

# REPORT'S NAZI ERROR

# ANGER AT RTE CAMP GAFFE

## Broadcaster apologises to Poles

**RTE News has written an apology to the Polish Ambassador after a Nazi concentration camp cock-up.**

Poles in Ireland were left fuming following a news report on Thursday about the trial of a former Nazi concentration camp secretary.

In it, the station referred to the Stutthof concentration camp as the "Polish concentration camp".

This led Anna Sochanska, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to Ireland, to write to bosses at Montrose for spreading "absolutely false information".

The broadcaster yesterday said it had apologised in a letter for "any distress caused" after the gaffe.

A spokesperson told the *Irish Sun* on Sunday: "I can confirm RTE News wrote to the Polish Ambassador on Friday to apologise for any distress caused."

Ms Sochanska had called for the apology – saying they "were Nazi German concentration camps in occupied Poland".

The mistake was in a report about the trial of former camp secretary Irmgard Furchner, 96, who is now charged with complicity in 11,000 murders.

Ms Sochanska said that the mistake caused "huge distress to the Polish community in Ireland".

On Friday,

By **LAUREN KELLY**

the ambassador said that she was relieved to see the reports were changed in the evening news bulletins but "strongly feels that the damage has been done".

In a letter to RTE managing director Jon Williams, she said: "In the report about the former Nazi camp secretary Irmgard Furchner charged with complicity in the murders of more than 10,000 people at the Stutthof concentration camp, RTE repeatedly referred to Stutthof as the 'Polish concentration camp' or 'concentration camp in Poland'."

"This is absolutely false information, as the death camps were Nazi German concentration camps in occupied Poland. Poland was occupied by Germany at the time when several German Nazi concentration and extermination camps were run on its territory."

"This repeated mistake is causing huge distress to the Polish community in Ireland, as well as to my compatriots in Poland."

"My country was ravaged by World War II and almost everyone had lost a loved one in the war fighting on the side of the Allies."

Indeed, many of them perished in Nazi German death camps."

Ms Sochanska added: "I was relieved to see the reports were changed in the evening news,

however I strongly feel that the damage has been done.

"Therefore I am asking you to immediately include a correction on today's RTE news programmes and ensure that misused terminology doesn't misinform your viewers."

*"I will gladly meet with you and/or your colleagues to discuss the legacy of World War II and its implications on Poland's past and present."*

"It is my sincere hope that in the future such serious mistakes by the national Irish broadcaster will not be made."

Aontu leader Peadar Toibin also slammed RTE for the error.

He said: "RTE News featured a report regarding Irmgard Furchner, a 96-year-old woman who was due before a court near Hamburg in relation to charges of complicity in the murders of more than 10,000 people dating back to when she was secretary at a Nazi concentration camp."

"During the course of the news report by RTE, a series of remarks were made which caused great upset to the Polish community, specifically that the concentration camp in question – Stutthof – was a 'Polish concentration camp'."

"This was an incredible mistake for RTE to make, and has caused huge distress to Polish people living in Ireland and in Poland."

"The diplomatic insensitivity here is very troubling, and cannot simply be brushed beneath the carpet."

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Fury... Sochanska



Letter... RTE MD Williams