Gentlemen,

The Polish press could not abstain from utilizing the last victories of the Polish army for the purport of antisemitic agitation. After the terrible catastrophe in Pinsk a special campaign seems to have taken place. This time the conquest of Vilna and the battle near Lida seem to serve as a pretext. The Polish pogrom-press reported about a Polish officer, whom the Jews have murdered and cut out his heart; furthermore about the hatred of the Jews to the Poles etc. But not only the pogrom-press is proceeding with such agitation. Even the widespread "Kurjer Warszawski" publishes April 22nd the following attack on Jews. In a report of two columns the paper relates of the battle near Lida. After having described the attack and the conquest of the town and the entering of the victorious Polish army, the reporter is proceeding as follows:

"In the meantime a dreadful surprise expected the soldiers storming forward in the streets of the town. From the windows of the houses, from all the floors and even from the chimneys the bolsheviki and a great part of the Jewish population opened a deadspreading fire."

At the beginning of the report, the reporter mentions that among the bolshevistic army which defended the town there were represented Chinese, seamen, but also Poles, though, as the reporter remarks, very few, and also these only served because they were compelled to do so. The defence of the town Lida was "unfortunately" in the hands of a Pole - the former captain Dobrowolsky. The greatest energy at the defence of the town was shown by the bolshevistic colonel Keppe, also a Pole.

How far from truth such reports are is best shown by the following report of another Polish newspaper "Gazeta Warszawska", April 22nd. The paper writes about the conquest of Baranowitschi the following:

"The peasants greeted the Polish army as their rescuers. March the 16th at 5 o'clock in the afternoon our army entered Baranowitschi evacuated by the Bolsheviki. The Jewish population greeted the Polish troops shouting: Vivat, long live Poland."

The same paper brings a telegram from Grodno regarding the formation of a new white-Russian army, wherein the following is stated:"the first battalion of a Jewish regiment is under formation." The above named antisemitic attacks are the more alarming as they are offsprings of a very shrewd campaign. According to the Jewish press the Jewish population is very depressed and the panic is evermore increasing.

Yours truly,

Joint Distribution Committee
52 William St.
New York

KOPENHAGA
April 30th, 1919
COPENHAGEN
Vesterbrogade 77

[Signature]

INFORMATION OFFICE REGARDING THE CONDITIONS OF JEWS IN POLAND