

English Translation of Saltzman, July 7th, 1946 Letter from Warsaw.

July 7th, 1946

My Dear Gedaliah!

Already my fourth day in Warsaw and I haven't managed to pick up the pen. Arrived from Paris Wednesday, ten in the evening, by Polish airplane, and by Thursday morning Novick and I were both in the office of the Central Com[mittee] of the Jews in Poland. On arriving, we were told that Chaver Zaletski the general secretary had asked us to wait. He had been called out to come see the prime minister right away. We waited for over two hours, postponed twice more, so we understood it had to be very important. But we did not expect that he would bring us this horrible news.

In the time we had been waiting, practically all members of the Central Com. had gathered. In entered Chaverim Zaletski and Berman. With a feverish voice, Doctor Berman began. A great misfortune had happened. A pogrom had taken place in Kielce, the likes of which has never taken place in Poland. A shudder went through my body. For a few seconds a deathly silence reigned. Berman could not continue with his report. It was still not known how many were dead, how many wounded. The mob was still was still rampaging. The government was employing all means [available]. It was necessary to send out two people with medical help, foodstuffs, and money right away.

The Central Com. acted admirably quickly. The people were there, the truck, the medical help, the money. A decision was made to stay in the closest communication with the government for all further actions, and to demand the strongest methods to eradicate the 'pogromnikes'. Everyone was in agreement with the judgment that this is the Polish fascists'

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answer to the results of the referendum, that here lies the hand of the Anderses and Bors. All agreed that the next day's meeting which was supposed to be dedicated to the latest events in Palestine should be changed into a mourning and protest meeting regarding the Kielce events. And that was my first encounter with Poland.

I left the meeting with a double feeling. On the one hand, shocked by what had happened in Kielce. It took long, long hours before I was able to calm down even a little. And, on the other hand that we have a worthy Jewish instrument in the Jewish Central Com., and that not only should Polish Jews hold it dear, but we the Jews

in the United States should also strengthen its hands, should give it the possibility of accomplishing the great historic task of helping to build the small but important Jewish community in Poland.

I want to hope that we in the Ordn will be able to send still greater aid and that we will not be alone in this holy work, that the largest Jewish community in the world will help the Polish Jews to get themselves on their feet that much faster.

Yesterday I sent requests [?] to Bedacht, and a telegram to you with suggestions for how to respond quickly to the terrible events in Kielce. I hope that you succeeded in carrying out a large action.

I have been away from New York for three weeks and have not heard a word from anyone. It would be good if you telegraphed me twice a week at the address of the Hotel Polonia in Warsaw.

Give my warm regards to all the chaverim. Inform Malke and Zorya about everything I write or telegraph.

Yours, Rubin

[Translator's note]

'Anderses' = Władysław Anders, and those like him. Anders was a military commander who headed "Anders' Army" and was a member of the Polish Government-in-Exile during and after World War II.

'Bor' = Tadeusz Bór-Komorowski, a.k.a. General Bor. Member of the Polish underground who headed the Polish Home Army (AK) Warsaw uprising against the Nazis from August through September 1944. He became Prime Minister of the Second Polish Government-in-Exile in London after World War II.
