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CLASSIFICATION [REDACTED] /CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLY

COUNTRY: Poland

REPORT NO [REDACTED]

TOPIC: Polish Labor Service in Kalisz

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EVALUATION [REDACTED] PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

DATE OF CONTENT: prior to 14 March 1951

DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] DATE PREPARED: 14 August 1951

REFERENCES

PAGES [REDACTED] ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. On 9 November 1948, source was summoned to report to the Labor Service (SP) office in Kalisz (P 52/N 94) for registration. Following this registration, he worked with the SP for three hours on two days every week. This type of SP service affected all youths who were 14 years of age and older. There were no volunteers with the SP in Kalisz.
2. Prior to April 1950, the training of the SP personnel was conducted by Polish Army NCOs and, occasionally, by army officers. Later on, the training was taken over by members of the ZMP (Polish Youth organization). It was held in a barracks installation, which was a converted hospital, on the southeast side of ul. Zimierskiego in the center of Kalisz and included political indoctrination, field training, and practice with German model 98-K carbines. No firing practice with live ammunition was held. On three days per month, the SP personnel were assigned to work in a government enterprise or employed in road construction. Work was performed reluctantly.
3. In addition to having youths work for a fixed number of hours every week, the SP drafted specific age classes for a two-month period with SP brigades, none of which existed in Kalisz. Inductions into the SP occurred in April, June, and September of every year. Men from Kalisz who were serving with SP labor brigades in March 1951 were of the 1932 and 1933 classes.
4. Only the SP personnel serving with the labor brigades wore uniforms, which consisted of khaki windbreaker-type jackets with two patch pockets and open collars, long trousers, laced boots, leather belts, green shirts and, in some cases, red ties. The SP insignia included pennant-shaped red-white collar patches with the point down, red piping on the epaulets, and a red-white stripe on the side of the field caps which mounted the Polish eagle in front. Ranks were indicated by cross braids on the epaulets. A red-white chevron with its point down and a star in its center was observed on the right upper sleeve of some SP members.

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