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Last Will of the Polish Undergound State



The partition of Poland by Germany and the Soviet Union in September 1939 did not force Poles to capitulate. The interned president of Poland in Romania, Ignacy Mościcki appointed his successor on the basis of the constitution – Władysław Raczkiewicz, who in turn appointed the government with gen. Władysław Sikorski as its leader. Despite the

occupation of the Polish land by Germany and the USSR, the continuity of the Polish state was preserved. Its officials, recognised by the free societies of the world, led the fight for independence abroad throughout the entire war, first in France, then after its fall, in Great Britain. Last shots of the soldiers of the Polish Army hadn’t gone silent yet in their unfair struggle against two aggressors, when the underground resistance began forming. The commitment full of patriotism and sacrifice and the organisational abilities of tens of thousands of Poles, from all walks of life, led to the creation of the Polish Underground State.

The Polish Underground State had no similar counterpart in other countries of occupied Europe, where the resistance against the Third Reich had a much smaller percentage of citizens involved. What’s more, nowhere else, apart from Yugoslavia, did such huge underground armed forces as in Poland were created. The Underground State in occupied Poland was subordinate to the authorities of the government-in-exile. The Home Army was the equivalent of the armed forces and during the time of war it also performed some judicial functions (it had supervision over the Special Court Martials which were being established since 1942). The complex apparatus of the Government Delegation for Poland played the role of the secret administrative power; the Civil Special Courts were also subordinate to it. Numerous movements created the underground political scene. In 1943, the parties of the government coalition – the Polish Socialist Party; People’s Party; Nationalist Party and Labour Party created their representative body – the Home Political Representation.

After performing a few more political movements, on January 9th 1944, with the decision of the state delegate for the country it was transformed to the Council of National Unity. The body coordinating the conspiracy resistance of the military and civil structures was the Directorate of Underground Resistance, created on July 15th 1943. It was led by general Tadeusz Komorowski codename “Bór”, the Home Army commander following the arrest of gen. Stefan Rowecki “Grot” by the Germans.

The biggest political and military undertaking of the Polish Underground State was the operation “Tempest” [Polish: “Burza”] began in March 1944 in Volhynia, which later spread to almost all of the Polish lands occupied by Germany; while the biggest battle of the Underground State with the Germans was the Warsaw Uprising. Following the fall of the uprising, the Home Army command headed by gen. Leopold Okulicki, the Government Delegation and the Council of National Unity resumed their activities; however, due to the losses suffered during the August struggle their scope of operations was much more limited than before. On January 19th 1945, when most of the Polish lands were already occupied by the Red Army, gen. Okulicki decided to disband the Home Army. In the end of March 1945, the NKVD craftily arrested the leaders of the Polish Underground State, among others, gen. Leopold Okulicki himself; the delegate of Jan Stanisław Jankowski’s government and his ministers – Adam Bień from the People’s Party; Stanisław Jasiukowicz from the Nationalist Party; Antoni Pajdak from the Polish Socialist Party and the president of the Council of National Unity Kazimierz Pużak, the former prisoner of the

Tsar Russia and one of the greatest leaders of the Polish socialists. All of them were taken to Moscow.

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