

*File 409*

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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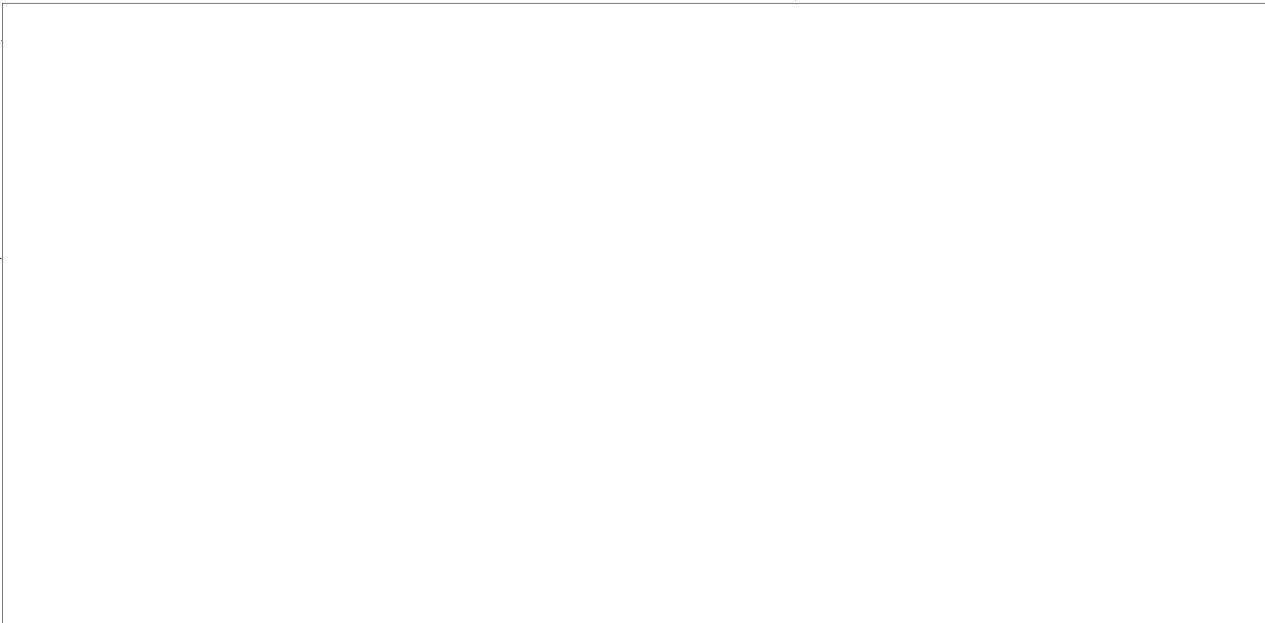
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COUNTRY	Poland	REPORT	<input type="text"/>
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REPORT

COUNTRY Poland

DATE DISTR. 17 Feb. 1955

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2. General Internal Situation

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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State Control of Athletics

1. The military sports clubs in Poland were organized on four levels:
  - a. WKS (Wojskowy Klub Sportowy -- Military Unit Sports Club), operating on a regimental or battalion level.
  - b. GWKS (Garnizonowy Wojskowy Klub Sportowy - Military Garrison Sports Club), organized on division level.
  - c. OWKS (Okregowy Wojskowy Klub Sportowy - Military Regional Sports Club), operating on an army level.
  - d. CWKS (Centralny Wojskowy Klub Sportowy - Military Central Sports Club), the parent military sports club with headquarters in Warsaw.

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- [REDACTED]
3. The quasi-military units, the MO (Citizens' Militia), the UB (Security Police), the KBW (Internal Security Corps), and the WOP (Military Border Guards), were organized in a nation-wide athletic league known as the Gwardja. The Gwardja was sponsored by the MBP (Ministry of Public Security) and operated independently of the army. The league was composed of representative teams from the various cities.
  4. Among the civilian athletic leagues in Poland were the following:
    - a. Academic Athletic Clubs (Akademicki Zwiasek Sportowy - AZS) with branches in the Academy of Physical Education (Akademia Wychowania Fizycznego - AWF) in Warsaw, the universities, and the other institutes of higher learning.
    - b. Ogniwo (Link), which operated on a high school (gimnazjum and lyceum) level.
    - c. Peoples' Athletic Association (Ludowy Zwiasek Sportowy - LZS), which sponsored athletics among the peasants and organized teams in villages, townships, counties, PGR's (State Farms), POM's (State Machinery Centers), and collective farms.
    - d. Athletic leagues and teams sponsored by the Central Council of Trade Unions (Centralna Rada Zwiaskow Zawodowych - CRZZ) in all large factories and work establishments. Among some of those teams were: Kolejarz (railroader); Spojnia (trade and cooperative worker); Wlokniaz (textile worker); Hutnik (foundry worker); Gornik (miner); Budowlani (construction worker); Stal (steel worker).

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- [REDACTED]
5. [REDACTED] the state maintained complete control of all organized athletics through the Chief Committee of Physical Culture (Glowny Komitet Kultury Fizycznej - GKKF) in Warsaw and its branch committees in the various provinces and counties. The GKKF conducted training camps and staged meets and contests in the individual and team events in which all leagues but the Gwardja participated. It also organized training camps for the separate leagues.
  6. Gwardja athletes never attended training camps at which there were members of other leagues. Gwardja athletes usually travelled abroad as a unit and not as the members of a mixed representative team.
  7. Most of the better athletes joined the Party or the ZMP (Polish Youth Union) because membership in these organizations helped them to get a higher income, obtain easier jobs, and get permission to travel abroad as members of the national team. At least 18 of the 33 male participants at the Track and Field meet in Berno were in the Party.

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- B. [REDACTED] the Party made the final determination as to whether an athlete would be permitted to travel abroad as a member of a team. Each athlete being considered for travel abroad had to submit

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a detailed questionnaire to the GKKF about three months in advance of his expected departure. The Party representative there passed on the form. Each was also interrogated at length about his social and political outlook, his attitude toward the West, about any possible acquaintances that he might have abroad, and the like.

9. [redacted] all organized sports in Poland are conducted on a highly subsidized and professional basis. The cost of maintaining athletics in Poland is borne by the state through its supervisory and controlling athletic board, the GKKF. The funds allotted by the state for athletics are apportioned by the GKKF among the army, the CRZZ, and the various other sponsoring organizations. These used the money to buy athletic equipment for their leagues, to pay so-called cadre supplement premia to the best athletes, and perhaps also to pay the salaries of coaches and trainers. 25X1

10. All athletes representing the various clubs were on the payroll of the sponsoring organization. Although these athletes were listed in the table of organization of the establishment and received salaries based on their job classifications, they actually devoted almost all of their "working" hours to training in their athletic specialty. A hired athlete could increase his income by qualifying for cadre membership. All sports activities fell into three classes, first, second and third, with different norms for each. The first three athletes to qualify in each of the three classes became eligible for a cadre supplement. The monthly cadre supplement for the first class ranged between 400 and 500 zlotys. [redacted] 25X1

11. Any athlete who equalled or bettered the established norm in his sport and simultaneously qualified for the Fit for Work and Defense (Sprawnydo Pracy i Obrony-SPO) designation received the title of champion and a cadre supplement of 550 zlotys monthly. The cadre supplements were paid as long as the athlete continued to maintain his established performance. 25X1

12. Every athlete who qualified for a team which was to participate in international competition automatically became eligible for an additional monthly supplement granted by the Central Olympic Committee (Główny Komitet Olimpijski-GKO), a part of the GKKF. The amount of this grant ranged between 300 and 500 zlotys and was always paid to the athlete as long as he remained in the qualified bracket. [redacted] received 1.250 zlotys as his regular monthly pay from the army [redacted] 25X1  
400 zlotys from the CWKS as a cadre supplement for qualifying for one of the first three places in the first category in his event, and 300 zlotys from the Central Olympic Committee for having qualified for international competition. Students participating in sports at the AWF, the AZS, and Ogniwo received a stipend, and if qualified they also became eligible for a cadre supplement and a GKO grant. All costs of maintaining training camps for the individual and the combined leagues were borne by the GKKF, which supplied the transportation, housing, food, and equipment and paid the salaries of the civilian participants.

13. Because of the strong and influential position of the Polish Army, its athletic clubs, the CWKS and OWKS, were in a position to procure the most promising and best known male and female athletes. The CWKS in Warsaw, for instance, had about 30 men and about 50 women who were on the army payroll as civilian typists and secretaries but whose duties consisted merely of training daily in their sports activity. The CWKS in Bydgoszcz had about ten men and 20 women in this category. All coaches and trainers in both clubs were civilians. [redacted] because the majority of the athletes in the CWKS were superior to those in the other clubs, the teams representing Poland in international meets were composed mainly of CWKS members. 25X1

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14. [redacted] army officers were not given any briefing prior to their departure from Poland, but [redacted] all the civilian participants were assembled at the GKKF and instructed to leave all documents but their passports home, not to take any Polish currency with them, to maintain respect and dignity on the trips, not to talk to foreigners, and to travel only in groups. 25X1
15. A few hours after the arrival of the Polish team in Bern, all the members were assembled at one of the two hotels reserved for the Polish participants and were specifically requested not to go for walks in groups of less than three. They were told not to talk to strangers because there were many emigre and Western espionage organizations whose agents were loitering about waiting for an opportunity to talk to them and obtain valuable information about Poland. They were also ordered to remain with their own group at the stadium.
16. Two UB agents were detailed to maintain surveillance of the group. These agents preceded the team's departure from Poland to Bern by two days, obviously to make arrangements enabling them to keep a close watch on the team. The agents were assisted in their surveillance by the managers, all of whom were Party members. Moreover, two members of the Polish Legation in Bern boarded their train at Zurich, accompanied them to Bern, and remained with the group throughout its stay there. The team was assigned large suites in two hotels, with one UB agent and two or three managers occupying the room nearest the only available exit from each suite.
17. Because of the frequently scheduled briefings held not necessarily for the purpose of transmitting available information but mainly to maintain a close check on the team, the team members were usually limited to only 30 or 40 minute walks about three or four times a day. During these short walks, [redacted] the UB agents and two members of the Polish Legation strolling about and attempting to remain as inconspicuous as possible. 25X1
18. Uniformly colored and styled suits were issued to each member prior to the team's departure from Poland. These suits had to be returned undamaged to the GKKF upon the completion of the trip. The purpose of issuing these suits was probably to create a good impression in the West and to enable the agents to recognize the team members more readily. While in Bern, each member of the team received a total of 150 francs (about \$35.00) as spending money. Ten francs were received three days after arrival, the remainder two days before departure from Bern. 25X1

General Internal SituationOpposition to the Regime

19. [redacted] The greatest opposition is to be found among the peasants, almost all of whom are strongly against collectivization of farms. 25X1

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20. Opposition to the regime is also present among the factory workers who sabotage the regime's efforts by purposely producing poor quality articles which are unmarketable. [redacted] this botchery is an expression of passive resistance. There is also a certain form of passive resistance among the personnel in the various offices, stores, and shops. Very few of these employees have any interest in their work. They are not concerned with either the quality of work or service rendered but only with working the scheduled number of hours and fulfilling their norms. 25X1

21. [redacted] the average Polish anti-Communist supports the United States' effort to rearm West Germany on the assumption that it will bring nearer Poland's liberation. A rearmed West Germany may be a means of expelling the Soviets from East Germany, thereby weakening the Soviet bloc and simultaneously increasing Poland's chances of liberation. One feature of a rearmed and unified Germany that is displeasing to the Poles is the fact that Germany more than likely will demand the Polish "recovered territories". The Poles [redacted] are not willing to surrender them. 25X1

#### Catholic Church

22. The overwhelming majority of Poles is deeply religious and almost all of them seek the Church's guidance. Church attendance is usually high throughout Poland. [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] in the steel, foundry, and the coal-mining areas of Labyed and Zabrze [redacted] the churches were crowded at all services every Sunday and on religious holidays. Church attendance by peasants, even those who worked at the PGR's, is practically 100%. Generally speaking, most of the youth, especially those in the country, are still religious and are devoted to the Church. 25X1

23. [redacted] the great majority of soldiers were devout Catholics and attended services on Sunday whenever they found it possible. They usually had difficulty in obtaining passes on Sundays for church attendance. Normally, only 25% of the enlisted men in a military unit were entitled to a two-hour pass before noon on Sundays; although 15% of the men were able to get an eight to ten-hour pass, they found themselves unable to attend church services and return within the required time, in part because the pass-issuing authority consumed much of that time by making them stand inspection, having them perform some small detail, and the like. A large percentage of the officers, both Party and non-Party alike, attended church regularly when stationed in towns and cities. 25X1

24.

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25. Until about the latter part of 1953, the anti-Church and anti-religious theme was constantly emphasized in the political training lectures for officers, who were specifically urged not to attend church. Since that time, however, the attacks on the Church and religion have decreased and have become considerably milder in tone. Nevertheless, one can still hear statements to the effect that there still are some elements within the Church who are hostile to the regime and are conspiring against it. Although the anti-Church lectures for the officers are fewer and milder, those for the soldiers continue to be filled with time-worn propaganda extremely hostile to the Church.
26. On the subject of the religious attitude in Poland [redacted] an incident which occurred in Warsaw in either 1952 or 1953 and which was witnessed by people [redacted] Helena Rokossowska, sister of the Marshal of Poland, is well known to be a devout Catholic. For her name day, the Marshal sent her a bouquet of flowers. She accepted the flowers and, with the two officers who delivered them still present, immediately proceeded to the Trzech Krzyzy Church and placed them on the altar there. 25X1
- The Polish Army 25X1
27. It would be absolutely impossible for the Polish Army to join forces with the West in the event of war. There is no doubt that most of the units of the Polish Army would be stationed in the front lines, with Soviet guns trained on them from the rear. [redacted] however, [redacted] if these units found themselves in a position where they could follow their inclinations, they would attempt to join Western forces with the exception of a German army. [redacted] no units of the Polish Army would surrender to the Germans. [redacted] 25X1
- [redacted] the Polish Army is well trained but lacks spirit. Although comparatively well fed and clothed, the officers and men are saddened by the fact that their families and relatives are compelled to live under miserable conditions. 25X1
28. The Polish Army is almost completely at the mercy of the Soviets. Beginning with the divisional level, almost all military staff officers are Soviet. The advisors wear Soviet uniforms, whereas all other officers wear Polish army uniforms. [redacted] occasionally a Soviet major or lieutenant colonel is placed in command of an independent regiment or battalion. An inspection commission, composed of eight to 15 officers, visits all Polish army camps about twice a year. [redacted] this commission is always headed by a Soviet colonel or lieutenant colonel assisted by one or two other high ranking Soviet officers. [redacted] 25X1
- The nationality of these officers is common knowledge among Polish army officers. 25X1
29. [redacted] the Personnel Sections of both the Armored and Communications Headquarters located in the Ministry of Defense building in Warsaw. In the Armored Headquarters Office were one colonel, one major, one captain, and one second lieutenant in Polish army uniforms. In the Communications Headquarters Office were one colonel, one lieutenant colonel, and one captain, all of whom also wore Polish army uniforms. In each of these offices, the captain who worked there addressed his superiors only in Russian, [redacted] 25X1
30. The situation in WAT near Warsaw is quite illustrative of Soviet control of the Polish Army. The commanding officer and the chief of training are both Soviet generals (in Polish army uniforms). The administrative staff and heads of faculties and sections are Soviet, all in Polish army uniforms, the lowest-ranking officer being a major. Of the 250 uniformed army personnel in positions of authority, over 100 were Soviet. Moreover, there were about 200 Soviet civilians who ran

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the laboratories at the Academy.

Attitude of the Youth

31. The majority of the youths in Poland are not influenced by Communist ideology. They are imbued with Polish patriotism and are, on the whole, ardent Catholics. Many of them are members of the ZMP mainly because they were compelled to join and not because they believed in Communist ideology. Furthermore, they all realize that membership in that organization offers them certain advantages. They are really opportunists. A large percentage of ZMP members withdraw from that organization after having completed their studies and having obtained employment.

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32. There is the possibility [redacted] that children born after World War II may react differently. They may fall prey to Communist ideology. Because of economic conditions, the parents are unable to supervise the activities of and devote the proper attention to their small children and hence are compelled to entrust them to the care of the state, which starts its training as early as the kindergarten age. Any change which may occur in the attitude of Polish youth toward Communism will not be noticeable [redacted] before the lapse of ten to 15 years.

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33. [redacted] anti-Sovietism among the youths is even stronger than anti-Communism. [redacted] all the 250 to 300 young officers [redacted] harbored a strong hatred of Russia. [redacted] this strong anti-Russian feeling among the civilian youths at various athletic events. [redacted] in large crowds, when reasonably certain of not being detected, the youth could be heard making derogatory remarks about the Russian participants.

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34. The youths [redacted] were cautious in revealing their true feelings toward the United States. [redacted] no remarks slighting the United States were ever made. [redacted] they viewed the United States in a friendly light. [redacted] most people feel that only the United States and England can save Poland from Soviet domination.

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Western Radio Broadcasts

35. [redacted]

36. [redacted]

37. [redacted]

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38.

39.

40.

[redacted] best foreign radio reception in Chojnice and in the Labydy and Zabrze area. There was jamming in Chojnice but it was generally weaker than the broadcasts. Reception in the other two areas was relatively free of jamming. Jamming in Warsaw and Bydgoszcz was very strong. The jamming which accompanied the Western broadcasts on Stalin's death and on Beriya's arrest was exceptionally bad.

41.

The people do not freely divulge the fact that they listen to VOA or RFE. Generally, when they pass on information from broadcasts, they say they received it from others who listened. The VOA and RFE audience in Poland listens intently to every word, hoping to hear definitely encouraging news. [redacted] these stations are making a great mistake in raising the hopes of the Poles with statements like "we shall see you all soon", or "until we meet again". No statements on Poland's possible liberation should be uttered. [redacted] these statements have been broadcast to Poles for years and may produce an unfavorable effect.

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[redacted]

Standard of Living

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42.

[redacted] there is no improvement in the standard of living in Poland. Prices have been reduced, but they are still higher than the ones in effect prior to January 3, 1953. [redacted] frequently heard [redacted] comment regarding the drop in prices: "Yes, the prices have dropped -- from the upper to the lower shelf". Foods and consumer goods are scarce and people continue to form long queues in front of the various stores. Living conditions, in general, are very poor in Poland. Almost all Poles complain about the high prices, recurrent unavailability, and poor quality of the articles of daily use. Most of them are dissatisfied with the cramped housing conditions, low wages, and poor transportation facilities.

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43.

The social groups which suffer most are the unskilled workers, farm laborers, and the low-salaried white collar workers. Their earnings average about 600 zlotys monthly. The situation of the independent peasants is somewhat better. They are not so deeply affected by the acute housing shortage and the scarcity of food. On the other hand, they are burdened with much heavier taxes and with compulsory deliveries of their farm products to the state.

44.

The Communist officials, the members of the MBP (Ministry of Public Security), a large percentage of the intelligentsia, and the army officers enjoy a proportionately higher standard of living. Most of them have better housing and more food and consumer goods. The Communist officials and the MBP members may shop at specially designated stores which offer scarce, high-quality, foreign-made, and Polish export products at reduced prices.

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45. [redacted] the standard of living of the army officers is almost equal to that of the Communist officials. The army staff officers, for example, have their own special retail outlet on Rakowiecka Street in Warsaw where they can purchase scarce foods and other articles at a considerably reduced rate, much lower, in fact, than that charged at the Military Retail Store (Wojskowa Centrala Handlowa-WCH) established for the field grade officers. [redacted] there are quite a number of WCH stores in Warsaw. The WCH system is highly departmentalized, with each store concentrating on a specific type or class of products. Among them are the grocery stores, butcher shops, sporting goods stores, bicycle, motorcycle, and automobile sales centers, and clothing and shoe stores. 25X1
46. There is a noticeable difference in the prices charged by the state stores and those at the WCH, although on a ration basis. For example, an SHL motorcycle costing 6,000-6,400 zlotys at the state store is obtainable for only 4,200 zlotys at the WCH. Bicycles cost from 1,200 to 1,400 zlotys at the state stores and from 700 to 900 zlotys at the WCH. An AGA radio which sells for 1,800-2,000 zlotys at the state store costs about 950 zlotys at the WCH. Trench coats selling at 600-800 zlotys at the state store cost 250-350 at the WCH. They are even cheaper at the staff officers' store where the best quality coats are obtainable for only 250 zlotys. In addition to being granted price concessions on articles which are generally unavailable at the state stores or on the open market, the army officers are able to buy on the installment plan.
47. [redacted] juvenile crime in Poland. The few scattered cases of hooliganism [redacted] involved young UB agents and ZMP youths whose fathers, usually Party members, occupied relatively high-salaried positions. [redacted] it was primarily youths from these circles who could afford to frequent the bars and nightclubs and engage in drinking bouts leading to crime. Many of these comparatively wealthy ZMP youths either received an allowance from their fathers or, if employed, were allowed to keep their entire earnings and spend them as they saw fit. In commenting on cases of hooliganism and juvenile delinquency, the press never mentions the fact that the transgressors were members of these organizations. 25X1

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