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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Poland

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1. The worker and his family when medical care is required report to the medical center (Ubezpieczalnia). When reporting at the medical center he must present the identity card and picture received at his place of employment. At the medical center the patient is examined by the doctor who prescribes medicine, if necessary. The patient then takes the prescription to a pharmacy and pays only 10% of the total cost.

2. Each factory has its own doctor who has office hours two hours each day, three days a week. As a rule the worker will always visit the factory doctor. A person too sick to visit a doctor in his office is allowed to call the doctor to his home. If, after examination, the doctor decides that the patient's condition did not warrant a house-call, the patient is arrested and fined.

3. The unemployed and the business people must see their own doctors when medical attention is required. The patient must pay the entire cost. A first visit to the doctor for these people is approximately 100 zlotys and diminishes with subsequent visits. High Government officials have personal doctors because they do not trust general practitioners.

4. All school children are required to receive typhoid, cholera and small-pox vaccination. Adults are required to receive typhoid immunizations. The child and adult receives a certificate showing dates of vaccination and immunization. A fine of 300 zlotys is paid if not vaccinated.

5. Procedure for dental care is the same as that for medical care. Many people prefer to see a private dentist because they receive better treatment and care. A dentist depends on private practice to supplement the 800 zlotys he received monthly from the government. It is impossible for a new dentist to begin private practice because instruments are not available, office rental is too high and office furniture too expensive.

6. Streptomycin, procaine and medicines for heart ailments are scarce and valuable enough to be the objects of black market trade, which is forbidden but flourishes. It had been requested by medical authorities that anyone receiving scarce medicines from abroad take them to a pharmacy and receive cash in return.

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