

**Prof. MacDonald from 14**

presidency of the European parliament. But instead of getting the medal he deserved, he was expelled from the Conservative party.

Nor has the British Labour party been wholly immune to this Baltic virus. Last summer, at the parliamentary assembly of the Organisation of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the east European far right slipped two phrases into the Vilnius Declaration of 3 July 2009. The first was the affirmation of "two major totalitarian regimes, Nazi and Stalinist, which brought about genocide". The second was the now routine demand that all member states introduce a mandatory "Europe-wide Day of Remembrance for Victims of Stalinism and Nazism". The British government delegation, along with the other western members of the OSCE, acceded and voted for the resolution. In the never-ending carousel of Euro-speak, the red-equals-brown agenda is now being slipped into the "Stockholm Programme" of 2010-4.

There is a real need now for the main political parties in Britain to disown the eastern far right, admit these mistakes and disassociate as necessary, sink the Prague Declaration, and move forward. By denigrating the Allies' war effort against Hitler, the easterners go beyond whitewashing their own Holocaust histories. The entire "red-equals-brown" movement within eastern Europe panders to base instincts, which can be politically useful in hard times. It has hit upon a convenient way to stigmatise not only "Russians" (often a cover term for Russian-speakers of many ethnic backgrounds, including Roma), but also today's Russia. These nations have every right to fear Russia and they deserve firm western support for their permanent security and independence. This legitimate concern must not be compromised by the attempts of some at historical falsification and the peddling of contemporary racism and antisemitism.

Each state may preach and teach with it likes within its borders. But the unseemly revisionism promoted in some eastern EU states must not be granted entrance to the west via the back doors of Brussels and Strasbourg.

The time has come to say no.

\* **Kazimierz Sakowicz** was a Polish journalist. Witness to the prolonged Ponary massacre, he chronicled much of it in his diary, which became one of the most known testaments to that atrocity of the Second World War, where about 100,000 of Jews, Poles and Russians were murdered by Germans and Lithuanian collaborators. An editor of *Przegląd Gospodarczy* journal in Wilno, Sakowicz moved to Ponary district during the German occupation and chronicled events from July 11, 1941, to October 25, 1943. Officer of the pre-war Polish army, and member of the Polish resistance, he died during the 1944 nationwide uprising against the Nazis, Operation Tempest (explained in Tadeusz Piotrowski's, *Poland's Holocaust*, McFarland & Co., 1997, ISBN 0-7864-0371-3, p.171.)

Dovid Katz – Professor of Judaic Studies at Vilnius University and Research Director at Vilnius Yiddish Institute □

## Polish antisemitism needs examination

*It would be parochial to give a free pass to Michal Kamiński et al just because we resent the issue becoming a political football*

**Tim Whewell** - guardian.co.uk, Monday 30 November 2009 12.30 GMT

Charges of antisemitism should never be used as a political football. A group of prominent Conservative-leaning British

Jews were absolutely right when they wrote this in a letter to the Daily Telegraph recently, calling for an end to attacks on Michal Kamiński, the controversial Polish politician who leads the group the Tories now belong to in the European parliament.

But it would be desperately parochial to refuse to examine political attitudes towards Jews and other minorities in Eastern Europe, merely for fear of possibly handing an advantage to Labour or Conservatives on the narrow British stage.

It would be wrong – just because Britain suddenly has an indirect interest in the subject – to ignore a tendency by some intellectuals and politicians to reframe the killing of Jews by Nazi collaborators during the Second World War simply as part of a historical tit-for-tat, a tendency that seeks in effect to "balance" Jewish and non-Jewish guilt.

And that is a tendency in which Kamiński, for whatever reason, has played a bit part.

There is no evidence that Kamiński is antisemitic today. Or indeed, that he has ever personally disliked Jews, if that is what antisemitic means. He is certainly a strong public supporter of the state of Israel. But what BBC's *Newsnight* discovered on a recent visit to Poland is that eight years ago, when the country was engaged in a huge public debate about Polish participation in pogroms in 1941, Kamiński encouraged people to speak out against Jews.

In 2001, he went to Jedwabne, scene of one of the wartime massacres, and urged elderly participants at a public meeting to describe how Jews had supposedly denounced some of their Catholic neighbours to the Soviets who occupied the region from 1939 to 1941.

One of the participants in the 2001 meeting, Maria Mazurczyk, told us: "I think that Mr Kamiński, like us, wanted everything to be revealed: the times before the war when things were good – and the time of the Soviet occupation when the Jews didn't respect their Polish neighbours – and later the effect of all this."

At the time Kamiński condemned Poles who'd killed Jews – though he suggested the massacre was principally carried out by Germans. But it appears his principal concern was with alleged Jewish guilt. Anna Bikont of the liberal Polish daily *Gazeta Wyborcza*, who spent much time in Jedwabne in 2001 while researching a book, says: "Mr Kamiński came to the place where an incredible crime was committed – and he told not about the women, children, old people who died in this horrible manner, but he told about Jews who collaborated with Soviets and who killed Poles."

Would a British politician who'd behaved in a similar way survive in the mainstream of British politics? The question is relevant in some ways – but in others, of course, not. Poland's recent past has been so much more tumultuous and tragic than ours. And partly because of that, history is a constant football in Polish politics. Kamiński wasn't the only or the most important politician to oppose, in 2001, a collective Polish apology for the Jedwabne massacre. Most right and centre-right parties did.

Equally, Kamiński is not the only politician in a mainstream party who's been accused of anti-Jewish attitudes in the past. One, who was a fellow MEP for PiS (Law and Justice) until he resigned from the party earlier this year, called in 2006 for the demolition of a synagogue in his home town, Poznań, on the grounds that its original construction had been an "openly anti-Polish act". Another current PiS MP told the Catholic radio station Radio Maryja a few years ago that he could not say whether the notorious forgery of the tsarist secret police, the Protocols of the Elders of Zion, was genuine or not, but that "there are Jewish

groups capable of thinking long-term about damaging other societies, and we certainly have experience of that in our own past".

Do such utterances matter? Now the Conservatives' choice of partners has become so controversial, it's hard to raise the issue in Britain without accusations of party bias. But in the long term, the state of politics in Poland – one of the EU's largest states – is surely important to us all, Poles included. □

## Gaude Mater Polonia! From 2

does not remember its heroes, is not worthy of existence!

Sadly, his memory in Polish public life is being notoriously ignored. Paradoxically the reason for the intentional neglect may be, that no-one ever taught with such clarity, such Love and Heroism, with word and deed, the loving of our Fatherland. Patriotism in Poland these days, is being ridiculed as a backward anachronism. In its stead, European pride and loyalty is being promoted, often by the same people that once heralded and procured Communism. "That great Heritage of centuries past that is called Poland." Does it surprise, that the persona and teachings of the "Primate of the Millennium" - collides with the "new" vision of man, thus it is neither welcomed nor publicized?

On May 12, 1974 in Cracow, Cardinal Wyszyński said: "[...] Protect Our Home Culture! For us, our greatest Love after God is – Poland! [...] We have to be faithful most of all to Our Fatherland and Polish National Culture. We will love all people of the world, but in the order of love. Thus, after God, Jesus Christ and our Most Holy Mother, all of God's order, our love belongs foremost to our Fatherland, our language, our history and culture in which we are rooted on this Polish soil. And when various slogans will be proclaimed on banners, calling us to love all people and nations, we will not be opposed, but will demand, that we be free to live foremost by the spirit, history, culture and the mother tongue of our Polish soil, toiled through centuries with the lives of our forefathers. Thus the existence of the duty to protect our home culture." One will notice that, problems then, are identical with today's, - only methods are more sophisticated, refined and perverse. Even though he addressed the issue in 1974, he was on target and as always, ahead of his time. For Wisdom too, just like Sainthood is timeless.

In his Vatican address of May 28, 1981, the Holy Father, John Paul II said to the Poles speaking of the Shepherd of the Millennium: "Make the subject [...] of special meditation the posture of the late, unforgettable Primate, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński, his persona, his teachings his role in such a difficult period of our history. Make all that, the subject of your meditation and undertake this great and difficult task, the heritage of more than a thousand years of history, upon which he, Cardinal Stefan, the Primate of Poland, the good shepherd, impressed a permanent, non-erasable mark. Let this task be undertaken with greatest responsibility by the shepherds of the Church, let it be undertaken by the religious, the priests and congregational families, the faithful of all ages and profession. Let it be undertaken by the entire Church and the entire Nation. Each one according to the way God and one's own conscience will indicate. Undertake it and lead it into the future!" Can we turn a deaf ear to such a challenge?

The reality is, this great Heritage is in danger. One example: In 1955 the communist authorities brought to the cloister of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth (CSFN) in Komańcza, the sick (tuberculosis) Primate, exhausted by perilous conditions of the previous three places of imprisonment. The Communists

were confident, that he would end his days there. By God's will and the loving care of the Sisters from Komańcza, the Primate recuperated. There he designed, what was to become the program of great moral renewal in preparation of Poland's celebration of its Millennium of Christening. The cornerstones of that program, were the texts of the Jasna Góra Vows of the Polish Nation, The Great Novena of the Millennium, the Jasna Góra Roll Call and the peregrination of the copy of the painting of Our Lady of Częstochowa, the Queen of Poland, whose image visited villages and towns across the Country. When furious communist authorities have eventually "imprisoned" the icon's copy, effectively forbidding the peregrination of the painting, by orders of the Primate, an empty frame was traversing Poland, until they yielded.

Komańcza commands a special place in history, as a National Memorial Monument of great significance and as such, requires protection and care. Yet, the eighty-years-old wooden cloister building, is in a very bad condition, requiring extensive, costly renovations to preserve it for posterity. This Cloister of the Bieszczady region is being visited by some 40,000 tourists, among them a significant number of young people. No better place to teach them Patriotism on the Cardinal's own terms. The Sisters plan the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński Memorial Center, a museum equipped with a multimedia presentation hall to facilitate that goal.

Coming to bring closer to our hearts and minds, the person and teaching of a great Polish Hero, the Servant of God Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński, whose beatification process is likely soon to be concluded is **Sister Bogumiła Zamora** from the congregation of Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth from Komańcza - Poland. She is visiting the American Polonia, as a guest speaker with the lecture: "**Spiritual Heritage of Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński.**" She is the author of several books, including books on the "Primate of the Millennium."

The planned route of Sister's visit: New York/New Jersey (Feb. 10-16), Phoenix – AZ (Feb. 16-22), **Los Angeles\* - not yet confirmed (Feb. 22- March 02), San Francisco/Sacramento (March 02-08)**, Chicago – IL (08-16 March) and Toronto – Canada (16-22 March). All are cordially invited to the meetings and Holy masses with Sister Bogumiła. **Details of her visit** will soon be found on websites: <http://poloniasf.org/english/calendar.php> [www.radiopomost.com](http://www.radiopomost.com) & [www.nazaretanki.dir.pl](http://www.nazaretanki.dir.pl). **A showing of the Polish Television (TVP) movie „Non Possumus” is also planned.** Everyone who holds dear the memory of our Great Primate, in gratitude to God for the gift of his life and the Heritage he left behind, as well as those interested to learn more, are encouraged to partake. □

## Polka Deli

*The Best Polish Deli in Orange County California*

**Polish Traditional Deli Products**

Sausage, meat cuts, pierogi

Stuffed cabbage

Polish bread and cakes

**Imported from Poland**

Candies, cookies and chocolate

Great Polish beer, wine and spirits

Cosmetics, Newspapers and magazines

**1710 Tustin Ave - Orange, CA**

**Tel/Fax (714) 974-8276**

**Mon to Fri - 10 – 6, Sat 10 - 4**