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## Catholics and Jews

### An outstanding Belgian priest in defence of the persecuted

*Serious Flemish daily "De Morgen-post" recently published an interview with outstanding Catholic priest, Father du Moulin S.J., professor at St. Lievens College in Antwerp. Here, we take the liberty of publishing it in its entirety.*

There was a time when no one in our country talked about Jews, even though then, just like today, they could be found in various cities. Meanwhile, the Jewish question has now become the subject of such great concern. Why this sudden change?

I made this observation in a certain group, where Father du Moulin was also present. He is devoting himself to studying the "Jewish question", and, from him, I wanted an answer to the issue of what position should Catholics take towards the Jews.

"I want to ask you a simple question: **Are Jews a blessing or a misfortune?**"

With a smile, Father du Moulin replied, "Have you ever asked such a question when there was a discussion about the Dutch, English and French who live here? Then we simply say that they are French, etc. and leave it at that.

"We only ask whether people of a different nationality, and living here, are not acting to the detriment of the state. Why not consider Jews as equal to the Dutch, English, etc.? However, there are many Jews who consider themselves as Belgians and it would be unfair to regard them as second-class citizens."

**"What must be the position of Catholics towards Jews?"**

"Let's try to be people with some common sense, not generalising everything on the basis of one fact. Can you, for example, consider all Flemish as murderers, robbers and arsonists because the Baekelandt gang existed here?"

"The strange thing is, that when it comes to Jews, we never generalise the facts in a positive sense. When a Jew does something wrong, it is always attributed to his Jewish properties, not to his person. We must learn to distinguish.

"As Catholics, we must respect the concept of humanity and human dignity even more than other believers, primarily because, in addition to natural dignity, we know a supernatural dignity that is even higher.

"We must not give dissenters the chance to think that they respect humanity better than us, who teach that man was created in the image and likeness of God and destined for eternal happiness."

Here, I take the opportunity to ask Father du Moulin his opinion of the energetic activity, carried out by a section of the Catholic press in Vienna, against the persecution of Jews.

"The basic idea, to defend the Jews against unjust persecution, is, of course, worthy of recognition. It is true that the activity, which you mention is aimed specifically at the Austrian community.

"Catholics, in Belgium, naturally have the same Christian duty of charity, so they must prevent persecution and demand justice for oppressed and persecuted. But, in practical terms, they must firstly

pay attention to the characteristics of their environment.

"The one thing which we can and must have in common with the Austrian activity is concern for spiritual values. As Catholics, we cannot allow these values to be put in danger. We must consider that **antisemitism is the policy of those who have exactly the same intentions towards Catholics as towards Jews.**"

We ask Father du Moulin if we can record his words for our paper, due to the great topicality of the points which he has raised.

Only now does he realise the intent in our question. Modesty causes him to shudder a little. Then, he replies,

"Please do so it can serve to explain that it is **unworthy, illogical and un-Christian to persecute Jews for their Jewishness.**

"Please publish everything that I have to contribute to supporting the cooperation of those who have set themselves the task of defending spiritual values against the flood of materialism."

To Eng. Karol Bornstein  
and Dir Weinstein  
on the passing of the Mother

**Helena Bornstein** obm

we express our deepest sympathies

The staff of the "Stal" Factory in Częstochowa

We express our sincerest sympathies to our boss

**Eng. Karol Bornsztajn**

and also to Director

**Dir. Józef Wajnsztajn**

on the pass of the dear Mother

Majster A. Lewkowicz and B. Lewkowicz

We express our sincerest sympathies to our boss

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on the pass of the dear Mother

The workers of the "Stal" factory

## How much does Poland owe abroad?

### Suspension of transfer to protect the balance of payments

The Polish government's recent decision, to suspend the transfer of servicing public liabilities abroad, must have aroused deeper interest amongst economic opinion.

The essence of the validity of the government's decision is that it changes the policy followed by Poland for a very long time, at the expense of even the greatest of sacrifices.

If, despite this, the government's decision had to be made, it proves Poland's extremely far-reaching goodwill, which undoubtedly should be properly understood on the international credit market.

This is now being raised by "Polska Gospodarcza" ["Economic Poland"] – economic organ of the government. It is also a further expression

of the belief that the financial payments made to foreign creditors over a number of years "constitute great moral capital that, one day, we will use a hundredfold".

Moreover, even now even during the suspension of service period, Poland is acting in a manner which demonstrates the most substantive attitude toward the matter.

We do not take the position of unilaterally stating that we cannot transfers amounts due from servicing.

But, on the contrary. We wish to enter into negotiations with each of our creditors to determine, jointly, a way out of the situation.

However, this creates a rather sensitive situation for some creditors.

There are creditors who are ready to accept the suspension of the transfer providing that it is suspended simultaneously and equally.

However, as the government body states, Poland cannot do this precisely because its attitude towards the matter is thoroughly matter-of-fact.

It is suspending the transfer not for the sake of profit, but for the sake of balance of payments.

Creditor states, which will "adopt an appropriate trade policy towards a debtor state – a policy reflected in such a development of the balance of trade in goods as to provide the debtor with a reserve of foreign exchange, enabling it to honour its

obligations", such states can count on direct repayment of servicing the debt.

Currently, when negotiations on transfers with individual countries have only just begun, it is difficult to determine to what extent the transfer will be reduced.

Nevertheless, it is necessary to take stock of the totality of Poland's public debt today.

But making a complete calculation of our foreign debt is not an easy task. This calculation can only be an approximation.

Due to war debts, the balance to our creditors, as at 1<sup>st</sup> April 1936, was as follows:

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