Institute of National Remembrance

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London debate highlights dawn of “People’s” Poland

On Friday, 13 November 2026, Deputy President of the Institute of National Remembrance Dr Karol Polejowski took part in events organised by the Library of the Polish Social and Cultural Association (POSK) in London.





The main focus of the meeting, which was opened by Dr Dobrosława

Platt, director of the POSK Library, was a historical debate titled “The Beginnings of ‘People’s’ Poland—On the Path to a New Form of Slavery”. The discussion hosted the IPN’s Dr Karol Polejowski as well as Dr Sebastian Pilarski, director of the IPN’s Office of Historical Research. The speakers also discussed the decisive role of the Soviets in imposing the new political system, the origins of the Communist Party in Poland, as well as terror and popular resistance.

The event was accompanied by a presentation of the exhibition “3x YES, 3x NO. The Beginnings of the Polish People’s Republic,” marking the 80th anniversary of the rigged so-called “people’s referendum” held on 30 June 30 1946, which laid the groundwork for the communists’ seizure of power with the support of the USSR and the subsequent establishment of the Polish People’s Republic (PRL). The display cases featured publications from the collection of the Polish Library at POSK in London.

The exhibition, curated by Dr Dobrosława Platt, will be on view until 31 January 2027, in the Orłów Hall at POSK in London.



Dr Dobrosława Platt, Director of the POSK Library, 13 November

2026. Photo: Mateusz Niegowski (IPN)



London debate highlights dawn of “People’s” Poland, POSK Library, 13 November 2026. Photo: Mateusz Niegowski (IPN)



Dr Sebastian Pilarski (Director, BBH IPN) and Dr Karol Polejowski (IPN Deputy President) at the debate in the POSK Library, 13

November 2026. Photo: Mateusz Niegowski (IPN)



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