The Reconstruction of the Polish-Israeli Relations and Operation Bridge

This article concerns the events that led to the establishment of diplomatic relations between Poland and Israel in 1990. The author describes the circumstances of both the rupture in relations between the two countries, and the changes in the international situation, which led to a rapprochement in the late ’80s. A particular emphasis is put on the history of the secret operation dubbed ‘Operation Bridge’, which involved the transit of Soviet Jews to Israel via Warsaw. Due to its scale and the risk incurred by Tadeusz Mazowiecki’s government as a result, this operation was one of the foundations of a new opening of relations between the two countries. This article is based on literature, the press, and sources stored in the archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Institute of National Remembrance in Poland.