

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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1. The régime is now preparing new moves in its campaign against the Church and this is taking the form of an attack against ecclesiastical seminaries.
2. The Episcopate and its chairman, Bishop Klepacz, have received an official note from the government which, while alluding to the traditional attitude of the seminaries and graduates from ecclesiastical colleges towards society, politics, and national affairs, declares that the seminaries are living in complete isolation from the "social realities and everyday life of the People's Republic". This is ascribed to the fact that neither the daily press nor education in citizenship was reaching them, and while they are not being accused of hostility to the régime, it is said they have been allowed to remain indifferent to the State and to social considerations. The note, which has not yet been published in the Polish press, holds Bishop Klepacz personally responsible for this state of affairs, and demands that the seminaries be opened to the daily press and to social and political education with the least possible delay. It also demands the participation of ecclesiastical college graduates in the youth organizations.

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- 2 -




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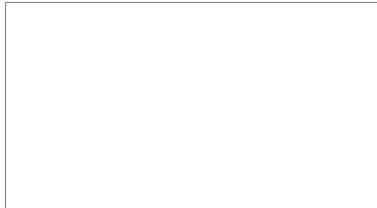


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4. The régime appears to be trying to achieve three points:
 - a. To lay its hands on ecclesiastical youth and, by this means, to prepare the ground for the organization of cadres of future clergy who would be ready to accept a national Church;
 - b. To produce an atmosphere of tension between Bishop Klepacz and his Episcopate and, in this way, to create some form of splinter group;
 - c. To attain the liquidation of Bishop Klepacz who, as a "workers' bishop", is a thorn in the flesh of the régime.

5. The régime has already succeeded in removing Bishop Klepacz from the industrial center of Łódz, where he was very popular among the workers, through his nomination to the Chairmanship of the Episcopate, and now hopes to carry out his complete liquidation through the conflict on the seminaries issue. It bases its hopes in this connection on the fact that in this case the bishops themselves will provide the necessary trump cards by refusing to uphold Bishop Klepacz.  the régime will thus liquidate one of its important adversaries, a man who was enormously popular in the workers' world which is claimed by the régime as its exclusive domain. At the same time, Bishop Klepacz's successor would be forced to make concessions in the same way as was done by the frightened Episcopate after the arrest of the Primate of Poland, Cardinal Wyszynski.

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