

# Opening shot

## DAVID IRVING MET WITH OUTRAGE IN POLAND



DAVID IRVING, the Holocaust revisionist writer, claimed he was surprised by the outraged reaction in Poland to the tour of Holocaust and Nazi sites he led last month.

The trip, for which enthusiasts from Britain, Germany, Australia and America paid £1,500 each excluding flights, was billed as an opportunity to experience "real history".

However officials at the former Treblinka extermination camp said they would not let Irving enter. And the director of the State Museum at Auschwitz said Irving cannot lead a tour group there because he is not a licensed guide.

Poland's Chief Rabbi Michael

Schudrich said: "Mr Irving is not a historian but a charlatan and a vicious liar". Dr Rafal Pankowski, of the Never Again Association, which campaigns against racism and antisemitism and has a close relationship with Searchlight, described Irving's presence in Poland as "unacceptable and offensive to the memory of the victims" of the war.

Irving claimed the Polish people should be grateful for his visit as he was "setting the record straight". He now claims to accept that Treblinka was a "real death camp", but still denigrates Auschwitz as a reconstructed "tourist attraction".

He went on to describe people who

branded him a Holocaust denier as "criminal, lying lunatics". That would presumably include Mr Justice Gray who, ruling against Irving in his libel action against the American academic Deborah Lipstadt, described him as an "active Holocaust denier", an antisemite and racist who "associates with right-wing extremists who promote neo-Nazism" and who "for his own ideological reasons persistently and deliberately misrepresented and manipulated historical evidence".

It would also include the Austrian judges who imprisoned Irving in 2006 for denying the Holocaust and "glorifying and identifying with the German Nazi Party".