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Summary of PhD dissertation “Department of religious associations Presidium of the Voivodeship National Council in Wroclaw. Organization and activity in 1950-1973”

Problematic issues of Polish state authorities attitude to churches and other religious associations after the Second World War has been a subject of scientific research for years. Although in the area of religious state administrations representatives one may spot undiscovered areas which require supplementing the state of knowledge.

The aim of the following dissertation is research on activity of Department of religious associations Presidium of the Voivodeship National Council in Wroclaw. Organization and activity in 1950-1973 in the external aspect which is legal actions and acts and extra-legal ones undertaken towards institutions and administrative organizations and internal aspect which is organization's structure and its changes placed in the state administrative structure (horizontal and vertical) legal basis of operations, HR matters etc.

The examined organization specialised in religious matters, in state administration in the Wroclaw voivodeship. Undertaken actions carried out by this department had often multi perspective dimension, caused by the trial of pushed out religion from the sphere of the public life and limiting its role to become marginal influence on social and political development of the Polish citizens.

The dissertation is mainly based on documents gathered in state archives, law regulations applicable in the examined period and scientific literature. Source analysis performed was meant to verify confirmation of the state of research and its supplement. The main origin of source base are documents created by state administration department responsible for religious politics. As the basic thesis was accepted that Department of religious associations Presidium of the Voivodeship National Council in Wroclaw. Organization and activity in 1950-1973 was department of state administration and its main task was to keep administrative strict control (in some cases and periods administrative repression) it was strict control of churches and other

religious associations but not administering in the area of religious matters (as it resulted from the law regulations).

The issue of religious policy of central authorities and its ideological bases and main principals was necessary to construct political legal and ideological background in which the research department operated. Religious policy of state of authorities, with special focus on Lower Silesia was an important matter in the department's operations. The next problem having influence of the general evaluation of the department was its organisation and competences. This problem had to be solved mainly based on legal and administrative conditions. The main issue in Phd dissertation turned out to be research of examining the activities of the department towards the dominant catholic church, but also towards minority churches and religious associations.

The dissertations consists of five chapters, introduction and termination with the resulting conclusions of the researched matter. Chapter I is dedicated to religious politics of state authorities, its ideological basics and its practical functioning by states authorities with particular emphasis of Lower Silesia. Additionally main principles of religious law stated in the constitution from 1952 and its doctrine were analysed.

Chapter II is dedicated to structural organization. It describes the genesis of religious administration on the territory of Wroclaw voivodeship the department position in the state administrative structure, its subordination and legal basis of activity. In this chapter HR matters and the organization of the department were researched. Legal acts of different rate and issued by various state departments were used to be put to analyse.

Chapter III concerns the department actions towards catholic church organization which was considered to be the biggest opponent and conteste of People's Republic of Poland. Problem was researched in the aspects of personal matters, the organization of catholic church and state fiscalism. In the further part of the chapter the methodology of the departments work and evaluating criteria of catholic priests cooperation with state authorities, HR policy towards catholic church and usage of fiscalism in ongoing actions were described.

Chapter IV raises the issue of departments activities in traditional areas of catholic church performance: charity, health care, religion education, pastoral and religious activities. In this chapter the attitude of state authorities towards convents was described.

Chapter V is dedicated to church minorities and other religious associations active in Lower Silesia and its short characteristic. The attempt was made to answer the question of whether the researched department undertook any activities of systematic and planned character or had a temporary aspect. The attempt was also made to answer a question of the minority churches and other religious associations role in religious politics of Wroclaw state voivodeship.

Finally its potential usage in fight of catholic church was analysed. Overall and specific conclusions were presented in the end. All presented issues were analysed in terms of law but also history and socio-politics. The analysis of archive material and legal acts of different kinds supported by scientific literature it allowed to give answers to specific research problems and to take a stand towards the argument given in the introduction part.

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