

Dr Leib Kurland

The Activity of the Jews from the Częstochowa and the Vicinity Society in Paris



It is my opinion that in this book, *Czenstochov*, the existence of our new association should also be mentioned. It is true that we are barely out of the wrapper and cannot boast of any major achievements. Yet one cannot underestimate the fact that, thanks to the new association, **the face of our landsleit in Paris has been saved**. Until now, all the *Częstochowers* were thought to be [sympathisers of the] *Yevseksiya** and that they belong to the only association which serves the *Yevseksiya* loyally, which adopts anti-Zion resolutions, which does not participate in any operations benefitting Israel, which signs all the pro-Communist proclamations, which takes part in all the Communist goings-on and so on.

We came, and we saved our *landsleits'* dignity. The fact that **we now number seventy registered families and active members is the best proof of how necessary was our association**. We have no platform. We consider ourselves free Jews. We act according to our free conscience and our Jewish heart, supporting everything Jewish that is positive. We take orders from no one. If we have sent money to our newly-arrived *landsleit* in Israel, it was not due to Zionist sympathies. If, lately, we sent medications to Israel upon the request of a distressed *landsmann* of ours, to save his child, this, too, was not because of Zionism.

Our *landsleit*, who have remained loyal to themselves, [to] their national Jewish sentiments, now have an address, now have a home and an open Jewish heart. Until now, they did not have this, because the entire management of the earlier association is a *Yevseksiya*, or caught up in that story and goes loyally in the footsteps of their Communist givers of orders.



Jews from Częstochowa & Vicinity in Paris Executive.
Seated (R-L): J. Ajzner, Sz. Woznica (Vice-Chairman), Dr L. Kurland (Chairman), L. Bergman (Secretary), J. Zalberg, I.M. Unglik (Treasurer). Standing (R-L): H. Gotajner, M. Aleksandrowicz, J.I. Liberman, Dr D. Szejgin, D. Herszlikowicz. Iandl M. Wolkowicz.

It is understood, that we conduct purely social activity on [our] premises, as do all the *landsmannschaften* or "*sociétés*", as they are called here.

I do not know whether we already need to give a report of our activity because, when your book went into print, we were at our very beginnings and we have not yet conducted any great activity. Nevertheless, I wish to mention the Bałaban Evening, the *Purim* Evening and the Israel Evening with films. We also donated a large sum of money for our newly-arrived *landsleit* in Israel. We registered - our members [did], that is - \$10,000 in Israel Bonds. We are also preparing an impressive Memorial Service.

* [TN: Jewish section of the Soviet Communist Party.]

Let us mention the members of our administration, they are:

Honorary Chairman: B. Ortman

Chairman: Dr L. Kurland

Vice-Chairman: Sz. Woznica

Secretary: L. Bergman

Treasurer: I. Unglik

Members:

D. Herszlikowicz

H. Gotajner

J. Zalcberg

J. Liberman

J. Ajzner

M. Aleksandrowicz.

With great joy, I wish to mention that our *landsleit* in Israel are already in possession of your \$500. In the latest letter from them, three weeks ago, they speak only of \$200 which they received from Detroit. They tell me that, in these last months, they have given out support and loans [in the sum] of £3,000 to newly-arrived *landsleit*. They need many thousands more. For now, we have sent over £250 but, as soon as the vacations are over, we shall send much more. Yes, we also have the names of those who benefited from their support and loans.

Declaration of the Jews from Częstochowa and the Vicinity Society in Paris

In order to counteract the great damage done to the name of our *landsleit* by the existing *Częstochower Society*, which is part of the local *Yevsektsiya* – a group of Jews from Częstochowa and the vicinity has decided to found a new society. Its goal is to form a representative body from those of our *landsleit* who will carry the name of Jews in a worthy manner [and] who will protect the most elementary national interests of the Jewish People. The goal of our new association is to unite all of our *landsleit* and to attract, to it, every individual for whom the subservient spirit of their hitherto “representatives” is alien and who shake it off themselves in disgust.

A Founding Committee has been formed, headed by the following members: Unglik, the Ajzner brothers, Aleksandrowicz, Bergman, Gotajner, Herszlikowicz, Maks Wolkowicz, Dawid Wolkowicz, Woznica and Dr Kurland.

In the days to come, a General Meeting will be called, at which an accurate programme will be worked out. In all likelihood, the majority of *landsleit* from Częstochowa and the vicinity, such as Kłobuck, Mstów, Krzepice, Praszka and others, will join the ranks of the new society, to the aggrandizement of our hometowns and to the glorification of our People.

The Committee

