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SUMMARY OF DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

The relationships of Warmian diocese administrators with Polish communist authorities over the period of 1945–1989

The aim of the doctoral thesis is an attempt to present the relationships of Warmian diocese administrators with communist authorities over the period of 1945–1989, meaning the period in which Poland was a part of the socialist countries bloc, where communist parties were in power, and Catholic Church was viewed as an element of opposition, posing a threat to the government.

The hereby presented dissertation has been organised in chronological-topical arrangement, preceded by the introduction and consists of nine chapters, all of these concluded with the summary. The whole thesis is completed with bibliography divided into: archive records, print sources, literature and press materials. Using the chronological-topical construction allows to trace the historical process at the same time focusing attention on the issues requiring a thorough analysis. Besides the first chapter, in which the establishment of Polish church administration in the area of East Prussia was characterised, all the subsequent ones form the description of consecutive Warmian diocese administrators with the communist authorities.

Between 1945–1989 the administrators of Warmian diocese were: Rev. Teodor Bensch (1945–1951), Rev. Wojciech Zink (1951–1953), Rev. Stefan Biskupski (1953–1956), Bishop Tomasz Wilczyński (1956–1965), Bishop Józef Drzazga (1965–1978), Bishop Józef Glemp (1979–1981), Bishop Jan Obłąk (1981–1985) and Bishop Edmund Piszcz (1985–1989). While describing their relationships with communist authorities in post-war Poland, the main focus was first and foremost the nature of conversations and correspondence between the representatives of the party-state government system, including the attitude towards political reality and communists' expectations. Another issue analysis attempted at was the presentation of the attitude of diocese administration to crucial decisions of state authorities menacing Church activities and other vital events in the state – Church relationships. Moreover, the next subject of interest was the attitude of Catholic Church hierarchs in Warmia and Mazury to 'patriot priests' movement and catholic organisations controlled by the state i.e. 'Caritas' Catholic Association, PAX Association and Christian

Social Association. Juxtaposing the presented above, there were characterised the relationships of diocese authorities with the activists of NSZZ 'Solidarność' trade union and other communists political opponents' structures.

In order to present the relationships of Warmian diocese administrators with the communist authorities thoroughly, certain issues were addressed in particular; these were the following – a struggle to keep religious education, to run religious education centres, to build ecclesiastical and church infrastructure, to staff church positions or to regulate the Church's realty to post – war German properties. The attitude of diocese administrators to breakthrough events of national significance was also analysed with due attention; these included December 1970 and June 1976 workers' protests, Polish People's Republic constitution amendments, changes on top government positions in PPR, summer strikes in 1980, founding of Self-governing Trade Union 'Solidarność', introducing martial law in Poland and finally parliamentary elections in 1989.

Besides presenting the evaluation of contemporary socio-economic situation resulting from the analyses conducted by particular diocese administrators, their role in the events which were significantly meaningful for Warmia and Mazury region was also the subject of author's interest. The events in question included: construction works on the new theological college premises, Warmian diocese administration transience, workers' strike in 'OZGraf' Olsztyn Printing Plant, imposing internment on 'Solidarność' activists, founding Catholic Intelligentsia Club and Warmian Catholic Club in Olsztyn or the death of Marcin Antonowicz a student – victim of the regime.

The description of the relationships of Warmian diocese administration with the communist authorities in Poland over the period of 1945–1989 includes the analysis of public speeches of anti-state character and reactions to slanderous press articles targeted at church and its officials. Moreover, each of the chapters presenting the relationships of a particular administrator with the authorities contains the presentation of surveillance procedures run by the central and predominantly local security apparatus structures additionally supported by a network of informers recruited among clergymen and congregation members of Catholic Church.