

50X1-HUM

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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50X1-HUM

COUNTRY	Poland	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Trial of Captain Meissner of the BATORY	DATE DISTR.	31 May 1955
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50X1-HUM

1. Captain Meissner, ex-master of the MS BATORY, was tried by a maritime court in Gdynia and found guilty of negligence in connection with the loss of four sailors in the Mediterranean in December 1954.
2. The verdict was changed at the last moment. The judge was intercepted on his return to court after deliberation, during which Meissner was found not guilty. The messenger told the judge that according to Party instructions he was to return a verdict of "guilty of negligence with extenuating circumstances".
3. Meissner was demoted from the rank of commodore of the Polish Merchant Marine and given the command of the GENERAL BEM on the China run.
4. Subsequently, however, Meissner was taken off the GENERAL BEM one hour before sailing time. The reason given: the Party was not satisfied with the maritime court's findings and sentence. Meissner is to appear before another court shortly.
5. First Officer Pszenny (fmu), who was on the bridge at the time, was not indicted on Party instructions.
6. The boatswain, who acted without orders and was the real man responsible, has been suspended indefinitely.

50X1-HUM

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