**STATEMENT BY BERTRAND RUSSELL**

**ON ANTI-SEMITISM IN POLAND,**

**FEBRUARY 5, 1969**

On December 12, I issued to the Press the text of an open letter on anti-Semitism in Poland which I had sent to Mr. Gomulka. Two days later I was attacked in predictable terms in *Tribuna Ludu* and *Zycie Warszawy* in an item sent from the Polish Press Agency in London. It is instructive to observe what the Polish people are permitted to read and ex­pected to believe.

Agitation in Western Europe about anti-Semitism

has " an expressively anti-Polish character ". (It is not suggested, however, by the Polish journalist that when I criticise Mr. Wilson I am anti-British.) The " in­creased frequency of these actions " demonstrates not the need for them but the " campaign-like character of the operations ". Persons such as myself, the item continues, are "intrinsically honest" but of "little understanding ". Our trouble is that we fail to observe what a paradise Poland is for her small Jewish population. If only we would study the reports of the Polish Press Agency with greater diligence and zeal, the blindness that has smitten us would be lifted and we would see the Truth.

Needless to say, Polish readers were not permitted to read one word of my open letter to Mr. Gomulka, so that they might judge for themsleves my " little understanding " \*of anti-Semitism and the "expres­sively anti-Polish character " of my criticisms.

The final falsehood in this short item was the allegation that my open letter was not prompted by events in Poland but by Jews in London " known for their anti-Polish speeches". The Polish Press Agency writer, unable to imagine anyone thinking for himself, falls back upon the invention of a conspiracy.

It does not require a conspiracy to recognise a fact. Perhaps the Polish Press Agency will find some new technique to dismiss a further document which has come into my hands recently. The material in ques­tion is an internal document of the Lodz Centre for Party Propaganda written by Wladyslaw Kmitowski and circulated last April by the ruling United Workers' Party (hardly an anti-Polish source).

This is a further horrifying document revealing crude anti-Semitism being pedalled by the Party for the instruction of its members. It alleges that Jews have ;; a programme for ruling over the world " and even drags up the " Protocols of the Elders of Zion ". Every Jew, it states, is a potential intelligence agent and thousands of Polish Jews have " still to be checked and evaluated ". This is a clear warning from the Party of precisely that harassment and repression which is as unacceptable in Poland as anywhere else. I hope that people everywhere will condemn the officially inspired victimisation of Polish Jews.