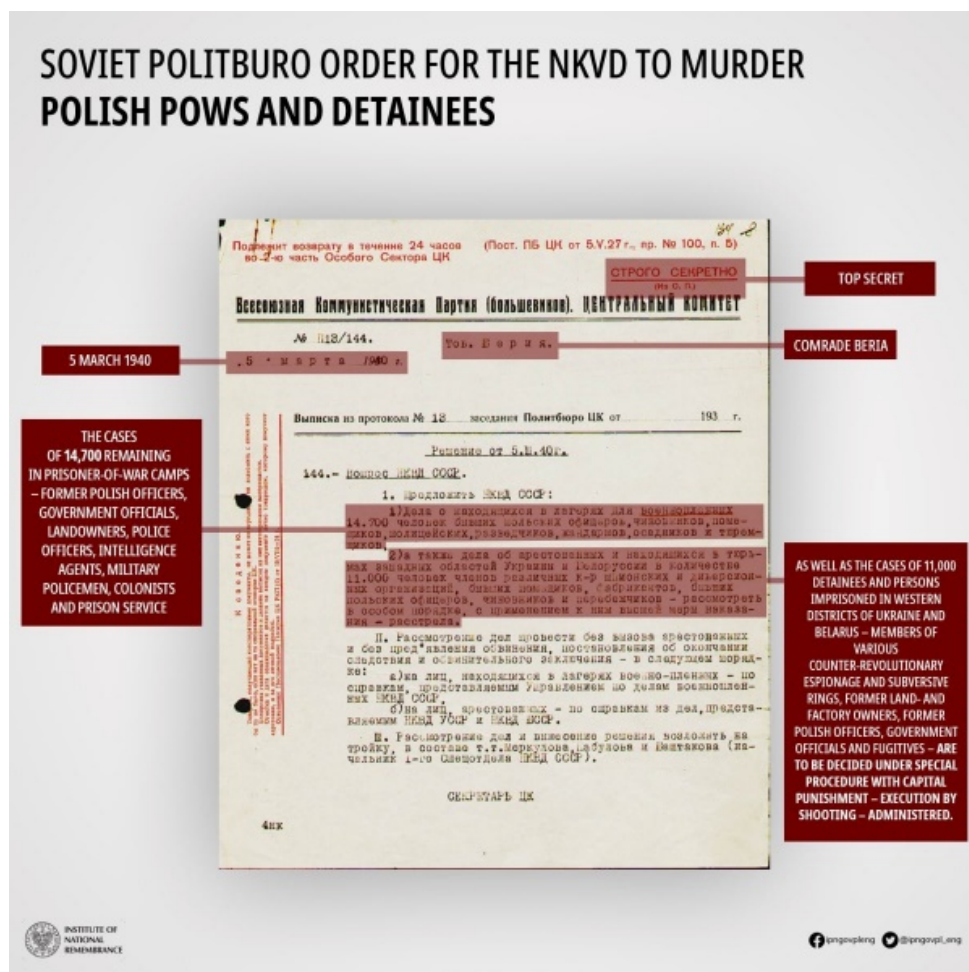


## The order which initiated the Katyn massacre

81 years ago, the highest Soviet authorities approved Beria's proposal to kill Polish POWs and detainees. The approval was issued as the order no. P13/144, and set in motion the preparations for the Katyn Massacre, followed by the transfer to the execution sites.



Those who were kept in POW camps and NKVD prisons were, according to Beria “confirmed Soviet enemies ready to spread anti-Soviet agitation”. In a secret memo from 2 March 1940, addressed to the highest Soviet authorities, the NKVD head proposed the death penalty for them.

The execution of almost 22,000 people: Polish prisoners of war in Katyn, Kharkov, Kalinin (Tver) and also other Polish prisoners (soldiers and civilians), which took place in the spring of 1940 in different places of the Soviet Ukraine and Belarus republics was based on the decision of the Soviet authorities, that is the Political Bureau of All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks) of March 5, 1940.

The machine of terror started immediately. Already at the end of March 1940, prisoners detained on Poland's Easter Borderlands would be taken to prisons in Kiev, Kharkov and Kherson in Ukraine and Minsk in Belarus. In total, 7,300 were shot in these prisons - less than originally decided by the Political Bureau. In turn, prisoners of war were taken from the camps in the first days of April 1940.

The place of execution and burial of 4,400 of prisoners of war from Kozelsk was a forest near the town of Katyn, near Smolensk. Their brothers-in-arms from Starobelsk (3,700) were taken to Kharkov and deprived of life in the building of the local NKVD Board.

Their corpses were buried near the Piatichatka settlement near Kharkov.

6,300 prisoners from the Ostashkov camp were murdered in the NKVD Board building in Kalinin. Their corpses were transported to the forest near the village of Mednoye near Kalinin and buried there.

Thousands of the most valuable representatives of Polish society fell victim to the Katyn massacre - which has remained an irreparable loss.

The idea behind the crime, i.e. devastating Polish independence aspirations, failed, however.

We recommend our collected content related to the Katyn massacre – one of the greatest crime of Stalinism.

<https://bit.ly/38dIVO3>

Joseph Stalin passed away 13 years after he approved Beria's proposal and issued the order to prepare the Katyn massacre. Ironically, the so-called "cult of the leader" spread by communist propaganda, made a criminal into a hero, and as such he was mourned in communist Poland.

**PERPETRATORS OF THE KATYŃ MASSACRE**  
**JOSEPH STALIN**

**KATYŃ**  
UNREDRESSED SOVIET CRIME

- SOVIET DICTATOR
- GUILTY OF 1937-1938 GENOCIDE OF POLES
- HITLER'S ALLY
- LIED ABOUT KATYŃ

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