

Stanislaw Sas Mitrokhin from 4

The Mitrokhin archives can also help us understand the unprecedented propaganda campaign against Poland arranged in some extreme Jewish circles. Various publications pretend that Polish culpability in crimes on Jews before, during and after WWII is a fact.

The public has noticed in particular the intensity of defamatory attacks around the Jedwabne and Kielce crimes. Following the defamations those circles are demanding USD 65 billion restitution and they also demand EURO 1 billion of government shares and bonds for Holocaust victims. The claimant's attorney warned: "This is only the beginning for the Poles."

This anti-Polish propaganda action had been prepared many years ago. According to Mitrokhin's archives, on February 12 1972, KGB agents broke into the Paris headquarter of the Jewish World Congress and found many documents concerning the financing of anti-Polish activities and the publishing of anti-Polish books and articles which are meant to slander Poland.

Two dedicated anti-Polish Jewish authors have achieved that goal - Janusz Kosiński and Jan Gross.

<http://www.amazon.com/Mitrokhin-Archive-Penguin-Press-History/dp/0140284877> □

Conservative groups from 7

approval for "extremist and intolerant views held by some participants."

Co-sponsors of the congress include the American Family Association, Concerned Women For America, the Family Research Council, Focus on the Family, the Heritage Foundation and the Seattle-based Discovery Institute, which promotes the "intelligent design" concept of the universe's origins.

Bill Saunders of the Family Research Council, who will speak about bioethics, views the congress as pivotal.

"The Eastern European countries are being pushed to move in ways that mirror Western Europe," he said. "We want to help them stand up to the EU bureaucracy."

The congress also highlights an increasingly active alliance between the Protestant evangelicals who lead many U.S. conservative groups and conservative Catholics, such as those governing Poland, who share Pope Benedict XVI's goal of re-Christianizing Europe.

"It reflects the fact that the cultural battle has gone international," Carlson said. "The American religious right, instead of being isolationist, has in fact gone global." □

Constitution Ball from 9

The First Annual Constitution Ball was an educational and social success. A special thank you to Andrew Ettinger (a.k.a. Andrzej Poznański) for his many hours devoted to scripting this wonderful presentation which captured the interest of the audience for fifty minutes. A special thanks also to the committee of "wonderful decorations..." Chairperson Teresa Dudzick, Regina Sikora, Janina Kosowicz, Betsy Cepielik, and Kevan Akrami.

See you next year at the Constitution Ball!!! □

Hilton Hotel from 10

a gym, and a huge shopping mall is being built across from the Jewish cemetery, right where the ghetto walls watched tens of thousands bodies dumped in a big hole in the ground.

Israelis play an important role in the Polish construction drive, as Israeli contractors invest billions and build hundreds residential and office buildings, shopping malls, and hotels. Yosi Levi, deputy Israeli ambassador in Poland, estimated that Israeli entrepreneurs are responsible for some 10 percent of the new Warsaw buildings. Polish businessmen believe it is "only" 5 percent.

How do the Poles view the fact that Jewish Israelis are investing in their country again?

"The Poles have two typical reactions," said Polish PR expert Tokoz Wrubel. "Some are pleased with that. I, for example, am very happy because, first, it is a good thing that Poland is now part of the West and attracts foreigners and their investments. Second, I see an opportunity here to turn a new leaf in the relations between Poland and the Jews."

Warsaw Ghetto. A 10-minute walk

"I know that Poland has a very bad reputation in Israel, and I can understand why. I accept that. I would understand a Jewish entrepreneur who tells me that he will never do business in Poland. I am moved by the fact that Israelis are investing here nevertheless because it offers a possibility for a change of attitude. If I may use a term from my professional world, Poland as a 'brand-name' has a poor reputation in Israel, and the Israelis who do business here are helping improve its image. Third, I am glad because the Jews collect token compensation for everything that was done to them.

"As I said, this is my view, and it is typical of people from my social background - that is, educated residents of the big cities. Frankly, less educated Poles react differently. They have a problem with foreign investors in general and Jewish investments are particularly problematic for them."

How do Holocaust survivors view Israeli enterprises in Poland?

"Bless their hearts," said Noah Flug, chairman of the Holocaust Survivors Roof Organization in Israel. "Business is not about emotions. If we were to ban business wherever Jews were murdered, we would not be able to do business anywhere. Jews were killed in the Czech Republic too, so we should not build there? The truth is that the fact that the Dankners flew their guests to the hotel inauguration on Holocaust Memorial Day was a bit insensitive, even if they meant well. The construction enterprise, however, is legitimate."

Martin Twardovsky, Hotel sales manager, has a different idea. "Personally, I am thrilled and excited about the fact that Jews own this hotel, and I proudly tell our clients about it," he said. "This is coming full circle. It is an opportunity for the Jews to come here and see that Poland is home for them." □

Holocaust survivor from 11

onions, Dr. Taler said.

Dr. Taler's wife, Bronka, whom he met at the end of the war, used fake papers and worked as a maid, all the while hiding her true identity.

Fortunately, she said, she had attended a public school where Catholicism was taught.

"There were 10 Jewish kids," she said of her childhood. "We had to stay (for religious training). We learned a lot about the Catholic religion and Jesus."

"I had papers during the war that showed me as a Christian," she said. "They (Nazis) were forever asking me questions about Christianity."

Then, one day, Mrs. Taler uttered a Yiddish word, and her mistress quickly admonished her to never say that again.

The mistress no doubt knew that Mrs. Taler was a Jew, but chose to look the other way.

Never underestimate the role that luck can play when surviving underground, Dr. Taler advised. While a lot of families were scattered to the four corners of the earth and never reunited, Dr. Taler and his mother ended up in the same town, but she couldn't acknowledge him as her son. Also by blind luck, Dr. Taler's father ended up hiding in the same town, and Dr. Taler took him into his room. The father stayed in the son's 21-foot by 21-foot room day and night for two years, even though there was no toilet or hot water. There was a trap door, where Dr. Taler and his father dug out a place under the floor in case they needed a hiding place.

A strong message

Jews who weren't fortunate enough to come under the wing of a guardian angel did not fare well. Dr. Taler estimates that as many as 50 of his relatives died at the hands of Nazis.

Bronka Taler said she lost about 20 close family members.

She survived because she was able to escape from a transport train, bound for the Auschwitz extermination camp.

"I had a large family; my mother had eight siblings and I had a lot of cousins," Mrs. Taler said this week. "Except for my brother and two cousins, nobody survived."

Mrs. Taler rarely speaks of the Holocaust, and tears ran down her cheek as she talked.

"I have two wonderful children, and for the first 20 years, we didn't even talk about it," Mrs. Taler said. "My children didn't even know; we didn't want them to know." □

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Mówimy po Polsku**Janek's Corner from 4**

entire stay at high school, but this is not necessarily true. Basically, Matura takes third year when they are already dedicated to a few subjects which they will sit at Matura.

Graduation day

I am quite sure you remember the day you graduated from your high school well. I am certain that you enjoyed that to the fullest. I am not an exception.

High school seniors graduate at the end of April in Poland in order take Matura in May (one needs to possess the high school diploma to enter the exam). It is an exceptional day that brings joy. It is, though, a moment of reverie, and a time for the analysis of future opportunities. We all, the class of 2007, were thinking about the time we spent in MM HS. We all were so excited to finally graduate. On the other hand, we knew we were going to miss the school, especially the people who created this great community. We were sure we would not like to leave even though we had to. It was apparent for we did not hurry to get out of the building long after the graduation ceremony ended. You can imagine what kind of feelings we associate with MM HS.

I was honored to be a valedictorian at the graduation, too, although I was not the primus inter pares of the year. Many felt, though, that I would be an appropriate person to talk about the achievements, and the past.

Receiving my diploma, I was irrepressibly enthusiastic to finish my high school years. I could not bear the consciousness, though, that it happened so quickly...

I hope that I used the time I spent in MM HS wisely and, therefore, developed. Let it be a great end of the beginning! □

Legal from 3

for permanent residence, I would *strongly* discourage anyone from filing an application based upon marriage where there was any intent to file for a divorce in the future. In the event a divorce occurs after the filing of the application but before the application for conditional permanent residence is granted, the application will be denied and the alien may be put in deportation proceedings. If, due to completely unforeseen circumstances, a divorce occurs after the filing of the application and after the application is granted, but before the two year period passes and final permanent residence is granted, then the alien must apply for a waiver of the two year marriage requirement. A divorce coming after the granting of permanent residence would not affect the alien's status unless the Immigration Service reviewed the matter and concluded the marriage was fraudulent.

Any permanent resident must wait five years to apply for citizenship, unless they obtained permanent residency through marriage, in which case the waiting period is three years. If a divorce occurs after the granting of permanent residence but before citizenship, the alien must wait five years for citizenship.

In some cases, being in this country illegally for any period of time can cause a person to be ineligible; for example, if they entered the U.S. without a visa or they left this country after a period of unlawful presence in the U.S. There are also certain crimes or other conduct which make a person ineligible for permanent residence or citizenship.

I recommend that, before one files a specific application for permanent residence, he or she should retain an immigration lawyer and discuss all the facts of the case. There may be relevant facts that would affect the outcome that should be discussed with a lawyer before any filing. Even though marriage to a U.S. citizen is still a basis for obtaining a green card in many cases, one must also be careful that submitting an application to the government does not end up as the first step towards a deportation proceeding. □