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POLES IN FRANCE

I. POLES IN FRANCE AS A TARGET

A. Size of Polish Population in France

The Polish emigres in France, one of the most important foreign ethnic groups in the world, are the largest Polish colony in Europe and numerically rank second to the Polish colony in the United States. 1/ In France the Poles numerically occupy third place after the Italians and Spaniards, but their social and political impact is greater than that of the other two groups. 2/

There are varied estimates as to the number of Poles in France, the highest being 1,000,000 and the lowest 400,000. The consensus is that 750,000 Poles live in France. 3/

B. Location in France *

Poles are settled in France in the following three main strategic areas: 4/

* Included at the end of Section B are the following:

1. A map indicating the percentage of Poles in relation to the total foreign population in each department in France.
2. A map indicating the location of the Polish population in France by departments.
3. A chart tabulating the Polish population in France by departments and its percentage relationship to the total foreign population in each department.

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1. In the Departments of Nord and Pas de Calais. There are reportedly about 200,000 Poles in such coal mining centers as Bruay, Lens, Marles-les-Mines, Barlin and Douai; in the center of the metallurgical industry at Valenciennes; and in the textile industry areas of Roubaux, Tourcoing and Lille.

2. The second area of Polish settlement is in the Department of Moselle with its steel mills at Thionville, Hayange, Pont-a-Mousson and Wendel. Other small settlements are scattered in the areas of Mulhouse and Strasbourg.

3. The third region with Polish settlements is the coal basin of St. Etienne and Firminy in the Department of Loire, and centers of metallurgical industry at Montceau-les-Mines and Le Creusot in the Department of Saone-et-Loire.

Smaller groups of Polish emigrants live in the industrial periphery of Paris and in the agricultural region of Toulouse in the South. Paris also may be regarded as the center of the new emigration for Polish refugees and intellectuals.

LES POLONAIS

INTRODUCTION POLONAISE PAR DEPARTEMENT

AU 1^{er} JANVIER 1953

Seine 41 381
Population totale 537 250

