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Od stanu wojennego do upadku systemu. Z badań nad polsko-francuską współpracą naukową i kulturalną w latach 1981–1989

From the martial law to the fall of the system. From research on Polish-French scientific and cultural co-operation in the years 1981–1989

SUMMARY

Introduction of the martial law in Poland, repressions against political opposition and limitations of civic freedoms strongly affected Polish-French scientific and cultural relations. Representatives of French intellectual elite protested against persecution of their colleagues, actively involved in the activities of political opposition. Events organized by the Polish Academy of Sciences Scientific Centre and the Polish Institute in Paris were boycotted.

Some cultural manifestations initiated by Polish authorities were challenged by new circles of “Solidarity” political emigration. In the years 1981-1983, official exchange was going through crisis.

Some change for the better was noticed in the second half of the 80s. Scientific and cultural exchange was going on more often aside from the planned schedules. This way, French authorities were able to select interesting, in their opinion, partners also among those recruiting from the Polish opposition. The first attempt to abandon isolation in official cultural relations between Poland and France was an exhibition put on from June 21 to September 26 1983 in the Centre Pompidou in Paris, called “Polish Appearances”.

In the 80s France loses its former strong position as a destination of scientific trips. First of all, the potential for co-operation in traditional fields in the humanities and sociology was exhausted. With time, the role of these fields in mutual co-operation diminished in favour of scientific disciplines, technical or medical science. It appears that in this scope France could offer less to Polish scientists than West Germany.

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