

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland REPORT NO.

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General

1. Radom was known for its leather industry and small arms production. It had more than 30 tanneries producing all grades of leather, as well as a modern small arms factory, a plant, and workshops for the manufacture and repair of railroad cars, a factory producing telephone sets and another producing glassware. The buildings in the town were mostly brick. Some were of stone. In the suburbs one found frame houses. The principal streets were three-laned. There were three parks, three sport and soccer stadiums, athletic fields, bicycle and motorcycle race tracks and a large market place. The town had several elementary schools, 7 high schools, and 10 churches. It suffered little damage during the last war. Some bombed-out houses were later rebuilt. Almost all houses had electricity, but only about 20% had gas. In the year 1952, I would estimate the population of the city between 80,000 and 100,000, and that the city covered an area of about 20 km. square.
2. There was no water transportation, for the Mleczna River, which flowed through the city, was only eight meters wide and relatively shallow. The water of this river was very dirty. I do not know the source or the mouth of this river.
3. There were four double-track railroad lines that served the city with freight and passenger traffic. One line led north to Warsaw, which was a distance of about 105 km. Another set led east to Deblin [5134N-2150E] which was about 80 km., and east to Lublin which was about 135 km. The third set of tracks led in a southwesterly direction to Kielce [5050N-2040E], Krakow, and Katowice. The fourth line led in a westerly direction to Tomaszow Mazowiecki [5132N-2001E]. The highways leading to these various cities were mostly asphalt or of rough gravel with tar. These highways were about three cars wide.

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4. There were no commercial or passenger airlines, although several years ago there was some speculation on the installation of air communication. There was an army airport and an air force school.

Community Health Conditions

5. I do not know what the annual birth rate was, I would estimate that there were about 20 births for every 1,000 people annually. I do not know the annual death rate, nor the infant mortality rate.
6. I cannot give five leading causes of death, but one often heard of such causes as cancer, arteriosclerosis, heart disease, and jaundice. Of these, I do not know which ranked highest in cause of death.
7. I do not know the total number of deaths from typhoid and paratyphoid fevers, cholera, typhus, plague, yellow fever, leprosy, small pox, malaria, amoebic dysentery, bacillary dysentery. I never heard of anyone dying of any of these diseases. During the war, many died of typhus, but I cannot estimate the number. Tuberculosis seems to be the most prevalent disease. I would estimate that between 20 and 25% of the people have tuberculosis, but I do not know the total number of deaths during the past three years. I do not know if there are any locally regarded endemic diseases.

Water

8. The city had a public water supply system. The water was piped in from Wisla River which is about 45 km. east of the city and from the Radomka River which is about 15 km. north of the city. If the water was treated with purifiers, I have never heard of it. The water never had any taste of chlorine, for it was always good to the taste. A filtering system was used where the water was filtered through sand, gravel and other ingredients. There was one water tower to serve the residents of the city. Factories and railroads had their own water towers. Water was piped into the homes, and its maximum flow of pressure was 57 lbs. per square inch which fact I learned when I was a member of a fire fighting squad.
9. I believe the public water system was adequate to furnish the whole population, for I never heard of a shortage of water. I do not know what the daily water consumption was, but about 95% of the population used the public supply. I do not know how the sanitary quality of the water was checked, but the water was safe to use without further treatment such as boiling. In the spring, however, in the months of April or May, signs were posted on the streets stating that the water was to be boiled before drinking. No bottled waters were ever used, and I have never heard of other sources of water supply in use in the city.

Food

10. The Health Department (Miejski Wydział Zdrowia) controlled the slaughter of cattle. Meats sold in retail stores had to have the stamp of the health department thereon. Butchers were not allowed to kill their own cattle. These cattle had to be taken to the slaughter yard for examination and killing. I do not know if the fish were controlled by the Health Department. Fish were probably controlled in the ports of Gdynia and Gdansk. Markets and retail stores were periodically checked by the Health Department. The inspectors were concerned with the cleanliness of dishes, eating utensils, cleanliness of the merchants and the markets and stores in general. Bakeries were controlled the same way. Fruits were not allowed to be sold on the streets or in open market places for fear that they may not be clean. Fruit was only sold in shops. Washing of fruits before eating was recommended.

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11. All milk was pasteurized and sold in liter bottles which were capped and then additionally covered with a sanitary cap. Milk was also sold in bulk. Milk sold by individual farmers in villages, however, was not pasteurized. I do not know the percentage of dairy cattle which were tuberculin tested, and I do not know if any official agency controlled the sanitary quality of milk.
12. The entire city was served by an operating sanitary sewerage system. I do not know the ultimate disposal of the sewage. Human excreta was not used for fertilizing land. Artificial fertilizers and horse or cow manures were used. As far as I know, the drainage of surface runoff had never been a problem. No special system was used. I do not know if there were any storm sewers, but this could not have been a problem, since surface water did not collect and stand after a heavy rain.
13. There was a general collection of garbage. The law stated that all garbage disposal units be either of brick or concrete. Garbage was collected, I would estimate, once every two or three weeks. Other refuse was also collected for this was disposed of in the same container that held the garbage. The garbage was ultimately taken to a sandy area, burned, and buried. There was also a system for the collection of dead animals. This was usually taken care of by the dog catcher. Dead people were buried. No cremation was practiced.
14. Pests, such as mosquitoes, flies, or lice were examined to determine whether disease was being carried by them. For the control of rats and mice, in the spring and fall, (which), a department of the city placed a poison around many of the homes. Signs of caution would be placed of these homes stating that rat poison had been applied. Sample rats were taken for examination.

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Medical and Hospital Facilities

15. There were four hospitals in the city. One was an army hospital, one a hospital for contagious diseases, and two were general hospitals. There was no cancer or tuberculosis hospital. Cancer patients were sent to Warsaw or Gdansk. I do not know the number of beds in these hospitals. I do not know the number of charity beds, but most hospitals accepted charity cases. Services such as medical, surgical, dental, nursing, and obstetrical were available. There did not seem to be any shortage or lack of these services. Drugs such as morphine and codein, and vitamin tablets such as B-1, B-6, and B-2 were not readily available since these were smuggled from England by members of ships' crews and then sold.

Local Health and Welfare Administration

16. There were active divisions for the detection of tuberculosis. Trucks mounted with X-ray machines went to factories and other places of employment for the purpose of X-raying the employees. This service, however, was not readily available for children or for persons not employed. A child would be put on a waiting list which would take as long as four months before it was X-rayed. The people attributed the great incidence of tuberculosis that existed to lack of proper diet and lack of soap in order to keep clean. Soap was rationed to four ounces per month per person. This four ounces included bath and laundry soap. Infants were rationed a pound of laundry soap, in powder form, per month.

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17. Venereal disease was controlled by the Cooperative Clinic (Ubezpieczalnia Spoleczna). A person who contracted this disease reported here for examination. He was given a booklet containing times of appointments for treatments, and the person was obliged to be treated until cured. There were also divisions of sanitation. Pre-natal and infant care was handled individually between the mother and the doctor. I do not know if there were active divisions in maternity. I have not heard of child health divisions or of social services for the follow-up of infectious diseases. Cases of communicable diseases had to be reported even though the individual was allowed to be treated at home. Vaccination was obligatory for all children. Immunization procedures as applied to the general public included annual injections against typhus diseases. I do not know of other immunization procedures followed.
18. All hospitals accepted cases of charity, but I do not know the circumstances under which these cases were accepted. There was no public home for the aged. These people were usually cared for by family or friends who were willing to help.
19. My personal opinion as to the general conditions of the following services is as follows: health conditions, fair; sanitation, fair; available medical care, between poor and very poor; there were not enough drugs available, and even aspirin was at a premium; dental care, poor, because of lack of materials; hospital care, poor. The skill of the doctors or nurses was as good as could be expected, but again there was the usual lack of materials. Because of the critical shortage of soap, many things, particularly bed linen, lacked cleanliness. The climatic effect on men, women, and children was fair.
20. It is difficult to state what special precautions had to be taken in order to remain in good physical and mental health. If one had enough living space, soap, meats, fats, flour, and fruits, the physical and mental health would be good.
21. I do not know the education facilities available on the primary and high school levels. Before the war, the facilities were good. The teaching of English ranked with other foreign languages in the following order: Russian, German, French, English, and Latin. Although the learning of English was neither stressed nor discouraged, one could learn English for four years in a gymnasium and for two additional years in a lyceum. As to recognized colleges and universities and facilities available, the years of attendance have dropped from five to four years. Because of the no longer existing free atmospheres in the universities, and because of increased government control, the theory of various studies have been affected by the Communist influence. I have heard that the technical facilities in laboratories was lacking. The Polytechnical Institute in Gdansk (Polytechnika Gdanska) specialized in ship building, ship engines, and electrical engineering. The Polytechnical Institute in Warsaw (Polytechnika Warszawa) specialized in Electrical Engineering and Architecture.
22. As to medical schools, I do not know if special courses for training in Public Health Work were given to doctors, dentists, nurses, sanitary inspectors, or technicians. The most highly recognized medical school was the Akademia Lekarska, which was located in Gdansk-Wrzeszcz 5423N-1837E. I would estimate that it had about 700 students, and I have heard that the quality of training was very good. I do not know of the teaching facilities, nor of medical research and developments.

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