Open letter from Bertrand Russell to Mr Gomulka

9 December, 1968 Mr. Wladislaw Gomulka, First Secretary,

Central Committee of the United Workers' Party, Warsaw, Poland.

Dear Mr. Gomulka,

I am writing this open letter to you because recent events in Poland do not permit the crime of silence. The wave of anti-semitism which has overtaken Poland requires that socialists everywhere speak out against such a crude deformation of social life. One might have hoped that the Fifth Party Congress in November would call a halt to the trials of students, mostly Jews, alleged to have organised demonstrations at the beginning of the year. The trials, however, con­tinue as I write, with the accused divided into small groups, the foreign Press barred and the clear hope that these disgraceful events will not be noticed. What is the heinous crime of the students? They have demonstrated against the censorship, and against the dismissal of their colleagues — and they are Jews.

Over the past eighteen months in Poland, the Press, the secret police and the Government have instigated anti-semitism quite deliberately. By some twisted logic, all Jews are now Zionists, Zionists are fascists, fascists are Nazis and Jews, therefore, are to be identi­fied with the very criminals who only recently sought to eliminate Polish Jewry. Hundreds of Jews, now by definition " counter-revolutionary ", have been purged from the Party and from responsible positions in administration, communications and the arts. In