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Communist Party documents from the period of its rule in Kazakhstan and Poland: A comparative study

Dokumenty partii komunistycznej z okresu jej rządów w Kazachstanie i w Polsce – studium porównawcze

Abstract: The article is a brief comparison of the documentation system of the Communist Party ruling Poland from 1944 to 1989 and in Kazakhstan from 1918 to 1991. Despite considerable geographical remoteness, there are strong similarities between them in terms of party organisation, office rules and provisions regulating archives. This was caused by the reflection of Soviet models in communist Poland after 1944. The regaining of sovereignty by Poland in 1990 and independence by Kazakhstan in 1992 led to the transfer of documentation from party archives to the state archive service in both countries. As a result, it was possible to study and make them publicly available.

Keywords: archives, communist party, administrative office, documentation, Kazakhstan, Poland

Streszczenie: Artykuł jest krótkim porównaniem systemu dokumentacyjnego partii komunistycznej rządzącej w Polsce w latach 1944-1989 i w Kazachstanie w latach 1918-1991. Pomimo znacznego oddalenia geograficznego wykazuje on bardzo duże podobieństwa w zakresie organizacji partii, zasad kancelaryjnych, przepisów archiwalnych. Spowodowane to było odzwierciedlaniem w komunistycznej Polsce po 1944 r. wzorców sowieckich. Odzyskanie suwerenności przez Polskę w 1990 r. oraz niepodległości przez Kazachstan w 1992 r. spowodowało w obu krajach przekazanie dokumentacji z archiwów partyjnych w ręce państwowej służby archiwalnej. Pozwoliło to na poddanie jej procesowi opracowania i udostępnienia dla użytkowników.

Słowa kluczowe: archiwa, partia komunistyczna, biurowość, dokumentacja, Kazachstan, Polska

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Introduction

Kazakhstan and Poland, despite the considerable geographical distance between central Europe and the borderlands of Europe and Asia, have shared a similar fate over the last 200 years. The First Polish Republic was deprived of its independence before Kazakhstan, with large parts becoming part of the Russian Empire at the end of the 18th century, and Kazakhstan shared the same fate in the 1880s. However, Kazakhstan was the first to come under Bolshevik rule, and from the 1920s functioned as the Kazakh Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, which in the 1930s was transformed into the Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic (KSRR) and incorporated into the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). Poland came under the Kremlin's influence again as a result of the Second World War when, in the 1940s, the Russians imposed communist governorship on the seemingly separate, yet effectively non-sovereign Polish People's Republic (PRL). In this way, both nations found themselves in the communist camp with similar systemic solutions created by the totalitarian communist party in power. Both countries also experienced Stalinism, which involved the elimination of both real and imaginary opponents. This same period was much crueller in Kazakhstan since it was within the structure of the USSR, which resulted in ethnic cleansing and artificially induced famine devastating the nation and, indirectly, its culture and language. The largest labour camp of the Gulag system was also located in Kazakhstan, where Poles displaced from their home areas were also victims. The disintegration of the communist bloc resulted in Poland and Kazakhstan regaining independence in 1989 and 1991, respectively.

The above-mentioned similarities prompt comparative studies of many aspects of the history of the two countries, including aspects related to their archives. The subject of this paper is the documentation produced and collected by the Communist Party of the Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic (KPKSRR) and the Polish Workers' Party (PPR)/Polish United Workers' Party (PZPR). The structures of the party in power built in both countries were based on Bolshevik principles. They covered not only all administrative levels of the state, down to the smallest villages, with their network but also had their organisational units in all workplaces and social organisations, which also made the political situation in Kazakhstan and Poland similar. The following analysis relates to the manner in which party administrative offices operated and

the production of documentation and, after the fall of communism, the circumstances under which this documentation was transferred to the public archives. The purpose of this study is to briefly outline the process of documentation production and creation of party archives in both countries and then to try to find common features and differences. The research included administrative office and archival regulations that were in force in communist Kazakhstan and Poland, subsequent legislation in this regard, and an analysis of archival literature and the archives themselves.

1. Poland

The practice of administrative offices of the communist party in Poland was based on the experience of the PPR's work in the immediate post-war period beginning in 1945. The party bureaucracy was the result of three main elements: the phenomenon of communist bureaucracy created in the Soviet Union and grafted onto Polish soil by people sent from the USSR to build communism in Poland, the experience of the clandestine period of the Polish Communist Party between 1918 and 1939, and the lack of professional preparation of clerical staff in the post-war period, which resulted in the clerical awkwardness observed in the documentation¹.

The PZPR did not develop efficient, organised administrative offices in any of its existing structures during the time of its operation. Each party instance or organisation functioned on the basis of its own instructions, sometimes operating based on tradition rather than written norms². Formally, from the 1970s onwards, there was a case-based filing system, based on a structured and factual list of files, grouping all cases homogeneous in form or content. There were administrative offices in the committees of each party instance. The administrative office was a dedicated desk tasked with providing clerical support to the organisational units and their managers, which included ensur-

1 D. Magier, *Czynności kancelaryjne w komitetach PPR. Przyczynek do badań nad systemami kancelaryjnymi struktur partii komunistycznej w Polsce*, [in:] idem (ed.), *Partia komunistyczna w Polsce. Struktury, ludzie, dokumentacja*, Lublin–Radzyń Podlaski 2012, pp. 505-506.

2 E. Markowska, *Stan badań nad dziejami kancelarii komunistycznych struktur partyjnych w Polsce w latach 1948-1990*, [in:] D. Magier (ed.), *Partia komunistyczna w Polsce...*, p. 604.

ing the smooth circulation of documents and collecting the data and materials needed for day-to-day work³. The secretarial offices of party secretaries and heads of the various departments also functioned on an administrative basis, thus contributing to the existence of decentralised administrative offices in party committees, where secretarial activities were carried out by individual organisational units.

The tasks of an administrative office included receiving letters and confirming their receipt, opening and distributing them, registering incoming and outgoing materials, affixing and filing the receipt stamp, using a material list of files, submitting filed materials to superiors for inspection, directing letters to be dealt with as decreed by the head of an organisational unit, storing current files and keeping records of them, transferring files to the party archive, and supervising the destruction of documentation.

Each administrative office kept files of finally settled cases in folders and binders, maintained according to the file list for a given organisational entity or unit. Party archives were kept at the level of the party's Central Committee and provincial committees, where records with the value of perpetual storage were transferred from lower instances. The remaining documents were kept at individual committees, where they were destroyed over time⁴.

In the party administrative office, individual letters accrued as part of ongoing cases (a case file system), and these made up the entire documentation first stored in individual party committees, organisations, and organisational units. The result of the administrative production of the PZPR structures was a wide variety of documentation. After a period of post-war bureaucratic chaos in the 1940s and 1950s, the documents produced during the course of the party's functioning came to be recognised as an essential part of the day-to-day work of the organisation as well as a lasting testimony to its history. However, uniform regulations on the matter did not appear until the 1980s⁵.

3 W. Horst, *Kancelarie i archiwa Centralnego Komitetu Wykonawczego Polskiej Partii Socjalistycznej, Komitetu Centralnego Polskiej Partii Robotniczej i Komitetu Centralnego Polskiej Zjednoczonej Partii Robotniczej (1944-1990)*, Warsaw 2006, p. 308.

4 *Ibid.*, p. 311.

5 *Ibid.*, p. 303.

The following party activities were documented: meetings of the instances of all levels and their executive bodies, meetings of party organisations and their executive bodies, meetings of commissions and teams appointed by the instances, meetings and deliberations of party activists, resolutions and decisions of individual instances, work plans and action programmes and the results of their control and evaluation of their implementation, assessments of the situation in the party, its structure and organisational status, evaluations of the socio-political situation and social mood, opinions and conclusions coming from outside⁶. A series of actions were repeated at all levels of the PZPR organisation. This was particularly true of minutes of meetings of authorities, which were accompanied by the production of the same types of files.

In addition to documentation of collegiate bodies, individual bodies produced work plans and action programmes, evaluations of the implementation of resolutions and decisions, studies, information and notes, papers and all types of files characterising the essence of their substantive activities. The created documentation also included positive prints of photographs commemorating important events and party celebrations and sound recordings captured on magnetic tape.

In addition to the above-mentioned internal documentation, the PZPR structures obviously also produced external documentation (sent externally), which consisted of letters to lower instances, superior authorities, and other organisational units and individuals. Some documents were in ready-made forms that were only filled in by handwriting or typing, other material was sent out as circular information. This was mass-produced on many occasions, which would not have been possible without appropriate technical means. This purpose was served by duplicating facilities under the general law on printing activities in the country⁷.

A separate type of internal office documentation was financial and accounting documentation, including invoices and receipts, letters of payment, advance payments and travel and subsistence allowances

6 D. Magier, *System biurokratyczny Polskiej Zjednoczonej Partii Robotniczej w województwie białsko-podlaskim w latach 1975-1990*, Siedlce 2012, pp. 142-143.

7 *Ibid.*, p. 147.

(travel assignments); financial and accounting records included inventory books and records of party members and membership contributions.

Another type of documentation was personnel files and their records. The staffing policy of the PZPR was one of the main instruments of the communist party's exercise of power and was part of staffing a nomenclature system. The implementation of personnel policy required the production of such types of personnel files as individual files, personnel cards, nomenclature position cards and registers of changes in nomenclature positions. A separate group consisted of personal files of so-called activists of the labour movement, and widows and orphans of party activists.

The type of documentation produced by all party committees and organisations, closely related to personnel records, were statistical reports on party members and candidates. These were the reporting forms developed for the Communist Party as a whole by the Organising Department of the Communist Party Central Committee. The census of party members and candidates was the basis for drafting statistical reports.

Letters sent externally were stamped with a red ink stamp. Communist Party committees used several different metal and rubber seals, round, triangular, and rectangular, which were used depending on the rank and importance of the writing.

PZPR office activities were carried out in office rooms equipped with desks, tables, office cupboards, bookcases, metal cabinets, segments, chairs and armchairs. Information noticeboards and display cabinets hung on the walls of committees. Floors were lined with carpets and rugs. Lace curtains and curtains were hung in windows. Hangers, flowerbeds, standing lamps, and cigarette ashtrays were also placed in office rooms⁸.

The main writing tools were typewriters – first mechanical, then electric. They used blank A4 paper, carbon paper in particular (paper coated on one side with ink mixed with wax, used to make multiple copies of a text simultaneously as it was being written – to make copies). Later, printing presses were used for the production of large-print

8 *Ibid.*, p. 160.

and specialised magazines. Teleprinters and telephones were used to transmit rapid information. Counting machines were used for accounting, later replaced by electric calculators, in addition to which, from the 1970s onwards, televisions, tape and video recorders, gramophones, overhead projectors, film projectors, epidiascopes, and loudspeakers were used *en masse* for party work⁹.

The official language in the People's Republic of Poland was the so-called communist newspeak, which was imposed on Poland along the lines of the soviet pattern¹⁰. Overlaid on the old traditions of the administrative style, there was a tendency to speak in a way that would clearly distinguish itself from colloquial speech, which was considered "too ordinary". Over time, this newspeak became a marker of communist cohesiveness, growing into a kind of internal language. In this context, language also became a sign of belonging, allegiance, and legitimacy. The administrative office structures of the PZPR were one of its main gatekeepers and carriers of communist newspeak, alongside the mass media¹¹.

Records of information produced by the PZPR were not subject to the general rules of documentation handling in Poland. The communist party was given the right to keep and manage its own files, including their destruction. In addition to this, the PZPR archives were able to store historical resources, i.e., archival material collected in the past¹². The files of the communist structure were not included in the register of archival materials forming the State archival resource. However, the archival law stipulated that the documentation of the party – as an entity forming the so-called non-state archival resource – would, upon termination of its activities, pass to the State and become part of the State archival resource. No provision was made for the transfer of archive material to a legal successor. As a consequence of this provision, after the liquidation of the PZPR on 27-30 January 1990, the process of transferring its documentation to the state archives began.

9 D. Magier, *Political party archives: The system of recording and conveying information in local structures of the communist party in Polish Biela Podlaska province, from 1975 to 1989*, "Archival Sciences" 2018, no. 18, pp. 279-290.

10 M. Heller, *Maszyna i śrubki. Jak hartował się człowiek sowiecki*, Warsaw 1989, p. 246.

11 M. Głowiński, *Nowomowa i ciągi dalsze. Szkice dawne i nowe*, Cracow 2009, p. 54.

12 R. Galuba, *Materiały archiwalne, dokumentacja i archiwa PZPR w polskim prawie archiwalnym*, [in:] D. Magier (ed.), *Partia komunistyczna w Polsce...*, p. 571.

In accordance with the Polish archival principle of territorial affiliation, documents produced by the central structures of the Communist Party were transferred to the Archives of New Records in Warsaw, while those of lower-level instances were transferred to regional state archives. At present, most of them are already compiled and made available under the general rules applicable to all archives in Poland.

2. Kazakhstan

The Communist Party of Kazakhstan, which was part of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU), was an organisation of the unified Communist Party of the Soviet Union corresponding to the republican status. It was guided by the Program and the Charter of the CPSU, which was carried out within the republic, its territories, regions, cities, and districts and regulated all activities aimed at implementing the policy of the party and organised the implementations of directives of the Central Committee of the CPSU. The supreme body of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan was the Congress, then the Conference, and in the period between them – the Central Committee. As a result of the economic and socio-political crisis in the Soviet Union and in the republic, the Communist Party of Kazakhstan was dissolved at its Extraordinary Congress on 7 September 1991¹³.

Until 1921, there was no unified Bolshevik party centre on the territory of modern Kazakhstan, but there was a base in the form of the Communist Party of Turkestan, created in June 1918, which included party organisations of the Syrdarya, Semirechensk, and parts of the Turgai and Ural regions. On 30 April 1920, by a decree of the Central Committee of the RKP(b), the Regional Bureau of the Russian Communist Party (Bolsheviks) of the Kirghiz Territory (Obl Bureau of the RKP(b) Kirkray¹⁴) was created in order to form a unified party organisation. On 18 June 1921, the Kyrgyz (Kazakh) Regional Committee of the Russian Communist Party (Bolsheviks) was elected by the 1st Kazakh Regional Party Conference, which on 19 February 1925, by

13 *Guide to the funds of the Archive of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan: Reference and information edition*, compiled by E.M. Gribanova, A.A. Seisenbaeva, B.A. Dzhabarova (eds.), edition 2, supplemented, Almaty 2016, p. 310.

14 The name of the Kazakh regional committee (1922-1925).

a resolution of the Central Committee of the RKP(b), was renamed the Kazakh Regional Committee of the Party. In connection with the creation of the Kazakh SSR in 1936, the Central Committee of the VKP(b) on 23 April 1937, transformed the regional party organisation into the Communist Party (Bolsheviks) of Kazakhstan.

By the end of the 1920s, all fundamental issues of the work of the executive committees, including electing the chairman and praesidium of the executive committee, the secretary, the appointment of department heads, approval of the agenda of plenary meetings of the executive committee and congresses of the Soviets, were decided by party committees. The decision-making mechanism of the party committee is quite convincingly shown in the book by M.S. Voslensky "Nomenclature. The ruling class of the Soviet Union"¹⁵.

All decisions were included under a serial number in the protocol of the meeting of the bureau of the party committee, thus protocols were the main documents characterizing political and organisational activities of the party structures. The protocol indicated the number of the protocol, the name of the party organisation, the date of the meeting, the number of those present, the composition of the praesidium, the names of the chairman and secretary, and the names and positions of representatives of higher party bodies or invited persons. Then the protocol listed issues on the agenda and names of the speakers. The protocol recorded decisions, speeches, and proposals made. Decisions were binding on any agency. Resolutions of state bodies were compulsorily approved by the relevant party authorities. Thus, in the process of documenting, the party secured the right to control the activities of all state bodies and public institutions.

In addition to protocols written during the activities of the party committee, the following were formed:

- transcripts of party conferences, plenums, meetings of the praesidium, bureaus, secretariats of regional committees, district committees, city party committees, meetings of party, Soviet, trade union, and Komsomol assets and materials for them;
- statistical reports, information on the composition, number of communists in the party organisation, on its structure;

15 M. Voslensky, *Nomenclature. The ruling class of the Soviet Union*, Moscow 1991, p. 624.

- reports, speeches by secretaries of party organisations, information, letters from party bodies and organisations, government agencies;
- personal documents (questionnaires, personal sheets, mandates, certificates, registration cards) of party members and candidates;
- political reports of local party committees about the mood among the population, on the structure of deported people and work among them, of women's departments on work among women;
- circulars, directives, instructive memorandums, instructions of the RKP(b) on accounting and distribution of party personnel, work with Komsomol organisations, on the forms and methods of party work among Kazakhs, national minorities, women, on the new economic policy;
- documents on the work of periodical press, the organisation of publishing, public education, the professional training of art workers, the work of social security agencies;
- reports on the work of the internal affairs bodies, the Military Collegium of the Supreme Court on the adoption of repressive measures, of the OGPU on the mood among the clergy, social revolutionaries, Mensheviks, cadets, on the activities of representatives of the Alash movement, the fight against the Alashordyn organisation;
- references, memoranda, letters on the course of agitation and mass work among the workers, on the state of cultural, political, and educational institutions (party offices, libraries), on anti-religious propaganda, on the work of party bodies to clarify the national policy of the party.

Party bodies controlled practically all aspects of the life of the republic: cultural, economic, political and ideological.

The office work of the party committee was divided into two parts: simple and secret. Whereas the first was under the jurisdiction of the General Department, the second was under the authority of the Secretariat, later of the Special Sector.

All incoming correspondence, both simple and secret, addressed to the party committee, was accepted exclusively at the receiver of the General Department. After registration, ordinary correspondence was transferred to the General Department as it accumulated, and secret

correspondence was immediately transferred to the Secretariat or to the addressee of ownership. Reception and transmission of telephone messages were also done through the General Department. After the archival year passed, all documents were transferred to the archive. The archival year was considered to be from congress to congress¹⁶.

The official language in party committees was Russian and Kazakh. However, until 1929, the Kazakh language was written in Arabic script, and in the areas inhabited by Kazakhs, there are many documents written in the Arabic alphabet. From 1929 to 1939, the Kazakh language was written in Latin script. In the documents of that period, there are also documents written in Latin script. The Russian language was always used in parallel with the Kazakh language but written in the Cyrillic alphabet. Ready-made forms were always prepared in two languages.

One of the main tasks of the Istpart¹⁷ Kazakh Regional Committee (Kazkraykom) of the VKP(b), created on 20 November 1922, was to collect, process, and study materials on the history of the VKP(b) and the civil war in Kazakhstan, and to monitor the safety of party archives¹⁸. So, from the moment of its creation, Istpart of Kazkraykom paid great attention to the collection and storage of documents of party organisations, which was the only source for studying the history of the October Revolution, party organisation, and the civil war in Kazakhstan due to the lack of party archives at that time. This task was solved by creating a political section in the Central Archive of the KASSR.

According to the instructions adopted in the early 1920s by the Central Committee of the RKP(b), documents were to be kept in party committees for five years, after which they were to be archived. On this basis, starting from 1926, party committees began to send their files to the Central Archive. Unfortunately, these materials were not processed for a long time but were folded directly in bales. There was a threat of destruction of the most valuable documents reflecting the process of emergence and multifaceted activities of the party organisations of the republic. The Istpart of the Kazkraykom of the VKP(b)

16 Archive of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan (APRK), F. 141. Op. 1. D. 2816, p. 9.

17 The name of the commission for collecting memories; documents on the history of the October Revolution.

18 APRK. F. 141. Op. 18. D. 30, p. 9.

informed the Central Istpart about this¹⁹. At the same time, a letter signed by the secretary of the Kazkraikom and the head of the Istpart was sent to all provincial committees requesting information about the state of their archives and other archives in the provinces, the availability, condition, and storage of valuable materials for creating the history of the party organisation²⁰. After finding out about the unsatisfactory state of the provincial archives after 1927, documents and materials from the Kazkraikom of the VKP(b), the Regional Control Commission, and the Kazkraikom of the VLKSM began to arrive at the Istpart of the Kazkraikom. These documents were unordered and needed to be put in order. In June 1927, the KazkraiCom of the VKP(b) approved the head of the party archive and allocated three temporary workers for processing²¹.

In this way, the foundation was laid for the creation of a party archive under the Istpart of the Kazkraykom and in 1929, on March 25th, by a resolution of the Organising Bureau of the Central Committee of the VKP(b), a necessity to immediately create a unified party archive at the Lenin Institute was recognized. In the case of field offices, party archives were to be organised under the Istparts and special commissions, consisting of party comrades who knew archival affairs, were created to streamline accounting and concentration of local party archival funds. The Regional Party Archive, organised in 1927 under the Istpart of the Kazkraykom of the VKP(b), in 1929 became a branch of the Central Party Archive under the Istpart of the Kazkraykom of the VKP(b) and had 6 funds in storage:

1. Kazakh Regional Committee of the CPSU (b);
2. Kazakh Regional Committee of the Komsomol;
3. Kazakh Regional Control Commission;
4. Red Caravan;
5. Revolutionary movement in Kazakhstan (materials in the form of manuscripts, documents, leaflets, appeals, etc.);
6. Information Department.

¹⁹ APRK. F. 141. Op. 1. D. 936, p. 20.

²⁰ APRK. F. 141. Op. 18. D. 30, p. 4.

²¹ *Institute of Party History under the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan*, Alma-Ata 1973, p. 13.

The chronological period of archival materials on the first three funds only begins in 1921, documents from the moment of the organisation of the Kirpartburo since 1920 have not been preserved²². On 28 June 1929, the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the VKP(b) approved the “Regulations on the Unified Party Archive of the VKP(b)”, according to which all the main directives for the management of party archives were given by the Lenin Institute in agreement with the secret department of the Central Committee. The Unified Party Archive was supplied with documents of party committees, Control commissions, Komsomol organisations and fractions of Soviet trade unions and other institutions created in their office work and lost their significance for current work. Materials and documents of party committees stored in other institutions (the Central Archive, the Museum of the Revolution, Eastprof, etc.) were to be transferred to the Unified Party Archive.

The Central Unified Party Archive had a secret department in which secret materials were stored, the use of which was authorized by the secretary of the Central Committee of the VKP(b), and in the localities by the secretary of party organisations. The issue of the secrecy of materials and their declassification was resolved jointly with representatives of the Lenin Institute and the Secret Department of the Central Committee, and at the local level, decisions were made by the secretary of the local party organisation and the head of the Istpart. The Central Unified Party Archive had the right to seize documents of local party organisations of particular importance²³.

Party archives revived the traditions of departmental, closed archives; their documents were not included in the Unified State Archival Fund (EGAF) of the RSFSR, did not belong to the state, but were the property of the party²⁴. Thus, violating the principles of centralization of archives, adopted on 1 June 1918 “On the reorganisation and centralization of archives in the RSFSR”, the party documents were separated from the rest.

22 APRK. F. 141. Op. 1. D. 2816, p. 1.

23 APRK. F. 141. Op. 1. D. 2816, p. 14.

24 S.Yu. Malysheva, *Fundamentals of archival science: Textbook*, Kazan 2002, p. 122.

During the formation of the party archives, there were difficulties with the premises for the party archives and repositories. Six out of 16 archives of regional committees of the KP in Kazakhstan were located outside the buildings of regional committees. With the exception of 2 archives – the Semipalatinsk and Guryev archives, the premises of the archives did not meet the requirements for the preservation of archival documents. Archives did not have sufficient cubic capacity. The premises were inadequate not only for reception of materials in the perspective of the coming years but also for the current year, which resulted in a large load for archives that violated the rules for storing documents. Seven archives were located in cold and dark semi-basements. Some archives were simply heated by an oven²⁵.

The second problem was the lack of qualified archiving personnel, which was often reflected in the form of archival work such as processing and the description and preparation of the scientific reference apparatus of the accepted documents.

The '70s and the beginning of the '80s were a period of improvement of the material and technical base for the party archives of the republic. By 1985, 14 of the 20 party archives of Kazakhstan were located in buildings built according to special standard projects.

In the early 1990s, the party archive was in the party archive sector of the Almaty Institute of Political Science and Management, which was created by merging the Institute of Political Studies of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan and the Almaty Higher Party School²⁶. While being a part of this institute, researchers did not have access to the archival documents and historically valuable archival documents were at risk of being destroyed and damaged. The party archive, which had accumulated many valuable documents in its funds, was subordinated to the tenants of the places it had previously owned. Consequently, there was a risk of damage to documents that required specialized care.

After the events of August 1991, the Republican Party archive was viewed not as a national treasure but as confiscated party property. Along with the assets of the liquidated Almaty Institute of Political

25 APRK. F. 811. Op. 8. D. 1517, p. 1.

26 APRK. F. 30. Op. 1. D. 1, pp. 1-2; F. 708. Op. 139. D. 3087, pp. 11-14.

Science and Management, the warehouses and funds of the Republican Party archive were transferred to the Kazakhstan Institute of Management, Economics, and Forecasting (KIMEP).

On 28 October 1991, the Committee on State Property of the Kazakh SSR adopted a resolution on transferring buildings of party archives to the General Archives Directorate under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kazakh SSR, and on 12 April 1992, a further resolution on transferring documents of the former CPSU archives to the General Archive of the Republic of Kazakhstan²⁷.

These documents legitimized the new status of documents of the archive funds of the CPSU. All regional party archive documents were gathered in the Central Party Archive and became part of the National Archival Fond.

On 3 August 1992, by the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Central State Archive of the Modern History of Kazakhstan was established on the basis of the Party Archive of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan²⁸, which in January 1994 was reorganised into the Archive of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Conclusions

Kazakh experience with communist dictatorship is almost a quarter of a century ahead of Poland. In terms of the party administrative office, creating documentation and its storage and legal status in Poland after 1945 – as in many other areas of life – models developed in the Soviet Union were implemented. This was reflected even in the common term describing this phenomenon today, namely “sovietization”²⁹. The same type of “total” party organisation was in force³⁰, the same internal structure and system, and finally the administrative office and archival patterns. If it were not for the language used to record party

27 APRK. F. 30. Op. 1. D. 1, pp. 16-18.

28 APRK. F. 30. Op. 1. D. 2, pp. 1-2.

29 W. Charczuk, *Dokumentacja MBP, MO, KBW i WP w latach 1944-1954 jako przykład sowietyzacji biurokracji*, [in:] A. Górak, D. Magier (eds.), *Dzieje biurokracji na ziemiach polskich*, vol. 2, Lublin-Siedlce 2000, pp. 333-358.

30 D. Magier, *System...*, pp. 11-13.

information, so characteristic of Kazakhstan and mentioned above, one could speak of a matrix mirrored in Poland. It is also valid in the field of archival policy in a state under communist rule. The work of the administrative office of the Polish Workers' Party/Polish United Workers' Party and Kazakh Regional Committee of the All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks)/the Communist Party of Kazakhstan, which was part of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, was excluded from the supervision of the state archival service. The policy of dealing with party documentation was left to the mono-party, which itself decided on the manner of collecting, valuing, storing, and sharing (i.e., using), documents. A network of regional party archives, headed by the Central Archives of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party (PZPR), was organised in Poland on similar principles as in Kazakhstan (i.e., the entire USSR).

After the systemic changes, collections of documentation in both countries became the responsibility of the state archive service. In Poland, they were deployed in 1990 in archives according to the territorial principle, in Kazakhstan, in a newly created archive made especially for this purpose, which was reorganised in 1992 in the Archives of the President of the Republic. This documentation is available to users, although archivists are still working on the full development of this resource in accordance with the archival practice of their countries. This is extremely important because it opens up the possibility of using the information contained in them for research conducted by representatives of various scientific disciplines dealing with national heritage, but also the history of law, administration, economy, medicine, architecture, etc. As a result of the omnipotence of the Communist Party, the documents created and collected by it bear information on all aspects of the life of the population. In this sense, their value cannot be overestimated, because no topic from the history of Kazakhstan from 1918 to 1991 and the history of Poland from 1944 to 1989 can be considered fully developed without reaching for these archives. Therefore, only by studying these documents and then making cadastral aids (inventories, indexes, guides) available (both in the form of traditional and online publications) will it allow for the effective employment of this wealth of historical sources.

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