

**NSC BRIEFING**

**9 May 1956**

**WIDE-SCALE DISMISSALS OF SATELLITE OFFICIALS**

- I. Wave of dismissals continuing.
  - A. First to go--Cherwenkov, Siroky and some Polish officials.
- II. Four satellites now involved.
  - A. Factionalism encouraged.
  - B. Purpose of dismissals.
    1. Stalinists being punished.
    2. Elimination of opposition.
- III. Poland shakeup most extensive.
  - A. New Party leadership--Ochab.
  - B. Opposition within party.
    1. One hundred senior officials.
  - C. Seven officials fired, five others demoted.
  - D. Jakub Berman--Stalinist.
    1. Personal enemy of Ochab.
- IV. Rumanian officials dismissed.
  - A. Deputy Premier Petrescu--not influential.
  - B. State Arbitor.
  - C. Rumors about Gheorghiu-Dej unfounded.
  - D. Security forces reduced 11 percent.
- V. Additional dismissals in Czechoslovakia anticipated.
  - A. Captives--only one thus far.
  - B. Public criticism increasing.
  - C. Position of top leaders appear firm.

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DATE: 1-14-80 REVIEWER:

- VI. No dismissals to date in Albania, East Germany, Hungary
  - A. Much factionalism in Hungary and East Germany.
- VII. Mounting opposition to Rakosi.
  - A. Soviet support—Pravda article.
  - B. Fall would encourage further unrest.
- VIII. Ulbricht criticized by party members.
  - A. Defense by leading officials.
  - B. Soviet support necessary.