

Delegatura

Underground representatives of the Polish government-in-exile active in Poland from 1940--1945. The *Delegatura* was both an advisory committee and a decision-making group. It had different names at different times. The *Delegatura* was considered to be an "underground state," which had its own law and education systems and its own army, called the Home Army (*Armia Krajowa*). The *Delegatura* went out of existence after the war, when Poland's Provisional Government of National Unity was created in July 1945.

Until the fall of 1942, the *Delegatura* did not confront the horrific persecution of Jews in occupied Poland. However, in September of that year, the group announced that in addition to the slaughter of the Polish people by the Germans, Poland had been the site of the systematic massacre of the Jews. In their declaration they protested the crimes against the Jews and called for "all political and public organizations to join in this protest." In early 1943 the *Delegatura* set up a Jewish affairs bureau, which was responsible to organize the group's activities with regard to the Jews, stay in constant contact with *Zegota* (the Polish Council for Aid to Jews), and process materials about the Jews, which were then sent to the Polish government-in-exile in London.