

FOREIGN SERVICE DEPARTMENT

AMERICAN BUSINESS DEPT

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THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Embassy, 5251 May 17, 1957
conversation between Dr. Logodzinska and Mr. McGowan of CIA

Possible Re-opening of American Relief for Poland (ARP) activities in Poland

Miss Logodzinska, Polish Ambassador, Embassy, 5251 May 17, 1957, during conversation held before and after a conference with the Polish Minister of Labor and Social Welfare provided the following information regarding the proposal of the American Relief for Poland (ARP) to resume its activities in this country. Miss Logodzinska said that she had been authorized by the President of ARP in the United States, Dr. J. A. SHANKLIN of Milwaukee, to undertake preliminary negotiations with the Polish Government. Indicative of the attitude, it would appear is its decision to close down its Western European office which in the past several years has been assisting Polish refugees. It is not known to the Embassy whether this decision of ARP was communicated to the Polish officials and whether it had any influence upon the proposed negotiations to resume ARP work in Poland.

Miss Logodzinska said that she had already held two of these conversations, each with Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs and with leading officials of the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, including Minister Stanislaw ZAWADZKI and Undersecretary S. SHANOWICZ. These Polish officials said Miss Logodzinska had welcomed the idea of ARP returning to Poland. She expected during the course of a further conference with the Ministry of Labor to be offered a contract to be signed, which would define the functions and activities of ARP. On this point she asked the Embassy's guidance. In reply, she was informed that inasmuch as the Embassy had previously heard nothing of the details of the negotiation and had seen no copy of the proposed contract, it might be useful for Miss Logodzinska to receive the Polish proposal on the basis of referring it to her American associates. It subsequently developed that the "contract" took the form of what might be called a letter of intent of the Ministry of Labor to collaborate with ARP. Miss Logodzinska stated that when this letter was given to her, her signature was affixed to the Ministry's copy of the document merely as acknowledgment of the receipt of the letter. The text of the

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Ministry of Labor's letter of May 11 enclosed herewith as enclosure no. 1.

During the conversations with the reporting officers, Miss Logodzinaka said that she had been informed by some of the Polish officials, including Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Winiewski, that the Poles wished that the ARP should carry out the administration of CARE functions in Poland. Miss Logodzinaka said that she had not discussed this subject with Mr. Reuter of CARE, who has been in Warsaw during the past few days. Miss Logodzinaka also stated that Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Winiewski told her that the ARP would not be permitted to operate in Poland if it intended to have its gifts handled through the Roman Catholic Church's national or local officials. She also said Winiewski indicated the Poles did not want Cardinal Wyszynski to get control over Caritas, the Catholic welfare group. No comment was made by the reporting officers on these subjects but the question was asked whether the American contributors to ARP were exclusively Catholic or Polish-American descent. Miss Logodzinaka said that although most of ARP's financial support came from this group, there were other contributors.

Miss Logodzinaka said that in her own opinion she felt that it might be possible for a two-member ARP delegation to come to Poland to work out further details of the relief program as early as July 1, 1957. At this date, she subsequently said, might be optimistic as it is possible that some of the ARP officials, perhaps including Dr. Swietlik, will be in Geneva attending refugee meetings in June. Miss Logodzinaka, who was in Poland directing a group of eighty Polish-American women tourists, said that the group's schedule called for departure from Warsaw by bus on May 20, proceeding to Berlin, Dusseldorf, Paris and Le Havre, apparently planning to sail for the United States in the early part of June.

COMMENTS:

1. As the Department will observe from the contents of the Ministry of Labor's letter, the subjects covered in the letter may require the authorization of other ministries to be put into effect.

2. The matter of sending individual parcels or gifts seems not to be part of the program of ARP, as it was explained by Miss Logodzinaka that bulk shipments addressed to Polish government agencies are contemplated. If that is indeed ARP's policy for Poland, some of the problems confronting Mr. Reuter of CARE (see Embassy despatch no. 529) will probably not arise.

3. As the estimate of the Embassy, that when and if the CARE organization learns that ARP would wish to administer the CARE program in Poland, CARE would be unlikely to agree.

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4. The Department may find it advisable to ask representatives of CARE and of ARP to decide at an executive level, within the U.S., as to the extent to which the two organizations will coordinate their efforts in Poland.

5. There may be fund-raising campaigns organized in the U.S. by the National Catholic Welfare Council or by other Catholic organizations. There has as yet been no visitor representing such interests to come to the Embassy. As there is the possibility of overlapping of jurisdiction between CARE and ARP, it is equally possible that the latter would recommend itself to the Department to request Catholic charitable organizations to be represented at any meeting in which CARE and ARP may attempt to work out complimentary programs.

6. It appears doubtful that the ARP program can actually get under way earlier than September, according to the Embassy's experience with previous matters of this kind.

For the Ambassador:

W. H. Barber
W. H. Barber
Counselor of Embassy

Enclosure:

- 1. Text of Min. of Labor's letter of May 18, 1957.

Approved: *J. E. Jacobs*
J. E. Jacobs, Ambassador

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Translated Summary of Letter Dated May 15, 1957 to Miss Logodzinska, Signed by Minister Zawadzki and Undersecretary Kuchanowicz of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs.

1. As a consequence of several conversations recently held in Warsaw and the receipt of the letter addressed to Miss Logodzinska from Dr. Swietlik of the American Relief for Poland, the present letter summarizes the position of the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare.

2. The present letter presents a summary of conditions and terms which should be explained to a future delegation of the ARP, which would come to Warsaw to discuss in detail its lines of proposed action. All of the following points are contingent upon the availability of funds to the ARP.

3. The activities which the Ministry is interested in having ARP's help are the following:

- a. The furnishing of machinery and equipment for blacksmithing, knitting, shoe repairs, radio repairs and small shops;
- b. Tools and machinery for farmers;
- c. Equipment and supplies for homes for orphans, for the aged, and for hospitals for incurables. Such supplies would include wheelchairs, medical and dental instruments, bed linen, etc.
- d. The supplying of sewing machines and of small-sized laundry equipment;
- e. Assistance in the rehabilitation of cripples needing therapy and artificial limbs, including trade and crafts training for such individuals.
- f. Supplying of artificial limbs and other assistance for wounded war veterans, including especially braille typewriters, braille books and watches, and music in braille and instruction kits for use of braille.

4. The assistance listed in the paragraphs above should particularly be made available for Polish repatriates returning from the Soviet Union who are to take up new homes in the Western territories.

5. It is agreed in principle by the Ministry of Labor and

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Social Welfare that all gifts coming into Poland from the ARP will be duty free. Internal transportation and warehousing expenses would be paid for by the Ministry.

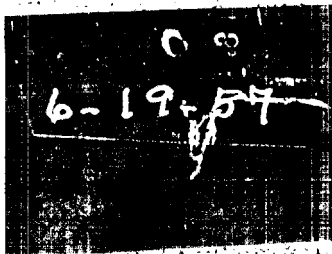
6. Upon agreement of the proposals listed above the ARP may send and maintain a delegation of the people in Poland. The delegation will work out details of the ARP program with the different Polish ministries involved.

7. The costs of the ARP delegation will be borne by the ARP.

8. In order to properly work out the details of this program the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare will establish an advisory honorary committee, which will include representatives of (a) the War Veterans Association, (b) Polish Red Cross, (c) CARITAS, (d) the Association of Veterans Cooperatives, (e) the cooperatives of small businessmen, (f) others.

9. It is hoped that within a short time the proposals mentioned above can be realized by the Polish Americans who initiated this proposal through the ARP.

10. This letter and the signature of Miss Logodajnska (acknowledging the receipt of the letter) concludes the present conversations.



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