

929622

TOP SECRET
By Auth. *SKA*
Initials *SKA*
Date.....

✓
HEADQUARTERS
U.S. FORCES, EUROPEAN THEATER
Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2

Regraded: SECRET By Authority
of ACSI Memo 6-59
OK 7/8/59

856617

024467

✓
REPORT ON TRIP TO POLAND
made by
LT. COLONEL PAUL F. ✓ SAPIEHA
Chief, Foreign Liaison Branch

2

Inclusive Dates:
10-21 September 1945

DECLASSIFIED
Authority *NND 017046*
By *KK* NARA Date *9-24-08*

R-COR

A-554 (1)

929622

REPORT ON TRIP
TO POLAND

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. GENERAL SUMMARY AND ITINERARY.....1
 A. Czechoslovakia.....2
 B. Poland.....3
 C. Warsaw.....5

II. THE MILITARY SITUATION.....6

III. THE FOREST PEOPLE.....11

IV. POLITICS.....12

V. THE AGRICULTURAL SITUATION.....14

VI. THE PRESS.....15

VII. INDUSTRY AND LABOR.....16

VIII. THE EASTERN BORDERS.....18

IX. THE JEWISH PROBLEM.....19

X. U.N.R.R.A.....20

CONCLUSION.....21

MAP OF ROUTES.....22

3

DECLASSIFIED
 Authority NND 017046
 By KK NARA Date 9-24-08

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 017046
By KK NARA Date 9-24-08

929622

~~TOP SECRET~~

REPORT ON TRIP

TO POLAND

Regraded: SECRET By Authority
of ACSI Memo 6-59

WJ 7/8/59

I. GENERAL SUMMARY AND ITINERARY.

The writer left this headquarters after many difficulties in connection with transportation on Monday, 10 September, for PILSEN, XXII Corps. He was accompanied by one sergeant and a driver, and reported in PILSEN to Colonel CRYSTAL, Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, XXII Corps. Thanks to the understanding and cooperation brought by Colonel CRYSTAL, a Second Lieutenant, MIS, William Dyczko, a driver and a jeep with a trailer were assigned to the writer. It should be noted that the mission could not have been accomplished without this additional transportation carrying gas and supplies. 4

The writer's party left PILSEN 11 September for PRAGUE and reported there at the U.S. Embassy, to Colonel WALDIKE, Military Attache. USFET orders directing the writer's mission did not include Lieutenant Dyczko and driver, Hahn,--also no clearance had been obtained from the Polish government to enter POLAND. It was therefore deemed advisable to send a copy of the USFET orders (to which the two names, Dyczko and Hahn, were added) to the POLISH Legation in PRAGUE for clearance. It quickly appeared, however, that such clearance could not be obtained there; therefore, request was made for a note on the back of the orders certifying that these were signed in General EISENHOWER'S name. Having obtained this, the party left by way of BRNO, OLOMOUC, TESCHEN, KRAKOW.

The night was spent in the city of OLOMOUC in private homes, as all hotels had been requisitioned that day for the RUSSIAN Army. We arrived in KRAKOW Thursday, 13 September, where we stayed until Monday, 16 September. In TESCHEN (Polish-Czechoslovakian border) the party was asked for papers, and when the writer stated that he was on orders of the Supreme Commander, American Forces in Europe, he was told that that was sufficient authority to enter the country.

Just before KRAKOW, the road block was encountered with both POLISH and RUSSIAN soldiers on guard, to whom the writer said, "Americanski", which word allowed free passage. The party went straight to the Archbishop's Palace, where car and trailer were parked during the time of our stay in KRAKOW. The writer obtained for himself and his men rooms at the Hotel Francuski.

On Monday, 16 September, our party left for WARSAW by way of KIELCE and RADOM, and arrived there around 5 o'clock in the evening. We reported to the U.S. Embassy in the Hotel Polonia to Colonel PASHLEY, the Military Attache. Here we were told that no billets were available, and that since we had no clearance from the POLISH Government, we were apt to create embarrassment to the U.S. Embassy. It was therefore deemed advisable for

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 017046

By KK NARA Date 9-24-08

~~TOP SECRET~~

929622

our party to leave the next morning. After having explained the situation and our mission, Colonel PASHLEY and Mr. KEITH, Counsellor of the Embassy, decided that we could stay one day in WARSAW, but that we would have to leave POLAND on Wednesday, 19 September. Colonel PASHLEY also was of the opinion that if we tried to go to BERLIN via POSEN and the RUSSIAN zone of occupation, we might get into trouble, and it would be impossible for us to obtain clearance from the Russians. We therefore decided to go back via BRESLAU, PRAGUE, and PILSEN, and left WARSAW on 19 September at 11 a.m., by way of PIOTRKOW, WIELUN, KEPNO and OELS, arriving in BRESLAU at 6 p.m., where we spent the night in the Hotel Monopole. We left BRESLAU next morning, Thursday, 20 September, and arrived in PRAGUE that same day at 6 p.m., where we reported to the Military Attache. We spent the night in PRAGUE, took off the next morning and arrived in FRANKFURT on Friday, 21 September, at 8 p.m.

The roads mentioned above, both in CZECHOSLOVAKIA and in POLAND were good. Except for the road from PIOTRKOW to WIELUN, all roads were either paved or oiled.

A. Czechoslovakia.

5

In connection with our mission, which was to establish a route, parking space, and billets for a convoy carrying the High Altar of St. Mary's Church in KRAKOW from NURNBERG to that city, Colonel WALDIKE requested CZECH military authorities to give us a CZECH non-com, whose mission would be to facilitate the performance of our mission. Consequently, a corporal of the CZECH Army by the name of Wizek joined us in PRAGUE and accompanied us as far as OLOMOUC. (Wizek is a Prague lawyer in civilian life, speaks Czech, German, French and some English). Conversations with Wizek, and through him with country people along our way, enabled us to take in the atmosphere reigning now in CZECHOSLOVAKIA. This atmosphere can be summarized as:

- a. If there is to be foreign occupation, why are the U.S. troops not there?
- b. When will the Russians pull out?

It is noteworthy that the nearer we came to BRNO and OLOMOUC, the above feeling was more marked, coming to a climax in the city of OLOMOUC proper, where the townspeople showed us great hospitality,--in fact, expressed joy at seeing us, and all those with whom we came into contact gave expression to their anti-Russian sentiments.

Immediately after our arrival in OLOMOUC, in front of the "Narodny Dom", which is the leading hotel of that city, an individual rushed out and asked if anyone of us spoke Russian. Lieutenant Dyczko, having given expression of his knowledge of that language, asked him what we could do for him. In great excitement, the individual told him that he had been in the underground movement in CZECHOSLOVAKIA and had, because of this, come into contact with many American prisoners of war and it was because of that that he felt such love for our nation that he was ready to do anything to make us comfortable in OLOMOUC. By that time, we had already arranged for billets and for dinner. We therefore thanked him for his kind offer, refusing, however, his help. In spite of this, the individual spent all evening trying to find out where we were going, where we were coming from, and how long we would stay, also what our mission was,--

~~TOP SECRET~~

929622

TOP SECRET

all this in the most crude and ridiculous way,--offering drinks and other such comforts, which we refused, one by one. It was obvious from the first moment that this was an agent of the N.K.W.D., and the writer was able to confirm it with the CZECH military authorities. (This agent, by the way, spoke no language other than Russian).

The dislike or antipathy for the Russians in OLOMOUC or east of there derives its intensity from robbery, rape, drunkenness of the Russian soldiers from the moment they entered CZECHOSLOVAKIA. These activities seemed to have subsided during the last two months. Very few, and only isolated, Russians were seen by the party between PRAGUE and IGLAU, JIHLAVA. From there on, the density seemed to increase, and many convoys as well as isolated trucks were met. This increase came to its climax on the road between OLOMOUC and TESCHEN, where convoys going west and carrying livestock, and convoys going east carrying Russian DPs were met in quantity. It is noteworthy that the livestock taken west was not Czechoslovakian, as confirmed to the party by Czechoslovakians, but appeared to be Polish.

The OLOMOUC district was known before the war as one of the best producers of agricultural products. A highly cultivated land and much cattle were its features. The writer and his party saw only a small percentage of the fields in cultivation and practically no livestock. 6

B. Poland.

Entry into POLAND was made at TESCHEN. There are two road blocks--one CZECH and one POLISH. We were not asked any questions by the Czechs, and when we arrived at the Polish road block, the Supreme Commander's name was sufficient to give us free entry. A Polish sergeant (a real Pole) was interested, however, in seeing what American orders looked like, and thus the writer had an opportunity of speaking to this man. The man had only one question on his lips during our conversation, and that was how could he and his two companions, two privates, go over to our lines. The writer asked them why they were so anxious to join us, to which they answered that they could not stand the situation as it was. There were a few Russian soldiers standing in the background and it was deemed advisable not to continue this conversation. At the hotel in TESCHEN, where we could have had our luncheon as soon as we pulled up, a big crowd collected and started asking us when U.S. troops would be coming to occupy their city. Here also the writer felt that a quick departure would be advisable.

Along the road from TESCHEN to BIELSKO, more convoys of the same nature as found on the road from OLOMOUC to TESCHEN were seen, and, in addition, a multitude (about 400) men in German uniform with white-and-red badges were seen camping. A short stop near these men confirmed the suspicion that these were Poles who had been caught with the GERMAN Army and were being repatriated. They looked hungry and very tired and carried very few personal belongings.

On the road to ZORY/KATOWICE, which is the only good road to get to KRAKOW, we did not see any Russians until the town of MIKOTOW, where the scattered Russian soldiers were quite at home. The countryside along that route looked more like a desert; villages had been burned and the fields were not in cultivation.

TOP SECRET

Just before the party rode into KATOWICE, the density of Russian troops around and in the town itself increased. Horse-drawn wagons, trucks parked at the roadsides would indicate that KATOWICE is an important railhead. As we rode through the industrial district between KATOWICE and KRAKOW, we noted that the coal mines are in operation, that some of the zinc smelters have been reactivated, but that other factories, like machine tool factories and factories producing finished metal goods, are all at a standstill and look completely deserted. The writer spoke to farmers, miners and one railroad employee. His report on conversations with these will follow.

All along the road from KATOWICE to KRAKOW, the party met herds of cattle being driven east by RUSSIAN women. Both cattle and women looked in a deplorable state, as if they had walked a very long way. The cattle were limping and had a dejected aspect. One of the women told the writer that they had been on the road for a month. (Rumor has it that the cattle driven east by these women are attacked as soon as they get to the Polish-Russian border, the women often killed, and the cattle driven into the forests by the forest people.) In several spots, cows were being cured on the roadside by Russian soldiers. Three trains with flat-cars were seen going west with hundreds of people and their baggage sitting on these cars in the open air. One train going east and one west of the same composition transported civilians and soldiers, both Russian and Polish, in the same way. Scattered Russian military personnel were driving horse-carts and trucks along the road. Some civilian motor transport and two busses with civilians in them were also encountered. The fields along this road looked as if they had been worked and were not as deserted as those seen on the previous stretches of the road. 7

The town of KRAKOW has not been touched by combat operations, neither was it ever bombed. The only damage seen results from the blowing of the bridges across the VISTULA by the Germans. There is a 100% increase in the number of people now living in the town. People who have come from all parts of Poland, scattered Russian military personnel are seen loafing around the streets. The market place is occupied from the very early morning until late at night by people from all walks of life trying to sell food-stuffs, clothing, dollars, jewelry, furniture, etc. It is not safe to walk around the streets after 10 p.m., and even before 10 p.m., a bullet whizzed over the writer's head as he was walking back to his hotel. The population can be divided into three categories: soldiers, Russian and Polish; traders on the black market (these make up the majority of people); and workers, who are the fewest of the three groups. After three days, the party left for WARSAW on Monday, 17 September.

Lieutenant Dyczko was sent to the Polish-Russian border in SANOK on Friday, 14 September, and returned to KRAKOW on Sunday, 16 September. He went by way of TARNOW, RZESZOW, KROSNO, SANOK, and returned by way of KROSNO, JASLO, NOVY-SACZ, LIMANOVA, BOCHNIA, KRAKOW. The former road was in a very bad state; the latter, however, was good. It would appear that the southern railroad (STRYJ-SAMBOR, CHYROW, SANOK, JASLO, NOVY-SACZ, SUCHA, BIELSKO) is the main supply road--many more trains than on the main line (KRAKOW, RZESZOW, LWOW) going west were seen on it. All railroad engines looked newly painted and all had Russian inscriptions on them. The railroad cars were of every kind of origin, but all had Russian lettering.

929622

TOP SECRET

Lieutenant Dyczko found many members of his family in and around SANOK, and the conversations with them are reported in the section on the "Eastern Borders". Sporadic rifle and Tommy-gun fire was heard by him in SANOK, as well as the outlying villages during both nights during which he stayed in that region. Apparently the occupational authorities in SANOK, comprising a Russian War Commander (Wojenny Komendant), with about 30 men and a few vehicles, are taking a completely indifferent attitude towards the population. This pertains also to the activities of the Polish garrison in that region.

The "CURZON LINE" has not been followed in connection with the establishment of the Polish-Russian border in that part of southern POLAND. The border now runs east of the original "CURZON LINE", starting just west of SIANKI in the CARPATHIANS, east of DOBROMIL through STAROSOL to PRZEMYSL, and from there, by way of LUBACZOW to RAVARUSKA along the River SOLOKIJA to the BUG.

C. Warsaw.

The suburbs are damaged by operations and bombing. They can be called, however, habitable, and people are living in them. This ring of damaged but still inhabitable dwellings is only a thin crust around complete and thorough destruction. The aspect of the town proper is worsened by the absence of work to clear the streets from rubble and garbage. Many a GERMAN town like DUREN, WURZBURG, and others which have been destroyed equally badly, have been put back in operation by the clearing of the streets and repairing water mains and electric power facilities. WARSAW looks today as if operations had only ceased a week ago, and about 70% of the city has neither water nor electric power. One tramway line, No. 7, was put into operation two days before our arrival. In one or two streets, narrow-gauge rails were put down to clear the rubble, but no work was seen. At one point in the center of the city, a heap of rubble had been dug through and people were seen carrying flowers in commemoration of many corpses still buried there. The activities seen here, however, did not indicate any organized work to clear the emplacement. This had been a hospital during the WARSAW rising.

Life in WARSAW is centered around the region of what once was the main railroad station, where a few blocks of houses are inhabited and there is both water and electric power. As one travels towards what once was the old town, activities become less and less and whole parts of the city are completely deserted. The people of WARSAW seemed to be mainly concerned with trading. The inability to stay more than one day made it impossible for the party to investigate the situation except very superficially.

On Wednesday, 19 September, the party left for BRESLAU by way of RAWA, TOMASZOW, PIOTRKOW, WIELUN, KEPNO, OELS, BRESLAU. Except for one large convoy of Russian trucks going west, a herd of about six to seven hundred horses driven by Russians going east, and a few scattered Polish cars with "PR" licenses (Polish government), nothing noteworthy was seen.

Both TOMASZOW and PIOTRKOW seemed to be garrison towns and much Polish military activity was seen. At the barracks in PIOTRKOW, the parade grounds were filled with 40 to 50 AAA guns of a large caliber, and with AT guns, which presumably were of

929622

TOP SECRET

Russian make. The party met no traffic at all on the road between PIOTRKOW and OELS. The fields along this road as far as the old POLISH-GERMAN border between KEPNO and OELS are only scatteredly in cultivation, and weeds have overgrown whatever had been sown. In OELS, there is a concentration of Russian troops, of which many were seen in the barracks and in the town, also a big prisoner-of-war camp, where a few thousand Germans in uniform were seen. The further we travelled towards BRESLAU, the more Russians we saw.

All German military installations in BRESLAU were filled with Russian troops. Colonel IVANOFF is the Russian "Wojenny Komendant" (War Commander). It would appear from what we were able to ascertain that he is both the military governor and the commander of troops in and around that city. The western part of BRESLAU is badly destroyed; east of the ODER, however, it is in quite good shape. The writer's party went to the Hotel Monopole, which is now run by the Polish government. Rooms were easily obtained and a sumptuous dinner was served. A party of Russian officers, consisting of the Deputy to Colonel IVANOFF, and several others, came in around nine o'clock, sat down next to the writer's table and were evidently intensely interested in our American uniforms. According to the manager of the hotel, it was the first time for many weeks that any Russian officers had appeared in the restaurant. The writer and his party dined here with Polish industrialists, now working for the Polish government in the coal industry.

Thursday morning, 20 September, the party left by way of GLATZ, NACHOD, HRADEC KRALOVE, for PRAGUE. Scattered Russian traffic near BRESLAU was seen, gaining in intensity as we drew nearer to GLATZ. Again, large herds of cattle were seen being driven north and south, especially in and around the town of GLATZ. Neither cattle nor horses were seen on the farms. The town of GLATZ itself was filled with livestock and Russian soldiers. At the CZECH-POLISH frontier in NACHOD, the "Polish" guards were evidently Russians in Polish uniform and the corporal who took down the license numbers of our cars spoke hardly any Polish at all.

II. THE MILITARY SITUATION.

The writer was able to contact certain personalities and get from these the following picture of the Polish armed forces.

On the writer's first day in KRAKOW, to avoid any suspicion of his mission being a clandestine one, he visited the Polish Commander of the Military District, General SKOKOWSKI. The General is a man of about 65 years of age; served in the Imperial Russian Army during and before the last war, and, following that, as a regular soldier in the Polish Army; during the German occupation he was an employee in a sugar factory.

During breakfast that first morning at the Hotel, a young lady came up to the writer and introduced herself as a reporter for the so-called "Pol-Press", a new Polish newspaper agency, and demanded an interview on the writer's mission. This was refused on the grounds that the writer had had no time as yet to report to the Polish military authorities and was not in the

TOP SECRET

habit of informing people about his duties through newspapers. The young lady started arguing in a most obsequious and then arrogant way, wishing to know when and how the writer would report to General SKOKOWSKI, who was her personal friend. Could she announce him and could she assist at his interview with the General? Evasive action was taken without, however, offending the feelings of said young lady.

When the writer appeared at General SKOKOWSKI'S headquarters, he was made to wait about thirty minutes. During this time a Polish major came up to the writer and, seeing a Polish paper in his hands, introduced himself and asked him if he wouldn't like to wait for the General in the major's office. Having walked over to that room, No. 210, the major immediately turned to the writer and said, "Help us, for God's sake, out of this situation, and how could I come over to your side?" After these words, to which the writer did not make a reply, the Polish major told him that the Military District staff in KRAKOW was entirely composed of Russians in Polish uniform except for General SKOKOWSKI and himself; that the situation was not only chaotic, but getting to the point where the slightest incident would create a rising of Polish people against the occupying power; that it was impossible for the Polish commanders to either administer or even discipline their own troops, and that these troops had been completely polluted by the Russian elements.

At this stage of the conversation, a corporal came in and invited the writer to step into the General's room. As the writer came in, he found the General standing behind his desk and three lieutenant colonels surrounding him. After the usual greetings and introductions, the writer explained that a route for the repatriation of the 13th century altar piece belonging to the Church of Our Lady had to be reconnoitered. Immediately following this explanation, the General asked how badly German towns had been destroyed by our bombardment.

The next question was about the atomic bomb--how it functioned and how great was the destruction wrought by it. The writer took the opportunity to give as comprehensive an idea to his listeners of how terrible the bomb was, and how probably it would be twenty years before anybody could live in a spot destroyed by the atomic bomb. At the same time, he explained that he did not have any knowledge whatsoever of the bomb proper. After a prolonged silence on the part of the listeners, Lt. Colonel ROKOWSKI, Judge Advocate of the Military District, mumbled in bad Polish, "The bomb, of course, will be controlled". This also ended the interview.

Having left his stick in Room 210, the writer went back to fetch it, thinking he might be able to say a word or two to the Polish Major. This was, however, impossible,--because Lt. Colonel KUSZKO, Chief of Staff to General SKOKOWSKI, and, as was later ascertained, prominent member of the N.K.W.D., followed the writer out of the General's room.

That evening, having returned to the hotel at 10 o'clock, the telephone rang and a lady, using impeccable English, asked the writer for an interview the next morning. At 10 o'clock next day, at the Archbishop's Palace, the woman appeared and the writer found himself confronted with Mrs. Whitehead, of Polish origin and widow of a British Colonel, whom he had known years ago in LWOW, and whom he had also known as a very active Polish patriot. Mrs. Whitehead explained that her brother-in-law, who turned out to be the Major of the previous day at the headquarters of the Military District, was most anxious to see

TOP SECRET

929622

TOP SECRET

the writer if this could be arranged. The writer made a date with the Major and met him the next day, Sunday, in one of the Archbishop's drawing rooms.

The Polish Major explained that he was most anxious to give as much information as possible to the U.S. Army, as POLAND could only pin its hopes on the United States.

POLAND is divided into seven Military Districts:

1. MORSKI - comprising THORN, DANZIG, GDYNIA, and west as far as the ODER.
2. POSEN
3. LODZ
4. KATOWICE
5. WARSAW
6. LUBLIN
7. KRAKOW

(These districts are organized according to the Russian S.O.P. and are primarily responsible for training and administration.)

The military situation of the KRAKOW district is presently as follows: (West to East) //

- 6th Infantry Division...Headquarters - WADOWICE
Troops covering territory from TESCHEN to KRYNICA
- 9th Infantry Division...Headquarters - RZESZOW
Troops covering territory from that town east as far as PRZEMSL, LUBAZJOW
- 8th Infantry Division...Headquarters - KROSNO
Troops covering territory from PIWNICZNA to SIANKI and the River SAN

(The strength of these three Divisions is on a war-time footing and comprises about 10,000 men)

- 17th Infantry Division...Headquarters - KRAKOW
(Unit numbers about 6,000 men)
(Only one CO of one of the regiments is a Pole)

- 51st Motorized Artillery..Headquarters - KRAKOW
- 1st AAA Division.....Headquarters - CHRZANOW
- 4th Engineering Brigade...Headquarters - TARNOW
(The strength of these three units is low)

- Penal Battalion.....in NIEPOLOMICE
- 4th Tank Brigade.....Headquarters - OPPELN
- Headquarters First Polish Army - KIELCE
Commanding Officer - General POPLAWSKI

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 017046

By KK NARA Date 9-24-08

929622

TOP SECRET

The troops of the 9th Infantry Division in RZESZOW have been directed to "pacify" Ukrainian bands terrorizing the Polish element in the districts along the SAN River from PRZEMYSL to LUBACZOW. The troops of the 6th Infantry Division are employed in the "pacification" of the District TESCHEN to KRYNICA, which has been "invaded" by members of the old Polish underground, the "A.K." According to this informer, arrests are continuing and all prisons in KRAKOW and the KRAKOW military district are full. The writer was able to check on this information and found it true.

All armament is mostly new and of Russian origin. There are, per infantry company, 30 sub-machine guns and 30 automatic pistols called "Pepesha". At the time, there were only sufficient munitions for training purposes; however, a hundred carloads of munitions were expected within the next few days in KRAKOW.

The officer training school has been transferred from RYAZAN (near MOSCOW) to KRAKOW. Officers' courses last three months and it is sufficient for an officer candidate to have gone through a primary school (seven grades). The Polish officer corps as it now stands comprises Russian personnel down to the rank of Captain and in certain units (like the 4th Tank Brigade in OPPELN), all officers and non-commissioned officers are Russian. According to unchecked information, the staff and troops of the First Polish Army in KIELCE, under General POPLAWSKI, are 90% Russian. In every unit down to company, the deputy commander is a so-called political and educational officer. 12

The Penal Battalion in NIEPOLOMICE comprises both Polish and Russian soldiers mixed in penal companies. According to the informer, many Russian officers dishonorably discharged from their own Army are put into Polish uniform and assigned to Polish troops.

Again, according to the informer, there is no withdrawal either of Russian troops in POLAND or of Russians from the Polish Army. And, as was ascertained from conversations with other informers, there is a great deal of constant redeployment going on and the shift of troops, of headquarters and of individuals creates many rumors among the population. It was explained to the writer that the Polish and the Russian troops live off the land and each unit has certain districts assigned to it for supplies. This opens the door to a great deal of graft, dishonesty and loot, which activities are constantly going on by both Russian and Polish troops.

There is a great lack of shoes for the troops. The supply situation is bad. Clothes are scant and desertions are a daily occurrence. There are two kinds of desertions:

- a. Filtering out of the country through CZECHOSLOVAKIA.
- b. Deserters appearing as colonists in the part of GERMANY assigned to POLAND.

Officers are badly paid and are forced to trade to be able to live.

TOP SECRET

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 017046

By KK NARA Date 9-24-08

929622

TOP SECRET

The Commander-in-Chief of the Polish Army, Marshal ROLA-ZYMIRSKI, is now on sick leave in the CRIMEA, and the writer's informer appeared to have some doubt about the Marshal's return.

The Chief of Staff, General KORCZYC, an officer from the Russian Army, is, according to the informer, a Russian of Polish descent.

The Deputy Commander-in-Chief, General SPYCHALSKI, receives all important personalities visiting the Polish Army. (There is a lot of speculation whether this man is Jewish or not). He is also deputy for political and educational matters.

Chief of Personnel, Lt. Colonel MOSOR. Origin unknown to the writer.

The Polish Major told the writer that a great percentage of orders and directives at the KRAKOW Military District are written in Russian and have to be translated into Polish.

According to the informer, Polish officers returning from the West are partially concentrated in a camp near WARSAW--REMBERTOW. Others, who were lucky enough to go home, are isolated, cannot get work in any governmental enterprises except as workers and have to be very careful when speaking to civilians, as it was ascertained that in many cases such civilians would be picked up and held for interrogation by the Polish security authorities.

There exists in POLAND a so-called "Ministry of Home Security", with Mr. RADKIEWICZ as responsible minister. According to the informer, this man is of Jewish origin. This ministry has completely autonomous offices at each provincial administrative headquarters and delegates in each district. Attached to it is a so-called "Corps of Internal Troops" (Korpus Woysk Wewnetrznych). The Commanding Officer of this corps is General KINIEWICZ, from the Russian Army. The 1st Motorized Infantry Regiment of the corps is commanded by Colonel POTAPOWICZ, a Russian who represents himself as a son of a Polish Siberian deportee. The Minister of Home Security, through his Corps of Internal Troops, has every authority to perform arrests, interrogate prisoners, and to sentence people.

This Corps and the agents of the Ministry of Home Security have been trained according to Russian S.O.P., and it is noteworthy that they work hand in hand with the N.K.W.D. The writer was told by a reliable source that after certain arrests had been made by the N.K.W.D. in WARSAW and he had intervened with the Russian Minister, Mr. LEBEDIEFF, for the release of these persons, the latter merely laughed merrily and said, "The N.K.W.D. does not function in POLAND." He went on to explain that the Polish Government had requested MOSCOW to send in 500 N.K.W.D. agents for the purpose of training Polish agents of the Ministry of Home Security. According to one source, at the present time, the personnel of that ministry and the Corps of Internal Troops comprise about 84,000 persons.

As previously said, the Ministry of Home Security has very wide powers. Courts exist, however, and supposedly are free. One informer told the writer that although courts exist, their power to judge cases is even smaller than during the German occupation. It is characteristic to note that the party view on the handling of Justice is that judges do not need to be learned and juridically prepared individuals; it suffices if they have an all-around experience of life and a knowledge of the nation's character and needs.

TOP SECRET

929622

TOP SECRET

According to the informer, all Russian troops found in major and small cities of the KRAKOW Military District are service troops. The redeployment situation, however, which evidently is taking place, makes it very difficult for any superficial observer, as the writer and his party were, to evaluate whether the Russians are only redeploying or actually pulling out, leaving nothing other than service troops behind. In KRAKOW and in BRESLAU, the writer was able to ascertain from first-hand witnesses that Russian contingents pull out one day and are not seen thereafter; new contingents are brought in to take the place of the old and thus for instance, during the few days preceding our visit in BRESLAU, certain contingents were pulled out; on the other hand, new ones arriving from LWOW have taken their places. Also, in connection with this, the writer was told by two informers that certain units from the Far East arrived in the BRESLAU region and it had taken 14 days to make the journey. The Commanding Officer of the Military Government and Commandatura in BRESLAU is Colonel IVANOFF. No Polish troops except for scattered, isolated Polish soldiers and a few traffic-regulating WACs in Polish uniforms were seen in and around that city; all the GERMAN barracks in the western and southwestern part of BRESLAU are filled with Russian troops.

There are at this time about 1,500 Russian troops in KRAKOW proper, with their own warehouses and dumps. These troops are headed as usual by a "Wojenny Komendant" (War Commander) and his staff, who is not only Military Governor but also Commander of Troops. These are Russian supply echelons and the KRAKOW "Wojenny Komendant" commands all such detachments dispersed throughout the Military District. Marshal ROKOSOWSKI's headquarters have been established in LIGNITZ.

III. THE FOREST PEOPLE.

As far as it was possible to determine, the forests of POLAND are infested by five categories of people:

- a. Common bandits--Polish.
- b. The "A.K."--(home army consisting of the old Polish underground army, reinforced by people fleeing from the N.K.W.D. and the present regime, and deserters from the present army).
- c. Bandits--Ukrainian.
- d. Villagers, seeking safety from the different forest groups, both Polish and Ukrainian.
- e. Ukrainians evading deportation.

These forest people live off pillage and in some cases from supplies received from surrounding localities. Their activities depend completely on their constitution. The groups are not commanded or coordinated by any central organizations and each one fares and acts for itself. Their main objective is evasion and the drive for existence, and anybody and anything is attacked if they can be used in view of these two objectives. From time to time, for instance, the A.K. group will attack a Russian convoy or a Polish prison in view of the liberation of its inmates and thus a few weeks ago, the Polish prison at KIELCE was attacked by the A.K. and all prisoners liberated. From a group of five of the writer's friends who were inmates of that prison, only one stayed at large and is

929622

TOP SECRET

now out of the country--the other four, convinced of their innocence and quick liberation, reported back to the prison where they still remain. The charges against these men are collaboration with the Germans. It should be noted here that anybody who survived the German occupation can be charged with collaboration with the Germans.

IV. POLITICS.

There are four officially admitted political parties in POLAND:

- a. The PPR (Polish workers' party).
- b. The PPS (Polish socialist party).
- c. Stronnictwo-Ludowe (Peasant party).
- d. Stronnictwo-Demokratyczne.

The PPR is the communist party. The Stronnictwo-Demokratyczne is an undefined pool, it would appear, for all those who, for various reasons, do not wish to be labelled as communists. However, it, too, is communist dominated. The PPS (Polish socialist party) is mainly followed by students and intellectuals. These are not communists and do not wish the Russian domination. The PPR is at the present time pushing hard for a merger with the PPS and in fact is trying to promote single lists of candidates for the coming elections. As yet the PPS has been able to hold its own ground. Mr. MIKOLAJCZYK, with Mr. WITOS, have initiated a fifth party called the "Polskje Stronnictwo-Ludowe". This, according to informers, would probably get a majority in all the provinces except for WARSAW and LUBLIN, and maybe LODZ, by absorbing many votes of the Stronnictwo-Ludowe. It is only natural that the old Stronnictwo-Ludowe which has now been taken over by communist-inspired leaders should be shooting at Mr. MIKOLAJCZYK'S party with all its heaviest guns. It is noteworthy that arrests of personalities connected with the Polskje Stronnictwo-Ludowe have already taken place. Prisons are filled to the brim, not only for past differences of opinion, but also prophylactically. This new non-communist party has as yet been unable to print its own daily.

There is at the present time a great deal of discussion going on as to whether or not to hold elections as long as Russian troops are occupying the country. Most informers (it should be underlined that the writer had no contacts with people in the government) were of the opinion that elections should be held as quickly as possible; in connection with this, they underline the necessity to move as many Polish DP's back to POLAND in the shortest time possible, so that these can vote. Their argument runs: the sooner people vote, the more chance for decent and patriotic people to be elected; the country right through is so disgusted with the Russians and their satellites, that these would have no chance in quick elections. On the contrary, the later elections take place, the deeper will be the influence of these Russian-inspired satellites, the stronger their entrenchment, and the more difficult their outmaneuvering,--they have power and they are using it with Russian help. When the writer made the remark that there were no facilities for the receiving of DP's in greater numbers, he was told that because of the treatment they will find in POLAND, these will then vote against the present stooges in power.

TOP SECRET

929622

TOP SECRET

Mr. GOMULKA, Vice Premier in Mr. OSUBKA MORAWSKI'S government, during a conversation told one of the writer's informers that he was ready to wait twenty years before POLAND would become communist, but that in twenty years he would be rid of the generation of "reactionaries".

All district commissioners and provincial governor's offices are filled by members of the PPR without any discrimination as to their previous experience in administration. In one instance, Mr. KIERNIK, who is Minister for State Administration, placed an administrative employee with no party connections as deputy to the governor of the province of KRAKOW. He did this so as to bring some coordination into the provincial administrative machine. On the very day on which this individual took over his duties, the party (PPR) officially protested and asked for his removal. It may be useful to report that Mr. STANCZYK, previously Minister for Social Welfare with the LONDON government in exile and now holding the same office in WARSAW, is not even a leader of his own party, but is tenth on the list.

All informers, workers, farmers, clergy, or others were unanimous that:

- a. Elections should be controlled by the Western Powers.
- b. That the interest of the Western Powers in POLAND'S fate should be accentuated to the Polish people by frequent and numerous military or other missions. Some asked when the Anglo-American troops were going to move in.

Most informers were bitter about the way POLAND was treated by its Allies, and expressed their disillusionment. Their attitude is that Poland's future as a country was hopeless unless the West was willing to help them.

The writer was told by an informer wishing to excuse the Polish government that it was impossible to govern in an occupied land. When asked why this was so, he explained that the lack of western organization within the Russian army, the social revolution prodded by the occupying forces and the Russian-Polish element in power, the interest of the occupation forces in keeping up a fluid state, creates an impossibility for any orderly administration. And if you add to that the Polish lack of talent for improvised and yet smooth-functioning administration of the state machine, "you will understand the chaos". On the other hand, it is the impression of many that the present Polish government is interested in keeping Russian occupational forces in the country, as all those now in power know too well that the day the Russians pull out, not one will be left at his present post. The writer was able to ascertain that fear of the future is the dominant emotion troubling the Polish people as a whole. Most people contacted ended up by saying that unless something very radical (an intervention by the Anglo-Saxons, armed or other) takes place within the very near future, POLAND will become the 17th SOVIET Republic. Most people added that orders given by highest governmental Russian authorities in compliance with POTSDAM agreements are either misinterpreted or completely disregarded by the lower echelons.

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

V. THE AGRICULTURAL SITUATION.

POLAND made great progress in agricultural production during its twenty years of independence. This was especially marked in central, southwestern, and western POLAND. According to the farming population of all classes with which the party had opportunity to speak, the agricultural production and cultivation of the soil had been even more intense and better organized during the German occupation. The writer was able to satisfy himself that even the fields which are now completely overgrown with weeds must have been in a high state of cultivation, even as recently as last winter. As things now stand, the fields along the roads taken by the writer present an aspect of complete deterioration. A large percentage of the fields seen have still got last summer's crops, unharvested and overgrown by weeds. This state of affairs is even more marked in the new Polish territory in SILESIA than it is in old POLAND proper. In only very isolated spots is there work going on, and during the whole day's ride from WARSAW to BRESLAU, only one or two horse-drawn plows were seen at work, and one tractor-driven plow near GLATZ. On the other hand, the party saw a farmer and two others digging what seemed to have been a wheat field with spades. According to conversations held with the people, this state of affairs is a result of a complete lack of horses and motor-driven implements with which normal agricultural activities could be resumed. In one or two spots, the party saw cow-pulled farm implements—cows never having been used for that work before. 17

The explanation of this state of affairs given by the farmers is that when the Germans pulled out, they took whatever animals they could lay their hands on,—that only those stayed behind which had been hidden away in time by the farmers. When the Russians came in, the rest were picked up by these. The few horses that have remained behind are now being used to transport supplies into cities.

A few stacks of unthrashed grain seen by the writer appeared black and spoiled. Near GLATZ, on the new Polish-Czech border in SILESIA, the party saw four or five tractors and one or two men busying themselves around these. No tractors except the one mentioned above were seen working in the fields.

During a stop made by the writer's party in the village of PAWLOWICE on the road from TESCHEN to ZORY, the villagers told the party that there were eight horses and 47 cows left for a population of about 2,500.

All estates have been confiscated, the owners have been ousted and may not even live in the same district where they had their possessions. Some of these estates have been parcelled out to the local population, others have been taken over by the state. But according to people questioned, there is not much difference in terms of production and work done, whether the former or the latter has taken place. The lack of essential tools and of power makes production either impossible or insignificant. There is no artificial fertilizer and manure is very scarce. In many cases local farmers have refused land offered to them from these estates because of the inability to put that land into production and because of the taxation involved. This same situation prevails in GERMAN SILESIA (now Polish territory), where the land was held mostly by large estate owners. Most farms seen in that region were deserted.

929622

TOP SECRET

In spite of this situation, there is an extraordinary abundance of food-stuffs of good quality in the major cities visited by the party. The bread, which can be bought in the market, is as good as it was pre-1939. There is butter, there is meat, and at this time it would be difficult in any other continental country to be fed as one can be in POLAND for an appropriate payment. Discussions about this situation appear to confirm the writer's impression that food reserved in POLAND were great and are now being consumed without thought to the coming winter.

The need for cash in a completely disrupted and disorganized economy is so great, and the impossibility to earn it by honest and hard work is so complete, that the only way bare necessities can be procured is by a slow but complete sell-out of any reserves possessed. In certain regions, as was explained to the writer, the farmers are already getting rid of seed needed for the next season. According to the writer's informers, the situation in POMERANIA and POZNANYA is even worse, as agricultural production in these districts was much more intense in the past.

House owners have not been deprived of their property. Rents, however, have not been raised and taxation on these is so high that no repairs can be undertaken. The income from a house can, perhaps, buy one or two meals or two or three packs of cigarettes.

18

VI. THE PRESS.

The press is controlled by the government by a strict censorship, as are the mails, and by the allocation of paper. All news releases are colored, and only those conforming to the party line are printed.

There is only one paper--a weekly--published by the offices of the Archbishop of KRAKOW which can be called independent. (Circulation of this paper was cut down from 30,000 to 15,000 whilst the writer was there by the reduction of allotted paper). This weekly does not give news; it does, however, analyze situations as near to the truth as possible in view of the censors' lead.

During the party's presence in POLAND, there was an open campaign against GREAT BRITAIN in connection with the PADERBORN trials. Articles appeared on the subject of repatriation, insinuating that the Anglo-Saxons are unwilling to let the Poles presently in the west go home. The "reactionary" backing for the GREEK government is whipped at all times. Much is empty talk about mass meetings. The word "communism" never appears; however, panegyrics about the government and different governmental personalities are routine.

Attacks were also made against the VATICAN in connection with the break with the "CONCORDAT". The writer's informers on the point explained to him that this for the time being will not affect the state of the Church in POLAND because the government will wish to show the world that it can deal with the Church in a just and equitable way, even without a treaty with

929622

TOP SECRET

the VATICAN. However, they will have to expect an intensification of the ousting of religious teaching in the schools and an all-around, slow, but certain attack upon all church institutions. This may come after six months or a year. In the meantime, however, there is another side to the picture which, at short range, might profit the church, inasmuch as bishops, parish priests and religious teachers can be appointed without the interference of the state.

In connection with the articles on repatriation, it might be said here that even well-informed, objective personalities appeared to the writer to be convinced that the U.S. handling of POLISH DPs and PWs found in GERMANY was not only very severe, but cruel: that the U.S. authorities were unwilling to send them back to POLAND. The writer is under the strong impression that this is propaganda with the intent of antagonizing the U.S. in POLAND. As to the repatriation itself, it must be noted that there are neither the facilities nor the organization necessary to handle repatriates at the few railroad points of arrival in POLAND in any important numbers.

The KATOWICE "Tribune" printed an interview with a Polish major and Polish lieutenant who had just been repatriated with a few hundred people. This major used the phrase that in spite of having had to wait around without any facilities or food for "some" days, he was glad to be back in POLAND.

In connection with the problem of repatriation, it should be added that the Polish Red Cross does its best to receive the people. Its means, however, are so small and so inadequate that the re-entry into POLAND to any of the repatriates is connected with complete discomfort. Informers told the writer, who, however, was unable to check on the veracity of the statements, that whenever a batch of repatriates arrives, they find the little they have brought with them stolen and their women mis-handled.

Repatriated officers from prisoner-of-war camps in Germany, unless they are able to disappear by their own wits and by the possession of civilian clothes, are concentrated in a military camp near WARSAW,--REMBERTOW, and held there. The writer was unable to pry into the actual situation at that camp. He was, however, told that ex-officers of the Polish army who apply for jobs cannot be employed either in governmental offices or in government-controlled industries except as common laborers.

VII. INDUSTRY AND LABOR.

During the trip through the industrial area of UPPER SILESIA, the writer was able to ascertain that the coal mines which now are all property of the Polish state, are working on one shift. The Polish state now owns 84 coal mines--this is the greatest mining operation in one hand in EUROPE. The management of these mines is concentrated in the hands of a Director of the Ministry of Commerce, Mr. TOPOLSKI, a Pole of Jewish origin, who works directly under Mr. MINC, a communist of high standing and friend of Marshal STALIN. His office produces the coal and manages the sales through two distributing agencies--one for internal con-

929622

TOP SECRET

sumption, the other for export. At the head of the internal sales organization is Mr. GORONCZKO, previously sales manager for the GIESCHE Corporation (Anaconda Copper). His opposite member for export is Mr. KURYLOWYCZ, previously managing director of the HENCKEL V. DONNERSMARCK Coal Industry.

According to information received from the latter during a short interview, production is slowly picking up and prices in dollars per ton at the pit may drop within a year, when production costs can be lowered. The writer was unable to pick up any figures from his informer, the time being too short for a thorough investigation. (The Polish coal industry will be represented at a meeting to be held in LONDON with the British producers, and it would then be possible to make a comprehensive report on the state of the Polish industry as well as all other heavy industry from the writer's informer, who may be the Polish representative).

All industrial undertaking employing above 50 workers have been taken over by the state, and rumor has it that those below that figure will also follow that line. According to information received but not checked, machinery both from SILESIA and the so-called "central industrial triangle" in the RADOM-RZESZOW region was shipped to RUSSIA. According to very divergent reports, much machinery had been taken by the Germans. This now is not returned to POLAND but shipped to RUSSIA. It would appear that the Russian point of view is to take anything they need out of POLAND under the promise that payment will follow out of German reparations. This, however, may be only an assumption created by the different opinions of the writer's informers.

Workers in government-run establishments are paid both in cash and commodities. The amount paid in cash is, however, so low that workers do not find any incentive to work for the state. During the party's stay in KRAKOW, there was a mass meeting in the square during which demands of the working classes for proper remuneration were put forward. The chief speaker, after having put some rather empty resolutions to a vote, used most of his time on the platform to denounce the sentencing of seven Poles by the British occupational authorities in PADERBORN, and from there fell into a diatribe about the reactionary proceedings both in GREECE and BULGARIA.

A governmental employee receives, according to the office held, from 1,500 to 5,000 zloty a month, which pay would suffice to feed a family from three to eight days. It is therefore a necessity for everyone in governmental office to find other sources of income. These are trading, graft, and stealing. The manager of the coal sales organization receives 10,000 zloty per month. When asked whether that were sufficient for himself and his family, consisting of three people, he told the writer that he could not carry on with under 30,000 a month.

One of the most burning problems connected with production is a disorganized transportation system. Lack of railroad cars, and of proper organization throws any and all planning out of joint. A coal train takes anything from three to fourteen days to arrive in WARSAW from KATOWICE--a distance of about 280 kilometers. The recipient of a carload is forced to hire from the Polish War Office an escort, the price of which for a whole train is 30,000 zloty. (In spite of such arrangements, a whole coal train disappeared from circulation during August, and had not been found by 15 September). This escort, armed with machine

TOP SECRET

929622

TOP SECRET

guns and rifles, rides on the train to defend it against looting. (A private firm functioning in WARSAW is obliged to finance coal deliveries to the city authorities, as these are unable to provide the necessary funds. This firm is still privately owned and the paradox is noteworthy).

Trading which in any other country would be called the black market is done openly and is not restricted in spite of a ticket system for food and clothing. It is, however, mostly impossible to buy anything for tickets and at prescribed prices. The bread bought by the writer's mother on tickets at these prices was absolutely inedible. People who are unable to pay the "trading" prices go hungry.

Immediately after the entry of Russian troops and the establishment of the Polish Government in LUBLIN, a conversion of the old Polish zloty to the new Polish zloty was made. This was done in a very simple way, by authorizing the conversion of 500 zloty per head from 15 years of age up. All other money above 500 zloty per head was cancelled. Whoever was not a producer of salable goods lost everything. The money printing presses of the state are running at high speed and the dollar varies from 250 to 350 and even 400 zloty. No other currency excepting the dollar is in favor. It is not impossible to buy ALLIED marks in POLAND at the rate of 200 per dollar. Informers assured the writer that the rate of exchange of U.S. dollars would bound upwards in the near future.

One of the greatest problems confronting Polish industry is the need for raw materials and industrial equipment. It is even more important that the smaller factories producing such items as nails, screws, and other "intermediate" goods start operation--without these items, no industrial production will be able to function. ²¹

VIII. THE EASTERN BORDERS.

The Poles who are residents of what has now become SOVIET territory east of SIANKI, PRZEMYSL, LUBACZOW, RAVARUSKA, and KRISTYNOPOL, and then along the BUG River have the option to either come back into POLAND proper or to become SOVIET citizens. The Ukrainians living west of this line have the same option, and can leave Polish territory and go east.

This movement of populations has created many problems. The local Poles and Ukrainians have taken to the woods and form one of the "forest people" groups. Many arrests and deportations to the east of Poles in and around LWOW are constantly taking place. Thus the number of Poles still on the other side of the Polish-Russian border is decreasing rapidly. As soon as these Poles from the east cross the border, they are supposed to be resettled in the new German-Polish territory. Here, however, they do not find anything except abandoned land, empty houses, no stock and no tools. Or if they should perchance fall upon a farm on which something has been left, they are soon deprived of it by Russian soldiers roaming about and, as there is no security of any kind, many are afraid to stay and stream back into POLAND proper.

TOP SECRET

929622

TOP SECRET

The destination on the other hand of the Ukrainians crossing into new SOVIET territory is unknown. Villages are summoned one by one to pack up, take everything they have, and are taken east; their livestock is driven in a convoy. The common feeling of attachment to the land of their fathers is strong in that part of the world and the common plight has now, in some cases, created friendly feelings between the Poles and the Ukrainians.

The anti-Soviet feeling of all is very strong and growing stronger as the days go by. As members of the writer's party were visiting the outlying villages near SANOK, they saw half the population of one of these villages waiting at the railroad station to go east, whilst the rest are expecting orders to pull out within a day or so.

Ostensibly, these Ukrainians have an option of leaving for the SOVIET UNION. Those, however, who do not desire to do so are ordered out by the occupational authorities and only those who have documentary proof of a citizenship outside of POLAND are not forced to leave. The clergy are sharing this fate; the Uniat Bishop of SANOK had been ordered by the Russians to leave with his local parish priests. The local Polish authorities are apathetic towards all these problems and do not intervene.

The Ukrainian population of POLAND belonged to the Uniat Church, which, although it celebrates its services according to the old Slav liturgical rites, has kept its allegiance to ROME. Under present conditions, this population, once it crosses into SOVIET territory, has to become Orthodox, as the Orthodox Church has been declared the state church of the SOVIET UNION. Whoever does not wish to change his religion is arrested and deported. According to the writer's informers, many Ukrainian Uniat priests have already been arrested.

IX. THE JEWISH PROBLEM.

The writer found a strong wave of anti-Semitism in all his contacts. According to his informers, there was a strong feeling of kinship during the whole German occupation between the Poles and the Jews, who were made to suffer on an equal basis. The Church, the underground authorities, and the population made every effort to help both Polish as well as imported Jewry in their plight. This common feeling, however, has now given way to a strong feeling of resentment caused by:

- a. Many Russian and Polish Jews in high governmental and military offices, and
- b. Incidents blown up by propaganda, press and rumor to disproportionate importance.

It is a well-known fact that the Polish people have the reputation throughout the world of being anti-Semitic and that this is an argument against the Poles. Again and again throughout the last 50 years, this argument has been used to create animosity against the Polish people in AMERICA and GREAT BRITAIN. According to informers, the occupational forces have a great interest in creating that very kind of sentiment,--as a proof of which informers cited the "pogrom" in KRAKOW which took place

929622

~~TOP SECRET~~

a few weeks ago. According to them, the whole matter was provoked by a rumor to the effect that a Jewish blood bank functioning in KRAKOW had been the place where ritual murders had taken place. Who started the rumor and where it was started is unknown. In any case, it created unrest which resulted in one death and some casualties. There was a strong feeling of anxiety in KRAKOW about the whole matter, and the writer heard strong condemnation of those who had allowed themselves to be the tools in the matter. The Governor of KRAKOW came to see the Archbishop to ask him to publicly condemn the perpetrators of the beating. When asked, however, what in fact had taken place, he was unable to give the Archbishop any details.

The living conditions of the Jewish population are much the same as that of the Polish, and they are occupied with trading.

There are now 150,000 Jews left in POLAND.

It appears to the writer from all his conversations that the Jewish people are looked upon by the Poles as collaborators with the Russians, and that there is a tendency to make the Jews the scapegoats. Much of what is happening in POLAND is put into the shoes of the Jews to back the contention, it is argued, that many people in key positions are of Jewish origin. ²³

(The leaflet joined to this report was distributed in the streets of KRAKOW during the writer's presence in that town).

X. U.N.R.R.A.

The writer inquired, in view of the extreme poverty and chaotic situation, about the relief activities of UNRRA. According to informants, UNRRA delivers relief supplies at one of the Polish ports and puts the goods at the disposal of the "Ministerstwo Apropowizacyi" (Ministry of Supply), and it is this Polish governmental agency which, from then on, disposes of UNRRA supplies at its own will. Since the first UNRRA shipment came into POLAND, the people at large have received one kilogram of fats in the month of June and one-half kilogram in the month of September. No other UNRRA goods have been available to the public. According to informers, the goods are distributed promptly to members of the party (PPR). The writer was unable to check this point—he was, however, able to ascertain that American shoes were being sold on the market and it would appear that these shoes originated from an UNRRA shipment.

The writer was also told by a witness that in LODZ, four UNRRA cars had been sold to private buyers for 80,000 zloty a piece. No clothing had been seen by any of the writer's informers.

In spite of the difficulty of prying into this problem and making checks on the veracity of statements heard, the opinion of those contacted was unanimous that unless UNRRA supervises the distribution of supplies through its own teams, it is as good as non-existent in POLAND.

~~TOP SECRET~~

929622

~~TOP SECRET~~

CONCLUSION.

It is the opinion of all people in POLAND that unless the west intervenes in a radical way, POLAND is doomed to become the 17th SOVIET republic; that this is the Russians' firm intent; that the members of the present Polish government are nothing but stooges for the Russians; that the economic and food situation is going to become very bad; and that the moment will come when the population will get so desperate that the smallest provocation will create an uprising against the occupational forces and the "Moscow stooges". This revolt, in the unanimous opinion of the informers, will be crushed in a most bloody manner, and will seal the fate of the Polish nation. All the writer's informers were of the opinion that the Polish people lived through the German occupation because they knew that this would end in time by victory over GERMANY. At the present time, that manner of thinking is impossible, and it is the hopelessness of their situation which in the end will bring the Poles to desperate deeds.

24

Paul F. Sapiha



PAUL F. SAPIEHA,
Lt Colonel, GSC,
Chief, Foreign Liaison Branch.

Regraded: SECRET By Authority
of AQSI Memo 6-59
mm 7/8/59

21
~~TOP SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 017046
By KK NARA Date 9-24-08

ROUTES TAKEN

-  Route to Warsaw
-  Return Route

