

M. B. B. Biskupski

“Hollywood’s War with Poland, 1939-1945”

During the Second World War the Hollywood film industry either ignored Poland or presented a distorted and unsympathetic portrayal of the happenings there. The result was an image of Poland misleading to the American public. Since the public received much of its information about the war from films, the result was a damaging depiction of the consequences of the war for Poland. The reason for this state of affairs was the fact that the Roosevelt administration wished the Soviet Union to be presented in a flattering light on the screen. Due to the foul treatment Poland received at the hands of the Soviets, a flattering picture of Russian actions would require ignoring or distorting the Polish role in the war. The film industry cooperated whole-heartedly with Washington. This cooperation was all the closer because there were many sympathizers of the Soviet Union in key positions in Hollywood-especially among screenwriters.