with Polish ethnic communities; and finally, her radio and TV and newspaper interviews including a speech at a reception sponsored by Quadrant magazine). All this generated a great deal of publicity.



VISIT OF HANNA SUCHOCKA  
(L- R): MEMBER OF AIPA BOARD OF TRUSTEES,  
DR JAN HEMPEL, HANNA SUCHOCKA

- Mr. Mieczyslaw Nadworny, representing AIPA and the Federation of Polish Jews, delivered a speech in the Israeli Embassy in Washington at the ceremony awarding honorary Israeli citizenship to Prof. Jan Karski (12 May, 1994).
- In an interview given to Mr. E. Bajkowski, Senator Gareth Evans, Minister for Foreign Affairs, stated that the Australian Institute of Polish Affairs and the Australia Poland Business Council "are playing a significant role in promoting closer bilateral relations in their respective fields. I encourage them to continue their good work which is clearly of benefit to both countries." (1 July, 1994).
- The Canberra Times published a letter by Prof. J. Zubrzycki under the title "The Poles not to blame for Holocaust" (9 July, 1994).
- 50th Anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising. AIPA's contributions:  
Prof. J. Zubrzycki and Mr. A. Warzel released lengthy statements about the Second Warsaw Uprising (1944) to Australian news media. In consequence, on 30 July The Canberra Times published two lengthy articles by



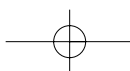
F. Cranston: "The agony of Warsaw", and "A lonely, gallant stand that lasted 63 days." Prof. Zubrzycki cooperated with the staff of The Australian which published an editorial and three articles, including his "Poland relives history of struggle" (1 August, 1994). This coverage elicited a letter by James Coulter, printed on 6 August by The Australian under the title "A lesson". In Melbourne, Mr. P. Koziell furnished similar data to The Sunday Herald Sun, inspiring an article "The heroes of Warsaw" (31 July, 1994). On 29 August, Prof. A. Ehrenkreutz gave an interview to ABC Radio 3LO. On 30 August, Mr. P. Koziell gave an interview to Radio 3EA (SBS) in Melbourne. On 1 August, Prof. J. Zubrzycki was interviewed by ABC Radio National. The Institute sponsored the participation of Capt. Alan McIntosh, RAN (Rtd, Canberra) as the guest of honour at the Warsaw Luncheon co-organised by the Institute (Mr. P. Koziell) and the RAAF Association, Victoria Division. Capt. McIntosh as a flight lieutenant was the navigator of the Liberator bomber that dropped supplies for the fighting in Warsaw. Mr. Con Sciacca, the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, briefly addressed the gathering. SBS TV station screened fragments of the speeches in its evening news.

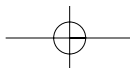
On 13 August, The Canberra Times printed another article by Prof. Zubrzycki "Australians over Fighting Warsaw, 1994", as well as Norman Abjorsen's "The poet of the uprising", (about Zbigniew Jasinski), on the basis of materials supplied by Prof. Zubrzycki. In the same issue Abjorensen published "Poland honours men who flew into hell", containing recollections of flying officer Gordon Spence (Canberra), the rear gunner on the Liberator which flew three supply missions to Warsaw.

- Mrs. B. Schenkel represented AIPA at the seminar "The Allies and the Holocaust" organised in Melbourne by the Australian Institute of Jewish Affairs. She strongly criticised the expression "Polish concentration camps" (31 July, 1994).
- A telephone protest by Dr. S Ehrenkreutz, followed by a critical letter sent by Mr. A. Warzel to ABC National Radio, because of the use of the expression "Treblinka - the infamous Polish death camp" in the "PM" program on 19.08.94 (21 August, 1994).
- Visit of Prof. Daniel Grinberg (19 September – 9 October, 1994).

Visit of Prof. Daniel Grinberg, a director of the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw, was co-sponsored by AIPA and the Federation of Polish Jews. It involved a number of lectures and meetings at the University of Melbourne, Monash University and the Australian National University, as well as three public appearances in Melbourne and Canberra. A lengthy interview with him appeared in the Australian Jewish News. Another was broadcast in Polish by radio SBS 3EA.

- The Melbourne members of AIPA hosted Ambassador Thwaites and held a public meeting (4 October, 1994)
- The Melbourne members of AIPA hosted His Eminence Cardinal Gulbinowicz from Wroclaw (25 November, 1994).
- Dr. Janina Frentzel-Zagorska presented a public lecture on the political situation in Poland (26 November 1994).





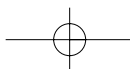
## 1995

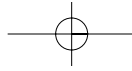
- The Australian printed A. Warzel's letter to the editor, supporting Poland's admission to NATO (2 January, 1995)
- AIPA's members in Melbourne hosted a meeting with the noted writer and historian, Adam Zamoyski. The meeting was also attended by Prof. Andrzej Rottermund, curator of the Art Collection of the Royal Castle in Warsaw, and Dr Agnieszka Morawinska, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland (12 January, 1995).
- The Institute donated \$500 to the Centre of Polish Studies at Monash University to serve as seed money for the development of a basic reference library.
- AIPA issued a press release concerning Sophie Caplan's article, "Betrayed by neighbours" (The Australian, 24.01.95) in which she blamed Poles for participation in the Holocaust (26 January, 1995).
- AIPA translated and disseminated the declaration by the Polish Episcopate on the subject of Auschwitz (Oswiecim). The copy was sent to The Australian Jewish News" and was published on 10.02.95 (30 January, 1995).
- Mr. Wojciech Poplawski's paper on the "Attitude of Poles towards Jews in 1994" was sent to the prominent members of Melbourne's Jewish community (9 February, 1995).
- Time Australia published Dr Poplawski's letter commending its editorial on two recent reports: "Return to Auschwitz" and "A Jewish Reawakening". Mr. Poplawski dispatched a strong letter of protest against the use of the expression "the Polish Holocaust" which appeared in the same issue of Time Australia (6 March, 1995).
- Prof. Zubrzycki co-chaired a round table discussion on the subject of "Polish-Ukrainian relations today and in the future", co-sponsored by AIPA and the Ukrainian Studies Association of Australia. He and Prof. J. Pakulski served as principal participants (13 May, 1995).
- AIPA lodged a complaint with Radio SBS about the recitation of an Yiddish poem whose content was perceived by some listeners as being explicitly anti-Polish (21 May, 1995).
- Visit of Dr. Jan Krzysztof Bielecki (19 – 30 July 1995).

Dr. J.K.Bielecki was Prime Minister of Poland in 1991, a Chief Delegate of the Polish Parliament to the European Parliament in 1991-92 and in 1993 was appointed to the Board of Directors of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, based in London.

Dr. Bielecki presented a number of lectures in English and Polish in Perth, Adelaide and Melbourne. (The University of Melbourne; Monash University; The Institute of Public Affairs; The Australia-Poland Business Council); in Canberra (The Australian National University; The National Press Club), and Sydney (The University of Sydney; The Australian Poland Business Council; The Chamber of Manufacturers; the Polish Community).

An interview with Dr. Bielecki was shown on "Dateline" (SBS TV). SBS Radio 3EA broadcast two other interviews, in Polish and in English and the National ABC Radio program "The Europeans" also interviewed him. The Age published a lengthy article (24/07/95) reporting on Mr. Bielecki's lecture at Monash University (Melbourne). A lengthy article on Polish economy, inspired by Dr. Bielecki's lectures, was published by The Australian (28/07/95).

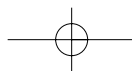




- The Australian printed Mr. A. Warzel's letter, under the title "No Shortcuts", protesting against the appearance in that paper of the expression "Nazi Poland" (1 August, 1995).
- The Second Biennial General Meeting (14 October, 1995).
- As a result of Mr Henryk Sikora's conceptual and organisational initiative The Australian Financial Review published an eight page long insert containing articles and advertisements about the economic situation and investment prospects in Poland (26 October, 1995).
- In the wake of the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Prof. Zubrzycki as Trustee of the Institute signed the book of condolence in the Embassy of Israel in Canberra. Prof. A. Ehrenkreutz sent a message of condolence to Mr Isi Leibler, President of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry (6 November, 1995).
- An interview with A. Ehrenkreutz, entitled "Kraj pozbawiony snobizmu", appeared in the New York Nowy Dziennik (29 November, 1995).

## 1996

- AIPA representatives met with Ms Sawsan Madina, Head of SBS Television who gave the undertaking that the notorious wording "Polish Concentration camps" would not be used in any future screenings (9 February, 1996).
  - A lecture by Dr J. Frentzel-Zagorska on "Post-Communist Democracy and the Polish Cauldron", with a commentary by Prof. Leslie T. Holmes of Melbourne University (16 March, 1996).
  - Dr S. Ozdowski was interviewed for Polish National TV (2 March, 1996).
  - Mr E. Bajkowski became an interim successor of Dr. S. Ozdowski in Canberra (25 March, 1996).
  - As result of Mr Warzel's correspondence with Encyclopaedia Britannica concerning a proper inclusion of Jan Karski's biography in that prestigious publication, the following answer was received from the Britannica Centre in Chicago: "Dear Mr. Warzel: "We agree that Dr. Karski merits consideration for biographical coverage. We have thus suggested to the editors that an entry on him be added to the new Britannica Online, if not also Encyclopaedia Britannica (the print set)".
- Prof. Jan Karski's letter, dated 18 May, contained some moving lines quoted herein in their original Polish version: "...Inicjatywa dotyczaca Encyclopaedia Britannica wzruszyła mnie do lez i oslodzila moja smutna starosc. To takie piekne uczucie dowiadywac sie, ze gdzieś za morzami i gorami sa ludzie zyczliwi, dobrzy i bezinteresowni ... Pamietam moja wizyte w Australii i Was wszystkich czule, wdziecznie I serdecznie pozdrawiam"
- (18 April, 1996).
- Mr. A. Warzel protested at the appearance in The Australian (18 May ) of the expression "Polish death camps" (12 June, 1996).



- A banquet, honouring the fifth anniversary of the inception of the Institute, was held in Melbourne. It attracted about 130 guests. Ambassador Dr. Agnieszka Morawinska and the State Director of The Department of Foreign Affairs (Melbourne Office), Mr. Alan Brown, were the principal speakers. Special messages were received from Prime Minister John Howard and the Premier of Victoria, Mr. Jeff Kennett (9 November, 1996).
- A banquet to honour AIPA's Fifth Anniversary took place in Sydney.  
It attracted 124 guests. A keynote address was delivered by the former Prime Minister, Gough Whitlam. Among the guests were Ambassador A. Morawinska.
- Establishment of the AIPA Media Prize. The first prize to be awarded in 1997 to the author of a literary work or article of merit published in the mainstream media in the forthcoming year on the subject of Poland (November 1996).
- Nowy Dziennik (New York) published an article by B. Zongolowicz, entitled "Pieciolecie Australijskiego Instytutu Spraw Polskich" (Five Years of the Australian Institute of Polish Affairs) (20 November, 1996).
- The Sydney group of AIPA elected a new internal governing board:  
Prof. Martin Krygier, Chairperson, Mr Jerzy Boniecki, Vice chairperson, Mr Christopher Nowacki, Secretary and Mr Marek Burdajewicz, Treasurer (15 December, 1996).

## 1997

- AIPA's members sent letters to the Geographical Names Board supporting. The correction of the spelling of Mount Kosciuszko (4 January, 1997).
- AIPA organised a public meeting in Melbourne with the Australian Ambassador to Poland, Jonathan Thwaites (3 March, 1997).
- The Melbourne members of AIPA's Executive Board hosted Professor Wojciech Roszkowski, director of the Institute of Political Studies at the Polish Academy of Sciences and Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the Warsaw School of Economics (12 March 1997).
- AIPA co-sponsored a visit (14-24 March, 1997) of two journalists from Poland Mr. Bernard Margueritte (French correspondent in Poland) and Mr Jan Pieklo from Cracow, who attended the International Communications Forum in Sydney.  
  
They also travelled to Canberra to meet federal parliamentarians, government representatives and senior Commonwealth officials. On 24/3 both visitors spoke at a public meeting in Melbourne and on the following day they spoke at Monash University. They were interviewed by the ABC (24/3) for a future program in the series "The Europeans", and on SBS (Polish radio program, 24/3).
- The Australian Jewish News published a letter by Mr Andrzej Gawronski concerning defamatory remarks about the Polish Underground Army (AK) contained in A. Biderman's book "The World of My Past" (21 March, 1997).

- The Australian Jewish News published a letter from A. S. Ehrenkreutz in response to an anti-Polish letter from one of its readers (17 April, 1997).
- A farewell banquet was organised by the Institute in Melbourne in honour of Ambassador Agnieszka Morawinska (3 May, 1997).
- The Sydney AIPA members organised a farewell reception in honour of Ambassador Agnieszka Morawinska (13 June, 1997).
- In relation to devastating floods in Poland, AIPA sent a letter to Prime Minister John Howard concerning aid for Poland. Copies were faxed over to Ministers A. Downer, A. Fischer, and to Ambassador J. Thwaites (25 July, 1997).
- The launch of Lech Paszkowski's book "Sir Paul Edmund De Strzelecki -Reflections on His Life". The keynote address was given by the Hon. Philip Ruddock, the Federal Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, who launched the book. Other speakers included Ms Susan Davies, Member of the Victorian Parliament, Mr Przemyslaw Jenke, Consul of the Polish Republic, Professors Jerzy Zubrzycki and A. S. Ehrenkreutz. The Institute contributed \$2,000 towards the costs of publication (21 August, 1997).
- M. Zijlstra interviewed Mr Adam Warzel on the ABC Radio National program "The Europeans" in relation to the forthcoming Polish parliamentary elections (14 September, 1997).
- The Third Biennial Meeting (4 October, 1997).
- Adam Michnik's second visit to Australia (10-19 November, 1997).

Adam Michnik was interviewed by SBS Radio and ABC Radio National "The Europeans ", had lunch with the editors of The Age and with AIPA members.

He presented lectures at the University of Sydney on "Central Europe 8 Years After The Fall Of Communism"; at the Polish Club, Ashfield, on "Poland After the Elections"; at Shalom College a lecture on "Civil Society v. Ethnic Nationalism In Central Europe" ; at Kadima Hall in Melbourne on "The Post-Holocaust Polish Jewry" and at Monash University a lecture for Polish audience, entitled "Osiem lat Polskiej Demokracji" (Eight Years of Polish Democracy).

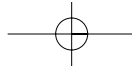
- AIPA's trustee P. Koziell and Treasurer A. Ehrenkreutz represented the Institute at the launch of the National Multicultural Advisory Council's Issues Paper.

"Multicultural Australia - The Way Forward"  
(11 December, 1997).



PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE THE HON. MARGARET REID PRESENTING A LECTURE AT THE THIRD BIENNIAL GENERAL MEETING OF AIPA, 1997. BEHIND HER JOHN WILLIAMS



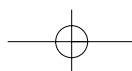


## 1998

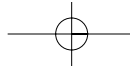
- The first annual AIPA Prize was awarded to Ms Maria Zijlstra of ABC Radio National, for her programs "Poland in September", broadcast nationally on four consecutive Sundays and Tuesdays (Melbourne, 2 February, 1998).
- AIPA became an Incorporated Body (18 March, 1998).
- The Sydney AIPA group approached a number of prominent Australian financial and commercial companies, seeking assistance with funds, clothing and food for the victims of flood in Poland.
- Prof. Martin Krygier sent a letter to the Editor of Time magazine, protesting against the expression "a Polish concentration camp" which appeared in the March 16 issue of that magazine (30 March, 1998).
- Victorian members of AIPA met with Mr. Maciej Kozlowski, Undersecretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland (4 June, 1998).
- The Victorian members of AIPA's executive committee met with Ms. Margaret Adamson, the new Australian Ambassador to Poland (5 June, 1998).
- An international panel discussion on "Poland after Communism: the first decade of democratic consolidation", organised by the Institute in Melbourne in conjunction with the AACPCS/ANZA International Conference on Communist and Post-Communist Societies (10 July, 1998).
- A public panel discussion on "Polska po komunizmie - Pierwsza dekada reform", organised by AIPA in Sydney, with the participation of two professors from the University of Warsaw: Piotr Winczorek and Miroslaw Wyrzykowski, and Prof. Wojciech Sadurski (University of Sydney) (12 July, 1998).
- Mr. A. Warzel represented AIPA at the Annual Sir Zelman Cowen Oration organised by B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation Commission (19 July, 1998).
- A Polish language daily in New York, Nowy Dziennik, printed an article on "Instytut Spraw Polskich w Australii" based on A Ehrenkreutz's lecture (25 September, 1998).
- Visit Of Dr Janusz Lewandowski (22 November– 1 December 1998).

Dr Janusz Lewandowski is one of Poland's most prominent privatisation experts. He was Minister for Privatisation in two Solidarity-led cabinets and is currently a deputy chairman of the Parliamentary Committee for State Treasury and Privatisation.

The visit included meetings with the Polish community, the presentation of the Richard Krygier Lecture organised by Quadrant, meeting with the head of Energy Privatisation Unit, Victorian Department of Finance. He was also interviewed "The Europeans", ABC Radio National and The Age. He also met with the head of CSL Bioplasma, a major investor in Poland as well as with academics.







In Canberra Dr. Lewandowski met politicians and the chief adviser on privatisation to the Minister of Finance. In Sydney he met a major investor in Poland and also addressed a meeting at the Economic Society of Australia attended by public servants from NSW Treasury Department and was interviewed on SBS Polish Radio. He spoke at a public meeting at the Polish Consulate and at the Centre for Independent Studies.

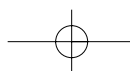
- Annual General Meeting of AIPA held at Armagh, Melbourne (22 November, 1997).
- Volume XXIII of Pamietnik Literacki (London 1998) published a short article by Prof. A. Ehrenkreutz, entitled "Australijski Instytut Spraw Polskich" (23 November, 1998).
- The Australian printed a protest letter from A. Ehrenkreutz regarding the use of the expression "The Polish concentration camps" (2 December, 1998).



DURING HIS VISIT IN AUSTRALIA IN 1998, JANUSZ LEWANDOWSKI WAS INTERVIEWED BY MARIA ZIJLSTRA FROM ABC RADIO NATIONAL

## 1999

- Public meeting with the British historian, Prof. Norman Davies, in Melbourne (21 February 1999) and Sydney (20 March, 1999).
- Visit of Mr. Henryk Grynberg, a distinguished Polish/Jewish/American writer (24 April – 6 May 1999).  
Henryk Grynberg is a well known writer, poet and journalist, member of the Polish Writers Association and American PenClub. He is a laureate of many literary awards. His books often raise Polish-Jewish themes.  
Mr Henryk Grynberg's visit to Australia was sponsored jointly by AIPA and the Federation of Polish Jews (Victorian Branch). During his visit Henryk Grynberg met with the Polish and Jewish communities.
- Quadrant monthly (April 1999, pp. 23-27) published J.Lewandowski's article "Privatising the Communist State" based on the contents of his speech delivered in Melbourne as the annual Krygier Lecture.
- AIPA organised a public lecture in Polish by Prof. J. Pakulski on "Dekada przemian demokratycznych w Polsce (W dziesięć lat po rewolucji)" (5 June, 1999).
- Prof. Ehrenkreutz delivered an address in the Polish Senate at the unveiling of a memorial plaque honouring the inter-war senators who perished during WW II. He was invited to a ceremonial session of the Senate, held on the tenth anniversary of its revival (3 July, 1999).



- At a public meeting organised by AIPA in Melbourne, Ambassador Dr T. Szumowski presented a lecture entitled "Traktat Polsko-Angielski (1939) a wybuch Drugiej Wojny Swiatowej" (The Polish-British Treaty and the outbreak of the Second World War) (3 September, 1999).
- The Sydney members of AIPA organised a public meeting with Prof. J. Zubrzycki and the screening of a documentary film produced by Telewizja Polska, entitled "Marzenia o wolnosci i rownosci" (Dreams of Freedom and Equality) (11 September, 1999).
- Visit of Dr Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz (3 – 13 November 1999).

Dr Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz was a President of the National Bank of Poland (1992-2000). She won a prize awarded by the British economical magazine The Central European (1995 and 1998). The American financial monthly Global Finance said she was among the top performing governors of Central banks (1994, 1997, 1998). In 1999 she was given the European Banker of the Year award by Group 20+1.

Public lectures were delivered at the Institute of Public Affairs (Melbourne), the University of Melbourne, the Economic Society (Sydney, mini-symposium), the University of New South Wales. There were numerous contacts with public figures including the Governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia, the Secretary of the Ministry of Finances and Administration and a meeting with the NSW Treasurer as well as a visit to the National Mint.

Interviews : by the Polish language program of SBS Radio 3EA; and by M. Zijlstra, ABC Radio National "The Europeans" and extensive coverage of the meeting with Polonia by the Polish language program of SBS Radio 2EA.

- A message, from Dr H. Gronkiewicz-Waltz dated 19/11/99." Pragne serdecznie podziekowac za organizacje naszego pobytu w Australii. Dzieki temu mogliśmy lepiej poznac Australie, jej sytuacje gospodarcza oraz osiagniecia i problemy jej mieszkancow. Jestem przekonana, ze interesujace spotkania i rozmowy przyczynia sie do poglabienia dalszej wspolpracy. Uprzejmie prosze o przekazanie serdecznych podziekowan wszystkim, ktorzy brali udzial w przygotowaniu naszej wizyty w Melbourne, Sydney i Canberze".
- AIPA's Fourth Biennial General Meeting (6 November 1999).



MARTIN KRYGIER INTRODUCES HANNA GRONKIEWICZ-WALTZ AT THE PUBLIC MEETING WITH THE POLISH COMMUNITY

## 2000

- Visit of Dr Czeslaw Bielecki (8 –21 March 2000).

Dr Czeslaw Bielecki is the chairman of the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee. In the 80s he was a well known opposition figure and ran an important clandestine publishing house, CDN. Dr Bielecki is also one of Poland's most prominent architects.

The program involved meetings and public lectures concerning the political and economic situation of Poland and Central-Eastern Europe as well as architecture and urban development. While in Melbourne, Dr Bielecki delivered public lectures at Monash and Melbourne Universities, and the Royal Institute of Architects; in Sydney at the University of Sydney and the University of New South Wales as well as at Australian Institute of Architecture.

In Canberra he met with Alexander Downer, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and with a number of parliamentarians and senators as well as senior government officials. There was also a dinner reception hosted by Ambassador T. Szumowski and his spouse at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland. It was attended by some 30 prominent guests, including Ambassador of Israel and former deputy-prime minister Tim Fisher. A dinner was also hosted by the Consul General of the Republic of Poland, Mr W. Osuchowski and a luncheon hosted by POLCUL Foundation.



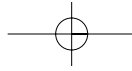
VISIT OF CZESLAW BIELECKI  
(L- R): MRS BIELECKI, MAREK BURDAJEWICZ, CZESLAW BIELECKI

A dinner was also hosted by the Consul General of the Republic of Poland, Mr W. Osuchowski and a luncheon hosted by POLCUL Foundation.

- Prof. Ehrenkreutz was one of the speakers at the launch of the book "Caged", by the late member of the Institute, David Janek Landau (6 April 2000).
- On ANZAC Day Vice President Adam Warzel represented the Institute at the wreath-laying ceremony by the Australian Ambassador at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Warsaw (25 April 2000).
- Visit of Rev. Dr Stanislaw Obirek, S.J. (15 – 30 May 2000).

Dr Stanislaw Obirek S.J is the Director of the Centre for Culture and Dialogue in Cracow. One of his main interests is developing Christian-Jewish dialogue. He was an active participant in the first Holocaust Conference in Stockholm in 1999. Between 1994 and 1998 he was the rector of Cracow's Jesuit Seminary.

Public lectures: In Sydney: Shalom College, the University of New South Wales, Technical University, the Jewish Museum, St. Aloysius College, the National Jewish Centre. In Melbourne: the Jesuit Theological College, the Holocaust Centre.



Contacts with public figures: the Australian National University (Canberra), the National Jewish Centre: a meeting with members of the Jewish community and the Jewish-Christian Dialogue Group; the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Parliament House: A meeting with some members of the Legislative Assembly and of the Legislative Council, a meeting with members of the Jewish Council of Australia.

Interviews: The Australian, Radio SBS 2EA, The Catholic Voice, interview by ABC Radio National (broadcast on 9 June), press articles: The Canberra Times; The Australian Jewish News.

- Ambassador Margaret Adamson met with Prof. M. Krygier and Mr J. Boniecki in Sydney (5 June, 2000).
- Ambassador Margaret Adamson met with AIPA's members in Melbourne (15 June, 2000).
- The following message was received from Prof. Leslie Holmes, Director of the Contemporary Europe Research Centre, the University of Melbourne (27 June 2000): "I am writing to thank you for your most valuable assistance regarding Dr. Bielecki's seminar earlier this year. Once again, the seminar was extremely successful, and I want you to know just how grateful we are for your contribution to this success. I look forward to continued close and fruitful cooperation with your Institute. We thank you for your ongoing support of CERC."
- Visit of Timothy Garton Ash (20-29 August, 2000).

Timothy Garton Ash, one of the most distinguished specialists on Central European affairs, is a writer and Senior Research Fellow of St. Antony's College, Oxford. He is the author of "The File", "In Europe's Name" and three volumes of "History of the Present". Throughout the 1980 and 1990, he reported and analysed emancipation of Central Europe from Communism in contributions to the New York Review of Books, The Independent, The Times and The Spectator.

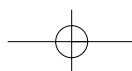
Timothy Garton Ash's visit was co-sponsored by The Age and The Goethe Institute. Timothy Garton Ash was a guest of the Melbourne's Writers' Festival.

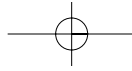


VISIT OF TIMOTHY GARTON ASH  
(L - R): ANDRZEJ EHRENKREUTZ, MIECZYSLAW NADWORNYY, JOHN WILLIAMS,  
TIMOTHY GARTON ASH, REPRESENTATIVE OF QUADRANT MONTHLY, ADAM WARZEL

During his visit to Australia, which included Sydney and Melbourne, Timothy Garton Ash gave a number of public lectures and in Sydney participated in a panel discussion chaired by Prof. M. Krygier.

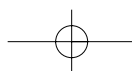
- On the 20th anniversary of the establishment of Solidarnosc, ABC TV program "Late night Live" presented a lengthy interview with AIPA President, Prof. Martin Krygier.
- The Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs honoured Prof. Jerzy Zubrzycki with a diploma of distinction for his outstanding services in the promotion of Poland in 1998-99 (25 August, 2000).
- The Annual General Meeting of AIPA was held in Sydney (7 October, 2000).





## 2001

- The President of AIPA, Prof. Krygier, sent a letter to the President of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, Nina Bassat, in relation to the massacre of the Jewish population in the Polish town of Jedwabne in 1941. In his letter, the President of AIPA wrote: "I hope that at this time of moral reflection on what happened in Jedwabne, Poles will show a solidarity of spirit with the victims, a solidarity which, in Jedwabne in July 1941, was so tragically absent. There are grounds for this hope. As Adam Michnik, a great Polish intellectual and a Jew, wrote recently in The New York Times (in an article published simultaneously in Poland in Gazeta Wyborcza): 'The Polish primate, the Polish president and the Rabbi of Warsaw said almost in one voice that a tribute to the Jedwabne victims should serve the cause of reconciling Poles and Jews in the truth. I desire nothing more.' I can say with confidence that this desire is fully shared by members and supporters of the Australian Institute of Polish Affairs."
- In response, the President of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, Nina Bassat wrote: "I greatly appreciate your reflections on what has for a long time been the vexed issue of Polish-Jewish relations. Coming to terms with the events in Poland during World War II is an imperative, for both Poles and Jews. It is only with an acceptance of the events and an understanding of not only how these events occurred but also as to what was their historic genesis that Jews and Poles will be able to form a basis for reconciliation."



## AIPA MEDIA PRIZE

In 1996 AIPA's Executive Committee established The AIPA Media Prize. In the statement issued by AIPA, the executive stated:

" The first AIPA Media Prize will be awarded in 1997 to the author of a literary work or article of merit published in the mainstream media in the forthcoming year on the subject of Poland. The Prize will be awarded to an original work that involves a compelling examination of aspects of Polish economics, politics, literature, social issues or any other topic concerning Poland. The winning work must be written in English, preferably but not exclusively by a professional, and published or widely distributed in Australia. The Prize will consist of a \$2000 cash grant and commemorative plaque and will be awarded on an annual basis."

Members of the selection panel:

the President of AIPA (ex officio)	Prof. John Bessemeres
Mr Andrzej Gawronski	Prof. Robert Manne
Mrs Wanda Szczygielska	Prof. Anna Wierzbicka
Mr Wojciech Zagala	Dr Lila Zarnowska
Prof. Jerzy Zubrzycki	Mr Edward Meysztowicz (panel's secretary)

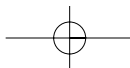


MEETING OF THE RECIPIENTS OF THE AIPA MEDIA PRIZE  
(L- R): MARIA ZIJLSTRA, AIPA PRESIDENT  
MARTIN KRYGIER AND ROBERT MANNE

## BIENNIAL AIPA LECTURES

Biennial AIPA Lectures are held to mark Biennial General Meetings of AIPA members.

- 1993 Dr. Nina Frentzel- Zagorska, a sociologist, presented a lecture in Polish language "Krajobraz po bitwie wyborczej" (Landscape after electoral war)
- 1995 Prof. Robert Manne , the then editor of Quadrant, Professor of Politics at La Trobe University and columnist for The Age. Considered one of Australia's foremost specialists in Central and Eastern European affairs, presented a lecture entitled: "Can Australians Understand Eastern Europe? Thoughts on the 50th Anniversary of War's End"
- 1997 Senator the Hon Margaret Reid, president of the Senate, presented a lecture on "Poland in Transition".
- 1999 Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz, President of the National Bank of Poland



## PRIME MINISTERS' MESSAGES FOR BIENNIAL GENERAL

From R J L Hawke, 11 November, 1991

"It is with great pleasure that I send my greetings to you today for the opening of the Australian Institute of Polish Affairs. I know what vision, determination and commitment would have been required of someone involved in order to establish such an organisation.

"Institutes such as yours play a significant role in our multicultural society, and in facilitating international understanding, and economic, intellectual and cultural links between individual countries.

"I am especially pleased by the creation of the Institute, because the Polish community in Australia is a particularly longstanding one, composed as it is of descendants of several waves of immigrants over more than a hundred years. Polish-Australians have always demonstrated a deep awareness of, and pride in, their cultural and historical inheritance, as well as commitment to their new country. They have contributed greatly to the development of Australia.

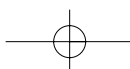
"Australia welcomes the changes that have taken place in Poland and elsewhere in Eastern Europe over the past year. For a long time, we watched with sympathy and hope the struggle of the Polish people to obtain basic rights and freedoms. The struggles and gains of the Solidarity movement heralded the irresistible momentum of change we have witnessed during the last two years.

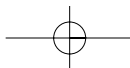
"Today Poland is still at the forefront of Eastern Europe's transition to modern democratic economic and political systems. The process of transforming the central command economies of Eastern Europe is irreversible, but it is by no means easy. Much remains to be achieved, and it will inevitably involve a degree of disruption and dislocation as the long process of implementing the social and economic reforms of the last few years continues.

"I am pleased that Australia has been able to assist in the reform process. The Group of 24 and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development are good examples of the benefits of international cooperation to assist structural transition. The Australian Program for Training in Eastern Europe, established in 1989, will enable a number of Poles to receive training in management which will assist the Polish nation in making the necessary transformations. Australia will continue to assist, to the extent possible, the process of reform in Poland.

"I look forward to the considerable contribution that the Australian Institute of Polish Affairs will be able to make in this connection, and in the whole field of Australian-Polish relations.

"May I congratulate the organisers of today's activities and send my very best wishes to you all as you celebrate and enjoy this special and significant occasion."





### From P J Keating, 2 October, 1993

"I would like to extend my best wishes to the Australian Institute of Polish Affairs on the occasion of its Biennial General Meeting. The Institute aims – to promote knowledge about Poland and foster Polish-Australian relations – are indeed worthy ones.

"The relationship between Poland and Australia is a warm but developing one. The Institute's work in promoting Polish – Australia ties - ties between the Asia Pacific region, the world's fastest- growing economic region, and the mature economies of Europe – is to be commended. I wish the Institute well in all its future endeavours."

### From PJ Keating, 14 October, 1995

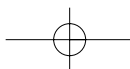
"Australia's relations with Poland are based on a solid store of goodwill and respect. A very important aspect of this relationship is the contribution to Australia's cultural and economic development, which has come from the approximately 150,000 people of Polish ancestry living in Australia. Many of these people are now participating in efforts to strengthen our knowledge of each other, through community organisations, business councils and institutes.

"The future of this relationship depends crucially on the capacity of people in both countries to understand and to respond creatively to the changes under way in Australia and Poland, and their respective regions. Australia's integration into Asia-Pacific region, the internationalisation of the Australian economy, and our commitment to cultural diversity present interesting new opportunities for cooperation with Poland.

"Australia recognises that Poland played a crucial role in the political and economic changes that swept Central and Eastern Europe, helping to end the Cold War. One of the most important processes has been Poland's transition towards a market economy. Australia has actively supported this, for instance by offering study places for management trainees from Poland. We are confident that the expansion of the Polish economy will lead to new opportunities to increase trade and investment.

"The future of our relations with Poland - including our business links - will depend on us being well informed about the economic, political and cultural changes taking place there. This is a task for governments and for the community. I welcome the contribution of the Australian Institute of Polish Affairs to this understanding, and their commitment to fostering Australian-Polish relations.

"I wish the members of the Australian Institute of Polish Affairs every success in their biennial general meeting and their forthcoming activities."





### From John Howard, 4 October, 1997

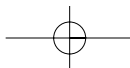
"Australia has a long tradition of involvement with Poland especially through many thousands of Polish people who have settled here. We value the great contribution of people of Polish descent to the building of our Australian nation and to our diverse and tolerant society.

"These personal links underpin Australia's good relations with Poland. The Government is committed to strengthening the relationship and values the contribution made by the Australian Institute of Polish Affairs to developing Australia's cultural and business ties with Poland. Its activities foster the mutual understanding and dialogue, which are so important to achieving a close and constructive relationship.

"I wish the members of the Australian Institute of Polish Affairs success in your endeavours and for your third biennial general meeting."



MEETING OF AIPA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 1993  
(L- R): PIOTR KOZIELL, ADAM WARZEL, JERZY ZUBRZYCKI, ANDRZEJ EHRENKREUTZ, BARBARA ZAGALA



## MEMBERSHIP OF AIPA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES

### The First Executive Committee (1991-93):

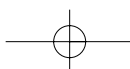
Prof. Jerzy Zubrzycki AO, CBE, FASSA	President	<b>Board of Trustees:</b>
Adam Warzel	Vice President	Prof. Andrzej Ehrenkreutz
Barbara Zagala	Secretary	Prof. Ryszard Zatorski
Piotr Koziell OAM, BEM	Treasurer	Dr Jan Pakulski
Dr Seweryn Ozdowski OAM	Member, Canberra	Dr Jan Hempel
Halina Zandler	Member, Melbourne	Jerzy Gruzewski
Henryk Sikora	Member, Sydney	

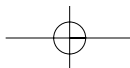
### The Second Executive Committee (1993-95):

Prof. J. Zubrzycki	President	<b>Board of Trustees:</b>	<b>Auditing Committee:</b>
Adam Warzel	Vice President	Jan Gruzewski	Piotr Lada
Piotr Koziell	Treasurer	Dr Jan Hempel	Mieczyslaw Nadworny
Barbara Zagala	Secretary	Dr Martin Krygier	Alicja Paciej
Prof. Andrzej Ehrenkreutz	Member, Melbourne	Dr Jan Pakulski	
Dr Seweryn Ozdowski	Member, Canberra	Prof. Krzysztof Zagorski	
Henryk Sikora	Member, Sydney	Halina Zandler	

### The Third Executive Committee (1995-97):

Prof. Andrzej Ehrenkreutz	President	<b>Board of Trustees:</b>	<b>Auditing Committee:</b>
Adam Warzel	Vice President	Piotr Koziell	Piotr Lada
John Williams	Secretary	Prof. Martin Krygier	Mieczyslaw Nadworny
Anna Kijek	Treasurer	Prof. Jan Pakulski	Alicja Paciej
Dr Seweryn Ozdowski	Member, Canberra	Barbara Zagala	
Dr Wojciech A Poplawski	Member, Brisbane	Halina Zandler	
Dr O. Scaramuzzi	Member, Sydney	Prof. Jerzy Zubrzycki	



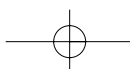


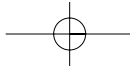
### The Fourth Executive Committee (1997-99):

Prof. Martin Krygier	President	<b>Board of Trustees:</b>	<b>Auditing Committee:</b>
Adam Warzel	Vice President	Piotr Koziell	Marian Juszczyk
John Williams	Secretary	Dr Seweryn Ozdowski	Piotr Lada
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## THE POLISH-JEWISH DIALOGUE IN AUSTRALIA 1989-1999

For the last ten years a group of Polish social activists, initially members of The Australian Solidarity with Poland Fund, and after its dissolution, members of The AIPA, have conducted a rather difficult and often laborious dialogue between the Polish and Jewish communities. Jan Karski, who visited Australia in 1993, called this dialogue "a unique phenomenon in the post-war history of the free-world Polonia".

Before presenting the history of this dialogue, I would like to outline briefly the socio-demographical character of both communities in Australia, in order to show the evolution in mutual relations and, most importantly, to discuss the basic aims of the dialogue.

An important point of clarification: in this article the term "Poles" is used in reference to persons who describe themselves as Poles and as Christians irrespective of whether they were born in Poland or not. The term "Jews" is used in reference to persons who are followers of the Jewish religion or who describe themselves in the first instance as Jews.

### The Polish Community in Australia

About 125,000 Poles of the first and second generations reside in Australia, which amounts to about 0.65% of the country's population. A vast majority of persons describing themselves as Poles arrived or was born in Australia after World War II. The main waves of Polish migrants came to Australia in the years 1947-1951 (so-called war migration) and in the years 1980-1983 (the so-called Solidarity migration).

The post-war migrants varied widely in their educational background. However, people with lower educational status predominated. It was this group which, to a large extent, manned factories in the period of intense growth of Australian industry. But the post-war migrants also had a noticeable percentage of people with secondary and also tertiary education. That group went to work in the Australian public service. Only a small percentage of Poles established private businesses. It is estimated that about 70,000 Poles (including also Polish Jews) arrived in Australia in the years 1947-1951.

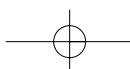
The so-called Solidarity migration consists, to a large degree, of people with secondary and tertiary education. After an initial period of work in factories, many of the migrants who arrived at that time now work in their professional fields. This group is located at about the middle of the socio-economic scale. Similarly to the post-war migration, only a small percentage of the solidarity migrants is involved in running private businesses. It is estimated that about 20,000 Polish migrants arrived in Australia in the 1980s.

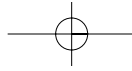
The main centres of settlement for Poles in Australia are Melbourne and Sydney and also Adelaide and to a lesser extent Hobart, Brisbane and Perth.

### The Jewish Community in Australia

The number of Jews in Australia amounts to about 85,000, which constitutes about 0.4% of the country's population. A substantial part of that number consists of Jews born in Poland and of their descendants. The main centres of Jewish settlement are Melbourne and Sydney, with Polish and Russian Jews mostly concentrating in Melbourne, and Hungarian and, lately, South African Jews, in Sydney.

Percentage-wise, Melbourne has one of the world's largest populations of Holocaust survivors.





The beginnings of the Jewish immigration to Australia dates back to the 1920s and 1930s and were connected with the rise of anti-Semitism in Europe. It is in that period that the families of many present Jewish leaders arrived in Australia. The main influx of Jewish population to Australia, however, occurred immediately after World War II.

A vast majority of the first generation of Jewish migrants was involved in running private business in the textile, jewellery and building industries. The second generation of Jews, from which many of the present Jewish leaders in Australia have come, is generally well educated, often working in the legal and medical professions. Jews are also well represented in large and medium Australian businesses. Of the wealthiest people in Australia, Jews constitute a significant percentage.

The Jewish community is extraordinarily well organised. This is best exemplified by the numerous, thriving community organisations, which often conduct large-scale charitable activities. Jewish schools are known for their very high standard of education and the leading Jewish newspaper in Australia, the English language *The Australian Jewish News*, often deals with issues relevant to the Australian community at large.

Apart from conducting intra-group activities, Jews have a strong presence in Australian public life, voicing their opinions on vital community matters concerning Australia's future. The best example of this is a visible participation of Jews in wide ranging public discussions on Aboriginal land rights as well as on human rights, civil liberties etc.

#### Evolution of Polish-Jewish Relations in Australia

Among Polish Jews who arrived in Australia immediately after World War II, one can distinguish two groups: Jews for whom the first language was Yiddish and who had weaker connections with the Polish culture, and Jews assimilated into the Polish culture. The second group was generally better educated.

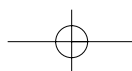
Although both groups were involved in similar occupational activities by being predominantly involved in running private businesses, the group of assimilated Jews often took part in the community life of Australian Polonia.

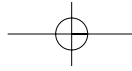
The practice of participating in the life of the Polish community of the first generation of assimilated Polish Jews was, however, not continued by the second generation. At present one can speak of only very limited, if not marginal, participation of the second generation of Polish Jews in community life of Australian Polonia.

Although in the 1950s, 60s and 70s there was a noticeable community and social interaction between Jews and Poles (this interaction was predominantly one directional: Jews belonged to Polish organisations, but not vice versa), it seems at present that this exchange has ceased and the boundaries between the two communities have been clearly and unambiguously drawn.

#### The Subject and The Extent of the Dispute

The dispute between Poles and Jews concerns, in the first instance, the matter of their relationship to the past, and in particular, the question of assistance given by Poles to Jews condemned to extermination during World War II. Another, although lesser, point of dispute is the role of Jews in the period of so-called "strengthening of the people's power" (*umacnianie władzy ludowej*) in the PRL (Polish People's Republic).





In most general terms the problem may be presented as follows. The Jews state that Poles did not do enough to save Jews from shoah and that they themselves occasionally took part in the infamous acts of handing over Jews to the Nazis.

The Poles argue that Poland was the country, which suffered most under the Nazi occupation, and was the only country on the European continent, which did not produce its Quisling. Poles usually answer the arguments about not saving Jews by saying that for providing hiding to Jews, one was exposed to an immediate death penalty. On the other hand, the Polish side raises the problem of over- representation of Jews in the security services during Poland's Stalinist period.

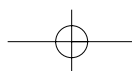
If the subject of the dispute may be described relatively easily, then a difficulty arises in describing the extent of the dispute. Although matters concerning the role of Poles in saving Jews were already raised in Australia earlier, for example the extensive campaign of the Melbourne Polonia in connection with the publication by an Australian journalist of an anti-Polish article in one of the local dailies in 1969, it was not until the late 80s that the dispute intensified.

It is difficult to find the reasons why the dispute about the past between Jews and Poles grew, instead of diminishing, reaching its climax in the 1980s and 90s, that is 40 years after the arrival of both groups in Australia. The most probable explanation appears to be the fact that both groups, after a period of organising their life in the new country and putting down foundations for the future of following generations, which involved bringing up their children, finally found time for reflections on the past. This is revealed in memoir literature written first and foremost by Jews and whose subject is the period of World War II in Poland. Books such as "I rest my case" by Mark Verstandig or "The World of My Past" by Abraham Biderman, often presenting a critical description of the attitude of Poles towards Jews in the last war, evoked a negative response in the Polish community.

Another reason for escalation of the Polish-Jewish dispute many years after the events which form its basis is perhaps the entry into the public arena in the 80s of the second generation of Polish Jews. This well educated group, possessing good command of the English language, was able to help their parents in translating their memoirs and often themselves embarked on writing articles on Polish-Jewish subjects for Australian papers.

A third reason appears also to be the so-called "anniversary period", that is years 1993-1995, when round-figure anniversaries connected with World War II were celebrated, for instance the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp, etc. The anniversary celebrations often prompted Jews to reflect on the Nazi occupation of Poland.

On the Polish side, in considering the main factor antagonising relations between the two communities one has to mention the activities of Tygodnik Polski (Polish Weekly) published in Melbourne. The newspaper, whose ideological affiliations may be described as a narrow form of national Catholicism, has published on a few occasions articles which in the view of Jews as well as of many Poles were considered anti-Semitic. The negative effect of Tygodnik Polski's editorial policy also manifested itself in drawing many Polish organisations, including ex-servicemen's organisations, into negative Polish-Jewish debates. The organisations while acting in good faith in defending the so-called "good name of Poland", unfortunately used at times anti-Semitic rhetoric.



Another critical factor antagonising first and foremost the Polish side, is the perception that over the years the issue of the Jewish Holocaust became a dominant subject related to the World War II, relegating far down the line issues of Polish heroism and suffering during the same period.

The negative aspects of relations between both communities should not, however, overshadow the many positive examples of cooperation.

### Polish-Jewish Relations In Australia (1989-99)

1. The event, which began the Polish-Jewish dialogue in Australia, was a meeting to discuss the history of Polish-Jewish relations organised in Melbourne under the patronage of The Australian Jewish News. The meeting took place in May 1989 and involved from the Jewish side - Prof. Israel Guttman, chairman of the Academic Council of the Institute Yad Vashem, an eminent historian of the Holocaust, and also Dr Mark Baker, a Holocaust historian from the University of Melbourne, representing the second generation of Polish Jews. The Polish side was represented by Prof. Andrzej Ehrenkreutz, Emeritus Professor of history of Michigan University, USA, the founder of a leading Polish lobby organisation in the US - the North-American Study Center of Polish Affairs

(Polsko-Amerykanskie Studium Spraw Polskich) and myself, at that time a press spokesman of The Solidarity Information Bureau in Australia affiliated with the Brussels-based Solidarity Foreign Office. Over 300 people, mostly Polish Jews, gathered at that meeting which was conducted in an atmosphere of criticism of the activities of Poles and the Polish Government during World War II. Prof. Guttman, however, noted that although Poles could have done more to save Jews, they should not carry the blame for the crimes of the Holocaust. The fact that the majority of Nazi death camps were located on the Polish territory, said Prof. Guttman, had nothing to do with Poles and their attitude towards Jews.



MEETING OF POLISH-JEWISH DIALOGUE GROUP  
(L- R): VICE PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERATION OF POLISH JEWS IN AUSTRALIA, TADEUSZ ZYGIER,  
PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERATION OF POLISH JEWS IN AUSTRALIA, SHMUEL ROSENKRANZ,  
MALGORZATA WARZEL, ANDRZEJ EHRENKREUTZ, ADAM WARZEL

2. The next event in the history of Polish-Jewish relations was a formal dinner hosted by The Australian Solidarity with Poland Fund (an organisation since dissolved) on the occasion of a visit to Australia of the Speaker of the Senate of the Republic of Poland, Prof. Andrzej Stelmachowski. Henryk Sikora, the executive secretary of the Fund, was the chief organiser of the celebration, which took place in Sydney in September 1991. In the course of the dinner, the aim of which was to raise funds for equipment for children's hospitals in Poland, Rabbi Fox of the Temple Emanuel synagogue spoke. Referring to feelings of Jews towards the role of Poles in World War II, used the expression "we will not forget and we will not forgive, but ..." This statement was received very negatively by those assembled there including, among others, politicians and union officials as well as the Ambassador and the Consul General of Poland.



3. The next day, at the invitation of The Council of Jewish Organisations in Australia, Prof. Stelmachowski met with the chief representatives of Jewish organisations in the Sydney Hilton hotel. The topic of the meeting was the question of the location of a Carmelite convent on the grounds of the Auschwitz camp. Those taking part in the meeting from the Polish side were: the Ambassador and the Consul General of Poland and those involved with The Fund: Prof. Jerzy Zubrzycki, Henryk Sikora and myself. The Jewish group was led by the then chairman of the Jewish Council, Mr Leslie Caplan. Jeremy Jones, a Jewish activist of the younger generation, was also present. The meeting was conducted in a friendly atmosphere.
4. In November 1991, at the invitation of the recently created AIPA (AIPA), Jan Nowak-Jezioranski, a legendary emissary of the Polish government in-exile and a former Director of Radio Free Europe, visited Australia. In the course of his visit, Jan Nowak presented a lecture in the Holocaust Museum in Melbourne about the policy of the Polish Government in Exile concerning the saving of Jews. The lecture was favourably received by the audience. Jan Nowak also met with the vice-chairman of The World Jewish Council, Isi Leibler. Isi Leibler made critical comments on the attitude of Polish authorities and particularly the Polish clergy towards Jews. Jan Nowak pointed out the progress which had been made in the area of mutual Polish-Jewish relations.  
  
Jan Nowak also met with the editor-in-chief of The Australian Jewish News, the well-known journalist Sam Lipski. The memorable statement of Jan Nowak-Jezioranski at a meeting organised by the monthly magazine Quadrant - that the bandying of anti-Polish stereotypes by Jews is just playing into the hands of Polish anti-Semites - sunk deeply into the memory of those present.
5. In April - May 1992, at the invitation of AIPA, Adam Michnik and Helena Luczywo visited Australia. Adam Michnik's visit concentrated, to a large degree, on meetings with Jewish organisations. Michnik met with Isi Leibler, with the leading Jewish lobby organisation the Australia Israel Council and also with the Jewish community. During these meetings Michnik boldly questioned the stereotype of an anti-Semitic Pole, so popular in Jewish circles. Michnik's meeting with Isi Leibler, although not free from an exchange of differing points of view and opinions, made a big impression on the Jewish activist who even proposed that a special Polish-Jewish conference be organised in Warsaw. The conference, however, did not eventuate. Michnik's public meetings with Melbourne's Jewish community, attended by about 400 people, were stormy and divided the audience into those with friendly and unfavourable attitude towards Poles.  
  
At public meetings Adam Michnik stated that a dialogue between Poles and Jews would not be possible as long as Poles do not accept the existence of anti-Semitism in Polish history, and Jews the fact of anti-Polish phenomena in their most recent history.
6. On 25 May 1992 AIPA hosted a function for the Polish Parliamentary delegation headed by the Marshal of the Sejm, Prof. W. Chrzanowski. The function was attended by the representatives of the Federation of Polish Jews in Australia. The Federation's Vice President, Tadeusz Zygiel, delivered a moving speech about the presence of Polish culture in the life of many Jewish migrants of Polish background.



7. In September 1992 AIPA, in cooperation with The Federation of Polish Jews in Australia, organised in Melbourne the screening of the American documentary "Zegota" which presented the history of this organisation. It was introduced by Dr Mark Baker of The University of Melbourne (mentioned earlier) who stated that he seldom spoke on the topic of Polish-Jewish relations because he was conscious of how complex the problem was. And the chairman of the Melbourne branch of the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League spoke about the existence in Polish history of a "virulent" anti-Semitism. After the screening AIPA handed the film over to the Holocaust Museum's film library. The Australian Jewish News published a brief report of the meeting couched in positive terms.
8. The most significant from the point of view of the development of Polish Jewish relations in Australia were the visits of Prof. Wladyslaw Bartoszewski and Prof. Jan Karski - both of them organised jointly by AIPA and The Federation of Polish Jews in Australia.

Prof. Bartoszewski's visit took place in March 1993. Prof. Bartoszewski was portrayed mainly as one of the leading activists of "Zegota" and as a steadfast fighter for Poland's freedom. The public meetings in which he appeared attracted large numbers of listeners, mostly Jews. Wladyslaw Bartoszewski concentrated his statements first and foremost on World War II, on the Warsaw Ghetto uprising and on cooperation between Polish and Jewish historians in research on the crime of Holocaust. Prof. Bartoszewski was, among others, privately received by Isi Leibler who showed a keen interest in the present state of Polish-Jewish relations. Leibler's reserved attitude towards Poles, which could be felt during the meeting with Nowak, was now evident to a considerably lesser degree. Bartoszewski stressed the authentic interest of young Poles in the Jewish cultural heritage in Poland and cited many examples of this. Similar meetings also took place in Sydney and in Canberra.



VISIT OF PROF. WLADYSLAW BARTOSZEWSKI  
L- R): MALGORZATA WARZEL, WOJCIECH ZAGALA, PROF. BARTOSZEWSKI, BARBARA ZAGALA  
AND SWEN ZAGALA

The visit also had some electrifying moments. At a meeting with the Jewish community in Sydney, when the question of the Poles' indifference towards the tragedy of shoah was raised, one of those present asked people in the audience who were saved by Poles, to stand up. Slowly, one by one, people were rising from their seats who just a moment before did not spare Poland bitter words. 30 persons stood up.

Jan Karski's visit to Australia took place in November 1993. The highlight of the visit's program was the conferral of a medal awarded to him by the Australian Branch of the Anti-Defamation League B'nai B'rith for his contribution to the saving of Jews during World War II. Prof. Karski was portrayed as the first person to

tell the truth about shoah to the world. The award ceremony in the Town Hall of the Melbourne suburb of Caulfield attracted about 600 persons, mostly Jews, and caused a lot of excitement. In front of the hall where the ceremony took place, dozens of people waited in vain for vacant seats. Beside Prof. Karski's speech, there were speeches by: Isi Leibler, Shmuel Rosenkranz, chairman of the Federation of Polish Jews in Australia; Prof. Rechter, chairman of B'nai B'rith in Australia and New Zealand, and Prof. Ehrenkreutz, at that time a member of the Executive Committee of AIPA. In his speech Prof. Ehrenkreutz, on behalf of members of AIPA, supported the efforts of the Jewish community to prevent the issuing of an entry visa to Australia to the English revisionist and a favourite of Neonazis, David Irving, known for his theories questioning the existence of the Holocaust. Andrzej Ehrenkreutz's speech was enthusiastically received by the audience. In the course of the ceremony, excerpts of Jan Karski's book "The Secret State" concerning his secret mission in 1942, were read and received by the public with tears in their eyes.

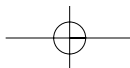
During one of Prof. Karski's public meetings in Melbourne, a controversy arose in connection with the statement of a Jewish activist of the second generation. Referring to statements of her parents, she maintained that Poland was chosen as the site of the largest death camps because the anti-Semitism prevalent in Poland guaranteed that the extermination of the Jewish population would proceed with the tacit approval of Poles. This statement was met with firm criticism by the listeners, who were mostly Jews.

During his visit Prof. Karski also gave a number of radio interviews and was received by the Governor of Victoria, Richard McGarvie. Similar receptions followed in Sydney and Canberra. At the end of his visit Prof. Karski stated, that the dialogue conducted in Australia between Poles and Jews had no precedent in the world at that time.



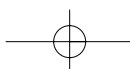
PROF. JAN KARSKI MEETS WITH THE GOVERNOR OF VICTORIA,  
RICHARD MCGARVIE, AC.  
(L-R): PROF. KARSKI, RICHARD MCGARVIE, ADAM WARZEL

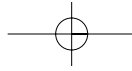
9. In September 1994 Prof. Daniel Grinberg, at that time director of the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw, visited Australia. The main topic of his talk was the role of Jews in the liberation struggle of the Polish nation and also the prospects for Polish-Jewish cooperation. The first topic was especially positively received by the public. In his talks Prof. Grinberg also spoke on a subject often thorny to Jews: the disproportionately large percentage of Jews on the staff of the State Security Department (UB) in the 1940s and 50s. In his statements, Grinberg indicated that the reason for difficulties in establishing wider intellectual contacts between the younger generations of Poles and Israelis is an obsessive concentration by the Israeli education system on questions of martyrdom and heroism of the Jewish diaspora. He said that there was not enough effort devoted to discussing the culture and customs of Polish Jews and their 800-year history in Poland.
10. The 50th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp occurred in January 1995. In connection with this, the Australian media of communication devoted a lot of attention to the question of the extermination of the Jews. The leading daily The Australian published, among others, an article by



Sophie Caplan from Sydney (incidentally, the wife of the previously mentioned Leslie Caplan) apparently a Holocaust historian, in which she wrote that many Jews saved in World War II blame Poles more than the Germans for the tragedy of shoah. This article received a sharp reply from the ambassador of Poland in Australia, Dr Agnieszka Morawinska, who sent an appropriate letter to the editor. The Australian also published letters from Prof. Jerzy Zubrzycki, the then President of AIPA , and also from Mieczyslaw Nadworny from Melbourne, an activist for Polish-Jewish dialogue. Nadworny, a Polish Jew, stressed, inter alia, that writing about Polish participation in the extermination of Jews is baseless, which can be seen even by visiting the Holocaust Museum in Melbourne where Poles are mentioned only with reference to the help they offered to Jews. The significance of Nadworny's reply lay in the fact that this was one of the few cases where a representative of the Jewish community had engaged in open criticism of opinions, expressed by Jews on the Holocaust, which were harmful to Poles.

11. In connection with the publication by the Polish Episcopate of an official statement in January 1995 on the 50th anniversary of liberation of the Auschwitz death camp, AIPA distributed a translation of the document to the Jewish media in Australia. The statement was published in The Australian Jewish News.
12. In April 1995, AIPA was informed by a member of the Jewish community in Melbourne that a Yiddish language program on Radio 3EA (SBS) contained an anti-Polish element. AIPA lodged an immediate protest to the radio management. It is worth noting that Radio SBS is fully financed by Australian taxpayers.
13. In the middle of 1995 a ceremony took place in Melbourne's Holocaust Centre in which the Polish Government donated to the Holocaust Museum a brick from the Warsaw Ghetto. On behalf of the Polish Government the gift was presented by the Ambassador, Dr Agnieszka Morawinska.
14. In October 1995, at the general conference of the AIPA, a lecture was presented by Prof. Robert Manne, one of the most eminent Australian public intellectuals, at that time the editor-in-chief of the Quadrant monthly. In his presentation Manne unreservedly criticised the book by Helen Demidenko, published in Australia at that time, in which there were numerous anti-Semitic and anti-Polish elements. Manne's statement was significant because Demidenko's book, with its plot based in war-stricken Poland, had won a number of leading Australian literary prizes and was widely commented on by mainstream media.
15. In April 1996, Dawid (Janek) Landau was presented with the Warsaw Medal awarded to him by the president of the Republic of Poland for his participation in the Warsaw Ghetto uprising and the Warsaw uprising. Landau was known, inter alia, for his role as guardian of Karski during the memorable visit of the Polish emissary to the Ghetto in 1942. The function which was attended by about 300, a majority of them Jews, was organised by AIPA in Melbourne.
16. In May 1996 the Melbourne based Tygodnik Polski published an article by Waldemar Lysiak entitled "Why do you hate me so?" (Dlaczego mnie tak nienawidzisz?), in which the author stated that the majority of Hitler's Nazi leaders of highest rank, such as Himmler, Frank, Goebbels, Heyndrich, Eichman, were Jewish. This statement, suggesting that one should assume that Jews themselves prepared their own extermination, was very strongly condemned by The Australian Jewish News. AIPA also issued an official protest in the matter, the so-called "Letter of 13", signed by well known Polish community activists.

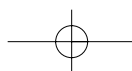


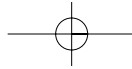


Shortly after that, the Polish program of Radio 3ZZZ in Melbourne commented about the situation created by Lysiak's article in a broadcast containing strong anti-Semitic overtones. In response AIPA lodged an official protest to the Australian Broadcasting Authority. A similar complaint was lodged by The Anti-Defamation League B'nai B'rith and the Federation of Polish Jews. As a result, the Polish program was forced to lodge a public apology.

The B'nai B'rith also lodged a complaint with the Australian Press Council against Tygodnik Polski for publishing Lysiak's article. The complaint was dismissed.

17. In the middle of 1996 the AIPA purchased a considerable number of copies of Jan Karski's biography by Wood and Jankowski and sent them to the leading Jewish figures in Australia.
18. To mark the end of the four-year term in the position of Polish Ambassador to Australia by Dr Agnieszka Morawska's farewell functions were organised in Melbourne and Sydney on the initiative of AIPA in May 1997. Taking part in the Melbourne function, among others, was the chairman of the Federation of Polish Jews in Australia, Shmuel Rosenkranz, who in a moving speech thanked Dr Morawska for her contribution to the development of Polish-Jewish relations in Australia.
19. AIPA addressed a letter of deep regrets to the Federation of Polish Jews with regard to an arson attempt against the Nozykow Synagogue in Warsaw.
20. In November 1997, Adam Michnik made a second visit to Australia. Part of his program involved meetings with the Jewish community. At a meeting in Melbourne Michnik pointed out, inter alia, that while in Poland articles or statements of anti-Semitic character evoked unequivocal condemnation by Polish intellectuals, statements or articles of anti-Polish character published by the Jewish media seldom evoked critical Jewish reaction. Michnik asked: where are your Kolakowskis, Kurons, Blonskis? Discussing the attitude of Polish political parties to the question of anti-Semitism Michnik said: "In Poland election are lost on anti-Semitism, but in New York they are won on anti-Polonism".
21. In November 1997 the Australian monthly Quadrant published a scathing critique by Prof. Jerzy Zubrzycki of Mark Verstandig's book "I rest my case". Verstandig, a Polish Jew living at present in Melbourne, maintains in his book, inter alia, that the underground Home Army (Armia Krajowa) was mainly engaged in murdering Jews and the Polish Government in Exile encouraged Poles "to finish what Hitler had started". The introduction to Verstandig's book was written by a number of Australian intellectuals of Jewish background, including the editor-in-chief of "The Australian Jewish News" Sam Lipski. The discussion around this book continued in the columns of Quadrant for some time.
22. In March 1998, in the Jewish Museum in Melbourne, Abraham Cykiert, one of the active members of the dialogue group, presented a lecture about Jewish Lodz. He based his lecture on a book by a Lodz sociologist and historian, Pawel Spodenkiewicz, entitled "A lost quarter. The Jewish Lodz. People and places" (Zaginiona dzielnica. Lodz Zydowska. Ludzie i miejsca), published in 1997, which the AIPA was distributing among the Jewish community. Cykiert, who did not avoid critical comments about pre-war Polish anti-Semitism, stated, however, that the work of the Polish historian augurs well for the future of Polish-Jewish relations. He also added that he was convinced that the Jewish cultural heritage in Poland would not be completely forgotten.





23. In April 1999, at the invitation of the Federation of Polish Jews and the AIPA, Henryk Grynberg, a writer, publicist, and author of the book "Drohobycz, Drohobycz" (Drohobycz, Drohobycz) visited Australia. The book created a certain degree of controversy in Polish circles in Australia.

#### SUMMING UP

The Polish-Jewish dialogue in Australia has continued for over ten years. It is, therefore, worthwhile to attempt to sum it up.

First its successes. It cannot be denied that during those ten years a significant opening of contacts occurred at an official level between both communities. The discussion channels, still blocked not so long ago, undoubtedly became more open. Significant progress was made in the understanding of the history of both communities and nations. Poles seem to accept more easily the existence of the blackmail of Jews by Poles for financial gain during World War II and accept their countrymen's responsibility for the Kielce pogrom. The Jews in turn seem to better understand what a high price a Pole paid when caught offering refuge to Jews in hiding. The attitudes of Poles towards Jews during the last war are also more and more often seen by Jews in the context of what happened in other European countries. Poland is less often used as a standard example of anti-Semitism. More and more, Jews are beginning to understand that Poland did not have its Vichy or its Quisling.

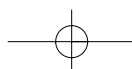
Another important step in the dialogue between both communities was the possibility of meeting directly the heroes of the period under dispute. The visits of Bartoszewski and Karski convinced many listeners that the acts of saving Jews by Poles really did happen. These visits also showed that in spite of stereotypes existing in certain Polish circles, the gratitude of Jews towards those who were saving them from the war's torments is exceptionally generous.

The meetings with Adam Michnik gave the Jewish community an opportunity to confront a stereotype with reality and rumours with facts (the meetings with Poles concerned mainly the present political situation in Poland). The bold intellectual clashes taking place at these meetings remained in the memory of those present for a long time.

If one were to examine statements of some notable Jewish figures in Australia, for example Isi Leibler or historian Mark Baker, one would notice that they have toned down their unfavourable rhetoric about Poland. It is very probable that their participation in the dialogue and the opportunity of interacting with the individuals mentioned before have left their mark on the way they see Poland. Signals emanating from Jewish circles indicate that changes in their perception of Poland are not isolated.

Yet, it remains a matter of contention whether the evolution of the way Poles and Jews in Australia think about each other is due solely to the dialogue being conducted. We have to remember that, together with the systemic transformation of Poland, taboo topics, which undoubtedly included the Polish-Jewish questions, are no longer forbidden. This has made it possible to conduct honest historical research about mutual relations during World War II. Many books and articles published at present in Poland on the subject of Polish-Jewish relations also reach Australia, which undoubtedly widens the historical awareness of both communities.

On the failures side, the prime concern would be the pace of evolution of thinking in stereotypes. In spite of changes for the better, both communities are still stuck in the trenches of mutual prejudices. Some Polish Ex-servicemen's



organisations are an example of such a way of thinking. A frequent phenomenon among Poles is the so-called magical anti-Semitism, to use Michnik's expression. If the Australian media uses the highly inappropriate, abbreviated term "Polish concentration camps" to describe Nazi concentration camps, then Poles have a tendency to interpret this as a wilful "Jewish handiwork" irrespective of who is the author of the inappropriate statement. In other words, if someone is talking ill about us, he must probably be Jewish. Unfortunately, the very damaging activity of the newspaper Tygodnik Polski with its conspiratorial theory of history, contributes to such behaviour. Because of the lack of other regularly published Polish periodicals in Australia, Tygodnik Polski is seen by many Jews as a representative transmitter of Polish views, which it definitely is not.

What will the future of Polish-Jewish dialogue in Australia look like? Are we going to celebrate its 20th anniversary? And if so, will the dialogue be conducted independently by Polish and Jewish circles in Australia or will it take place exclusively as a reaction to events taking place somewhere else?

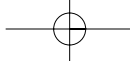
It is not easy to answer these questions. Certainly, the dialogue conducted for the last ten years is a kind of making-up for lost time and a filling of the void in mutual contacts interrupted so dramatically in 1939. That is why there is such an intensity and temperature in these contacts. For both communities the dialogue is also a kind of self therapy, not devoid of elements of expiation. It gives Jews the possibility of returning to the country of their childhood, the country where the graves of their ancestors are. For Poles, the dialogue makes it possible to understand the culture which was so suddenly cut out of the Polish landscape.

The future of the dialogue will be decided by the interest of the younger generation of Poles and Jews. It is doubtful that the intensity of the contacts could be maintained at the present level. With the passage of time, the departure of the war generation and with the progress of historical research clarifying mutual relations, the dialogue between Poles and Jews will be losing any unhealthy sensationalism which characterises it at present.

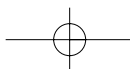
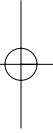
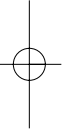
The situation in Poland is also likely to influence the dialogue conducted in Australia. Poland's increasing openness and an effort made by many Poles to find an appropriate distance to their own history will undoubtedly help the dialogue, which, let us hope, will free itself from myths and mutual complexes.

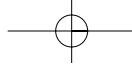
Adam Warzel

Written and updated during 1998-2000

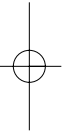


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