

History of Chiune Sugihara's Whereabouts

Spungen Family Foundation

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Beginning in 1933, Lithuania was under Polish control until October 1939 following the invasion of the Soviet Union. On June 14, 1940, the Soviet Union provided Lithuania with an ultimatum; Soviet Union soldiers were allowed to create military stations in Lithuania in exchange for partial regain of the city of Vilnius (Lithuania's current capital). The Lithuanian government agreed.

Vilnius was a central hub in Lithuania, though Chiune Sugihara did not operate from it. Chiune Sugihara was a Japanese diplomat who saved thousands of Jewish refugees by providing authorized transit visas, allowing Jews to flee Europe. It is vital to note Sugihara was stationed in Kovno (Kaunas), the then capital of Lithuania. He did not operate out of Vilnius, which was under Polish control during his primary mission.