

Zegota

(*Rada Pomocy Zydom*, Council for Aid to Jews; *Tymczasowy Komitet Pomocy Zydom*, Provisional Committee for Aid to Jews), Polish code name for the underground Council for Aid to Jews. *Zegota* operated from December 1942 until the Liberation of Polan in January 1945.

Zegota originated as the Provisional Committee for Aid to Jews, initiated by writer Zofia Kossak-Szczucka, and consisted of democratic Catholic activists. It was soon revamped as *Zegota*, an organization which included both Jews and non-Jews from many different political movements. Despite their differences, they were motivated to fight the injustices perpetrated by the Nazis.

Zegota was funded by the *Delegatura*, the Bund, and the Jewish National Committee. By the summer of 1944, *Zegota* was helping 4,000 Jews. However, they were unable to provide aid for more people due to a chronic shortage of funding.

Zegota furnished many Jews with false identification papers, money, and safe hiding places. Despite the death penalty imposed on people who hid Jews, *Zegota* members successfully placed thousands of Jewish children in foster homes, public orphanages, and convents. They also provided medical care to Jews in hiding. In addition, *Zegota* tried very hard to convince the Polish Government-In-Exile and the *Delegatura* to implore the Polish people to help the Jews.