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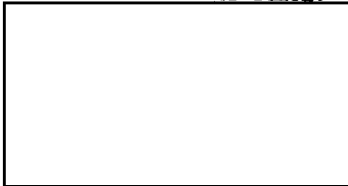
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland

SUBJECT Procedure for Obtaining Employment/Wroclaw Labor
Office/PGR Advertising/Use of Pull/Unauthorized
Labor Recruitment



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Rise in Unemployment

25X1 2. "Early this year [1953], there was quite a rise in unemployment in Silesia. A good number of workers were laid off in numerous factories and enterprises, as, for instance, in the Wroclaw gas works. Other factories developed a policy of hiring no new employees. Many employees had to undergo reclassification and accept lower wages. [redacted] this was the result of the January 1953 Monetary Reform.

25X1 Employment Difficulties of Army Veterans

3. [redacted]

25X1 [redacted] In theory, factories are obliged to re-hire those workers who have to join the Army, but in practice, when these Army veterans report back to their former employers, they are offered only very poorly paid jobs or the heaviest kind of work. [redacted]

25X1 [redacted] the Wroclaw labor office (biuro zatrudnienia). This office

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is in the Wroclaw town hall in the same wing in which the military recruiting office (WKR) has its office on the second floor.

Wroclaw Labor Office

4. "The labor office has very limited office space. There is a long, narrow corridor down the middle where long queues of people wait all day long for jobs. The entrance is guarded by an old and rather slow doorkeeper and clerk, who collects job applications and the required identification cards from candidates. Every 15 or 20 minutes he takes a stack of them into the various sections of the labor office.
- 25X1³. [redacted] the Wroclaw labor office. The corridor was covered with mud dragged in by people's feet and was very dirty. The only place where you could sit down was on one bench, occupied by semi-invalids.
6. "All candidates must remain right in the corridor as they may be called into an office at any minute. If you are not there when your name is called, you may have to wait for a few more hours before it is called again.
7. "As a rule, the waiting time is from two to three hours. While waiting, candidates may read the various job advertisements displayed along the corridor walls on blackboards. [redacted] during the approximately three week period [redacted] only heavy, hard jobs were being advertised, such as jobs in coal mines, stone quarries or unskilled jobs in the chemical industry.
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PGR Posters

8. "As in many other public offices, there were in the labor office large and very nicely done PGR posters on display. These colorful posters called upon everyone to join the estates and offered very tempting conditions. However, not many people on the waiting lists were attracted by these posters as it has become common knowledge in Poland that these offers are specious. When someone fell for the offer, he would find upon reporting to the PGR that there were special conditions governing its activities peculiar to just this PGR.

Section Division in Labor Office

9. "When the two or three hours are up, the candidate is finally called into one of the four sections of the labor office. The four sections are as follows:
- (a) section for skilled workers;
 - (b) section for unskilled workers;
 - (c) section for factory and office employees;
 - (d) section for female workers.

"The fourth section takes care of all female workers, regardless of profession or skill.

First Stage: Labor Office Interview

10. "The interview with the labor office employee, usually a female, is rather short. The candidate is asked a few additional details about his qualifications. His identification card is checked against his personal appearance and in conclusion the candidate is handed a list of available jobs. There are always some job vacancies which nobody wants to accept. These jobs are very hard with very low wages. [redacted] at 1.20 to 1.60 zlotys an hour. Such payment would result in a monthly income of approximately 250 to 300 zlotys a month. After deductions for taxes and various dues, what remains is not enough to live on."
11. "When and if the candidate finds a suitable job, he receives a special letter from the labor office. The Polish term for this letter is skierowanie. This is the end of the first phase of job-hunting.

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Second Stage: Interview with Prospective Employer

12. "The next phase is channelled through the office of the future employer. Once again, all identification papers must be submitted. The candidate has to write a new application, together with a curriculum vitae, and fill in a special questionnaire. This latter consists of about 20 questions dealing with all aspects of his political viewpoint. He has to state whether he was or is a member of the Communist Party or whether he has participated in any other political activities. He has to answer the same questions about his father's political background. He is also asked whether he has relatives abroad.
13. "Even after going through this second phase of application, the candidate may not be accepted for the vacancy. There are two methods of refusing him employment. One is to claim that the job has been filled in the meantime. The other is to offer the candidate a very different kind of job from the one originally presented at the labor office, with certain conditions attached to which the candidate cannot possibly agree.

Use of Pull

14. "As in all other countries, there are ways of getting a job more quickly by using pull. One way of doing this is to make a good contact with one of the female employees of the labor office. Some of these females are rather nice-looking girls who enjoy flattery. If a candidate succeeds in winning one of them over to his side, he will be admitted to the chief of the section. The chief has a complete list of job vacancies which is not available to the section employees under him. Furthermore, the chief has to have a list of special vacancies ready in case a Party big shot calls him requesting a favor for one of his relatives.

Unauthorized Employment Recruiters

15. "Life is not always as dull in the labor office corridors as described above. From time to time, hiring-agents show up for recruitment purposes. Not all of them are officially admitted. An agent working on behalf of a private enterprise or coming from an area not coming under this special labor office has to use underhand methods in recruiting.
16. "The following incident happened while [REDACTED] waiting for a job. An agent from the PGR team in the Legnica district appeared in the Wroclaw labor office. He offered very good employment conditions, promising at least 700 zlotys a month and travelling expenses. He also promised complete room and board. At the same time, another agent appeared, this one from the Jelenia Gora district, offering even better conditions. Thirty-two candidates accepted the offer. [REDACTED]

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17. "When the 32 arrived at the railway station the next day, it became evident that the 'recruitment' officer did not have a single penny in his possession. Only a card for admission to the platform was given to each candidate. There was much excitement on the train, but when the recruiting agent produced his identity card, the candidates were allowed to remain on the train.
18. "Once there, conditions on the PGR seemed very different from what had been promised. The first payment offered was 500 zlotys, from which 360 zlotys were deducted for canteen and housing expenses. Housing consisted of wooden barracks, with several people to one room. Straw sacks with straw pillows were used as beds. Everybody was issued a blanket and a 'piece of sheet'. (At each inventory, a certain number of sheets had to be accounted for. Consequently, the storekeepers frequently used to make up for 'lost sheets' by tearing other sheets into several pieces.)
19. "After seeing what the true situation was, only three of the candidates remained on the PGR. All the others disappeared within the next few days, some of them taking with them PGR possessions, such as blankets; blankets

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were very popular souvenirs.

Special Official Agents

20. "Authorized agents also showed up in the labor office corridors from time to time. They were primarily recruitment officers from coal mines or other enterprises of vital importance to the State which needed labor in a hurry. These agents were permitted to recruit candidates without going through labor office formalities."

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