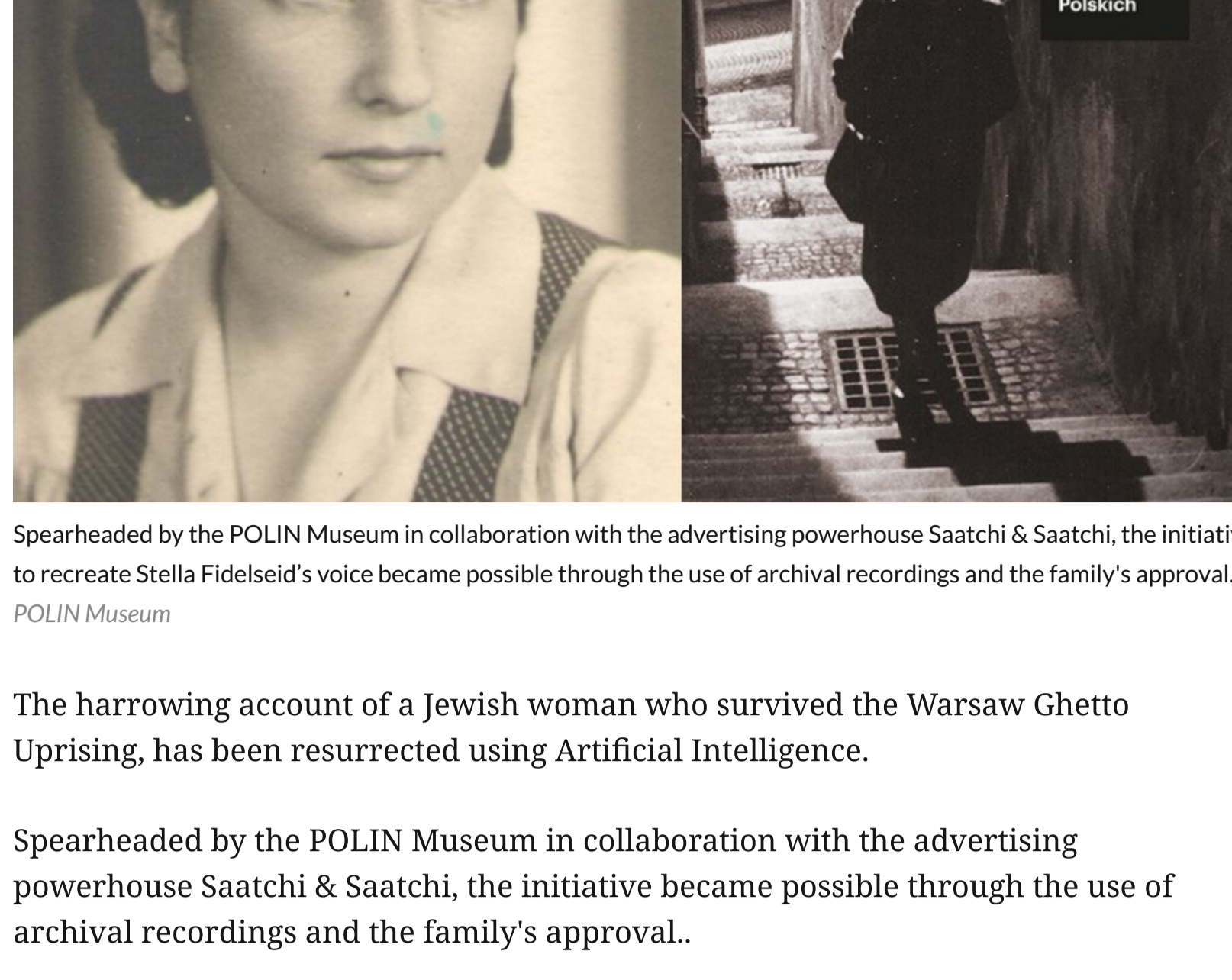


"I must have been inspired" Joseph Conrad

Voice of Holocaust survivor recreated by Artificial Intelligence to give harrowing account of Warsaw Ghetto Uprising

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STUART DOWELL DECEMBER 11, 2023



Spearheaded by the POLIN Museum in collaboration with the advertising powerhouse Saatchi & Saatchi, the initiative to recreate Stella Fidelseid's voice became possible through the use of archival recordings and the family's approval. POLIN Museum

The harrowing account of a Jewish woman who survived the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, has been resurrected using Artificial Intelligence.

Spearheaded by the POLIN Museum in collaboration with the advertising powerhouse Saatchi & Saatchi, the initiative became possible through the use of archival recordings and the family's approval.

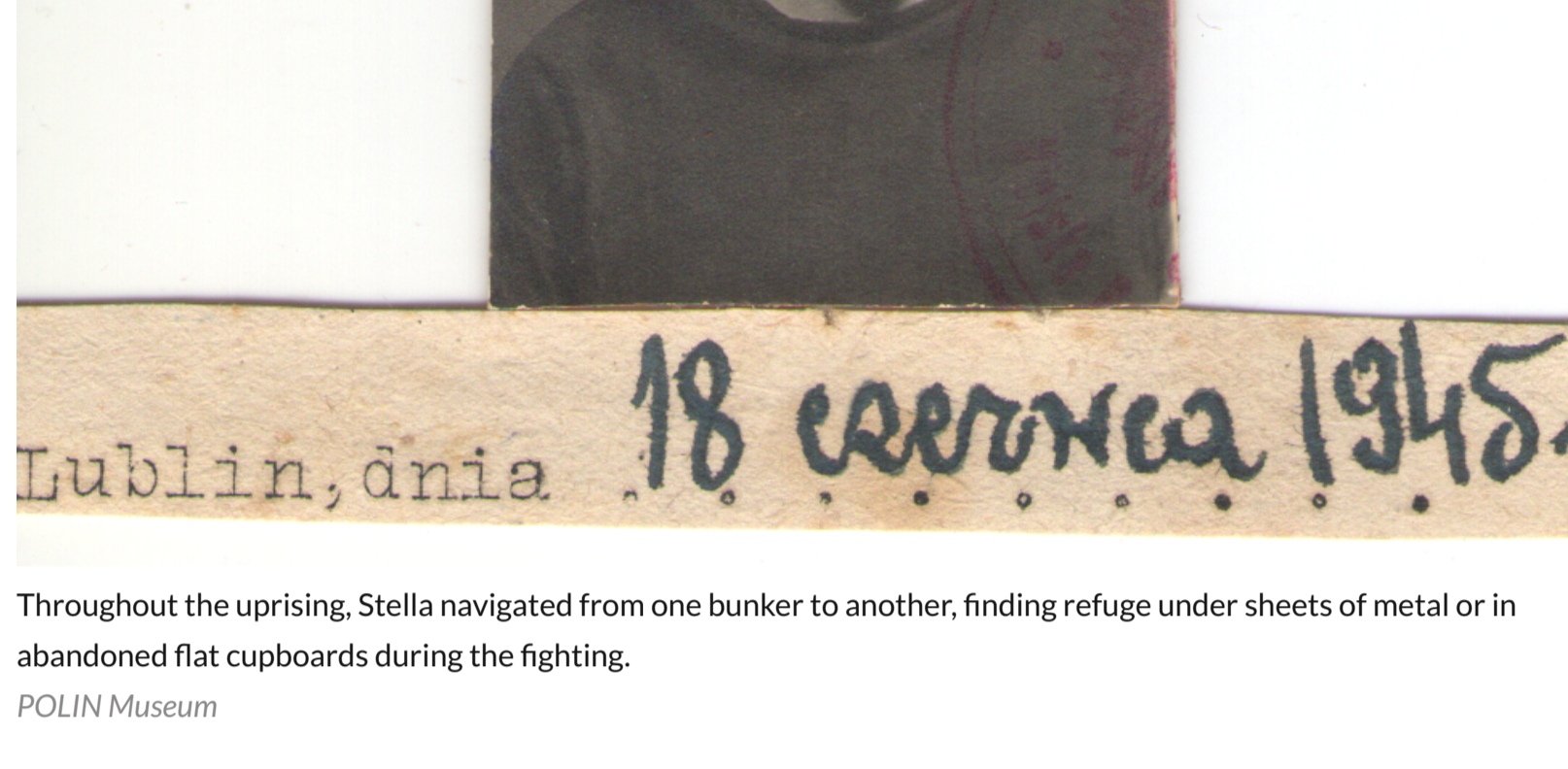


Stella Fidelseid was one of the few Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto who survived until the end of the war. Shortly afterwards, she wrote down her memoirs of the 1943 uprising. POLIN Museum

Stefania (Stella) Fidelseid was one of the few Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto who survived until the end of the war. Shortly afterwards, she wrote down her memoirs of the 1943 uprising.

They were published in print in 1947-1948 entitled "I remained in the rubble ... (my experiences after the liquidation of the Warsaw Ghetto-April-December 1943)".

The manuscript is currently in the archives of the Emanuel Ringelblum Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw.



Throughout the uprising, Stella navigated from one bunker to another, finding refuge under sheets of metal or in abandoned flat cupboards during the fighting. POLIN Museum

Although she has been dead for 22 years, POLIN Museum and Saatchi & Saatchi commissioned boffins to bring Stella's voice back to life using artificial intelligence.

Michał Sek, Chief Creative Officer, Saatchi & Saatchi, said "Stella Fidelseid emigrated to Brazil after the war. Archival video recordings of her in Portuguese from 1997 have survived. [...] Based on these, we were able to start work on creating a digital version of the Polish voice."

The account in Stella's voice can be heard by visitors to the former Warsaw Ghetto thanks to a specially programmed website which uses geolocation to track the location of the listener.

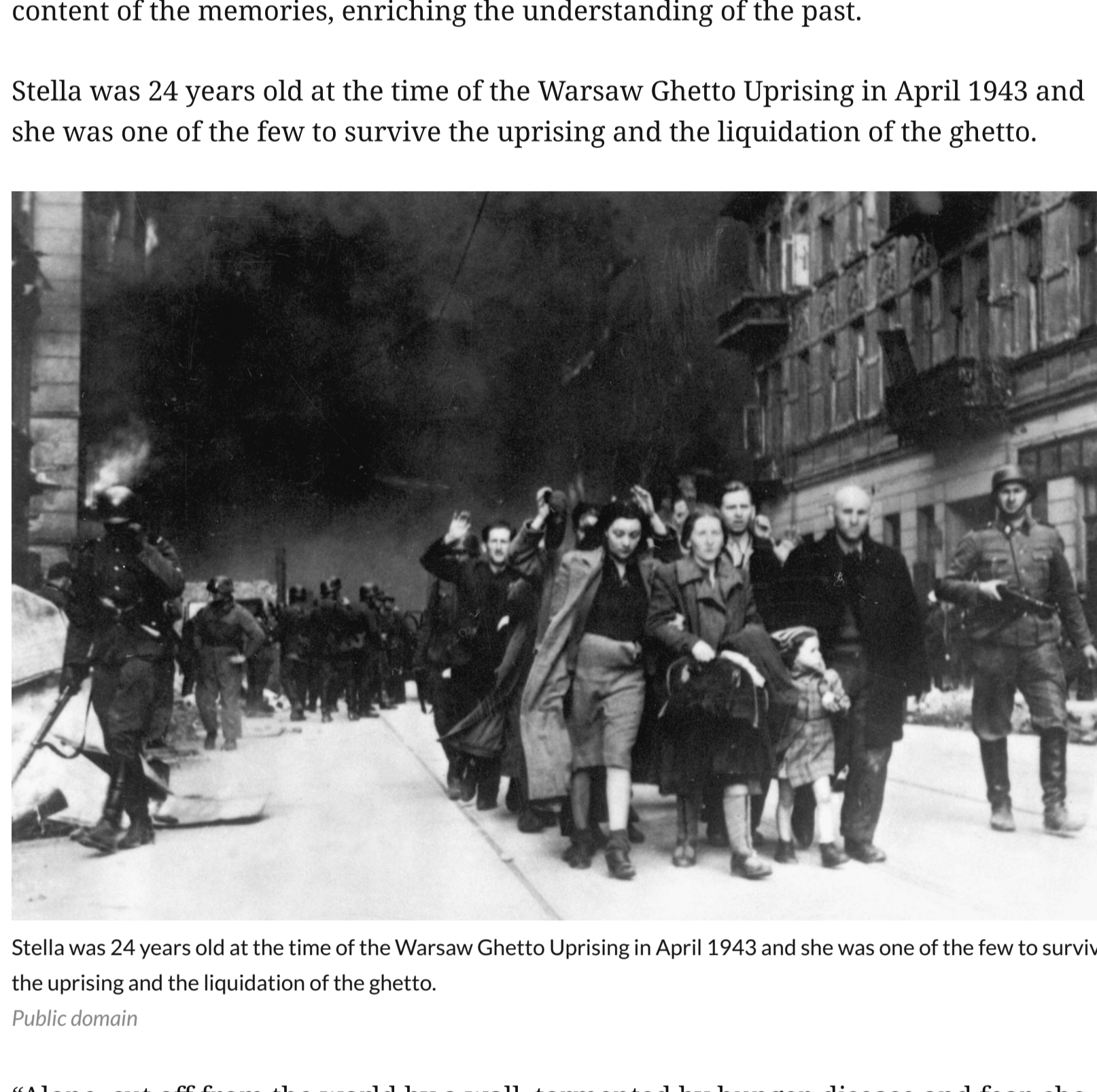


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QR codes can be found on posters placed at 10 bus stops throughout December which serve as portals to Stella's harrowing story. In January, the stories will be available to listen to on the project's website.

According to the project's organisers, the technology helps to delve deeper into the content of the memories, enriching the understanding of the past.

Stella was 24 years old at the time of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising in April 1943 and she was one of the few to survive the uprising and the liquidation of the ghetto.



Stella was 24 years old at the time of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising in April 1943 and she was one of the few to survive the uprising and the liquidation of the ghetto. Public domain

"Alone, cut off from the world by a wall, tormented by hunger, disease and fear, she had the choice of surrendering or fighting for her life despite the slim chances of survival," POLIN Museum writes.

Throughout the uprising, Stella navigated from one bunker to another, finding refuge under sheets of metal or in abandoned flat cupboards during the fighting.

Her family perished in Treblinka, and her husband, Salomon Swieca, a doctor, took his own life in Majdanek during the early days of the uprising. Stella only found out about this after the war.



According to the project's organisers, the use of Artificial Intelligence helps to delve deeper into the content of the memories, enriching the understanding of the past. POLIN Museum

She joined a group of survivors at the uprising's end, Stella sought refuge in a bunker amid the rubble, where, in November 1943, she gave birth to a baby boy who succumbed to starvation just days later.

In December of the same year, the group escaped to the 'Aryan' side, hiding in various Polish houses with the help of Michałina Poncyliusz, who ran a grocery shop. The end of the war found them in Milanówek.

In 1950, Stella left for Israel where she returned to her pre-war job as a laboratory technician.



After the war, Stella moved to Brazil. POLIN Museum

Meeting her future husband Mordka Milenbach, they moved permanently to Brazil, settling in São Paulo where their daughter Anette was born.

Stella Fidelseid's indomitable spirit and harrowing journey are commemorated as part of the exhibition 'A Sea of Fire Around Us. The fate of Jewish civilians during the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising' at the POLIN Museum.

The exhibition was organised on the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of the uprising and recalls the memory of nearly 50,000 civilians hiding in the burning ghetto in 1943. It can be visited until 8 January 2024.

TAGS: HOLOCAUST, POLAND, JEWS, WARSAW GHETTO, POLIN MUSEUM, AI, WARSAW GHETTO UPRISING, SURVIVORS, SAATCHI & SAATCHI, STEFANIA FIDELSEID

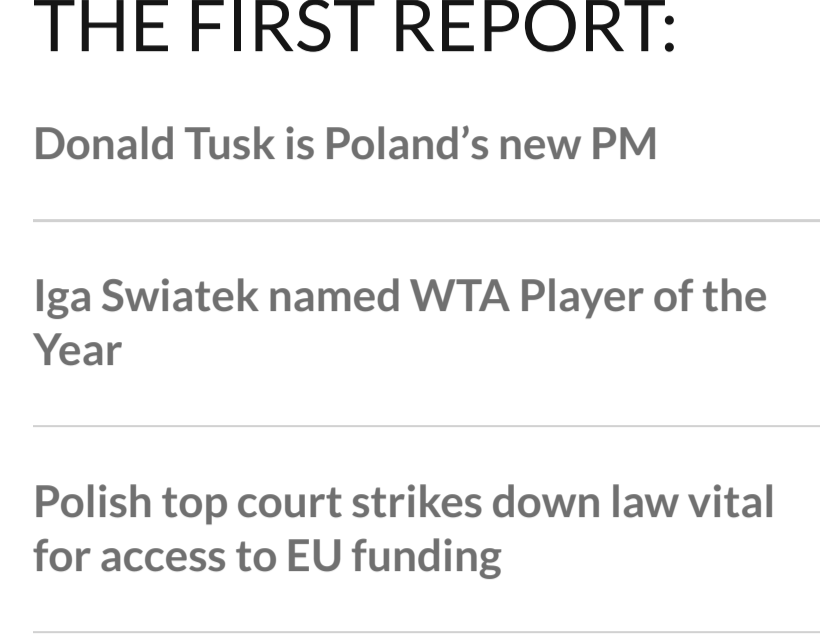
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