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U.S. Tells Poles It Regrets Broadcast

By **BERNARD GWERTZMAN**

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 16 — The State Department, in response to a Polish Government protest, said today that it regretted that a Radio Free Europe broadcast had implied that Poland was similar to Nazi Germany and Prime Minister Wojciech Jaruzelski similar to Hitler.

Poland regularly complains to Washington about broadcasts by Radio Free Europe, a station in Munich financed by the United States Government that beams programs to Poland and other Eastern European countries, but until today the State Department had brushed such protests aside.

The latest complaint, concerning a broadcast meant to evoke parallels between Nazi Germany and present-day Poland, was made by the Polish Foreign Ministry to the United States Embassy in Warsaw last week and was expressed publicly by the Polish Government spokesman on Tuesday. It was taken seriously by Washington this time.

A State Department official said the Administration had expressed "regret" because it wanted to assure the Poles that the offending broadcast was not approved by Washington and that the Administration remained interested in normalizing relations now that most economic penalties have been lifted.

Polos Resist Envoy Exchange

In particular, the United States is discussing with the Poles the restoration of diplomatic relations to the ambassadorial level for the first time since the imposition of martial law in Poland 37 months ago.

John D. Scanlan has been the American nominee during most of that period, but the Poles have refused to exchange envoys.

"We agreed that the particular R.F.E. broadcast was in very poor taste and was indeed offensive," one State Department official said.

The broadcast occurred on Jan. 5 and was part of a regular program for Polish youth, a senior Radio Free Europe executive, William A. Buell, said. He

said it was clearly intended to be recognized as satire and was not intended to be taken seriously as a comparison of Hitler with General Jaruzelski.

On that date, he said, R.F.E.'s youth program carried several satirical items taken from a parody of the Warsaw humor magazine Szpilki, or Needles, that had been published by Polish emigrés in Paris.

'A Speech by the Führer'

One of the items, he said, was introduced without further explanation as "a speech by the Führer Adolf Hitler" to a meeting of his party in Nuremberg in 1939, in the period after his nonaggression pact with the Soviet Union that preceded the Nazi invasion of Poland on Sept. 2, 1939.

The Hitler "speech," which Mr. Buell said was an invention, was apparently worded in such a way as to parody addresses by current Communist Party leaders.

What evidently made it particularly offensive to the Poles was that it was "dedicated to General W. Jaruzelski," according to a translated transcript made available by the State Department, which obtained it from R.F.E..

It said in part: "Comrades, the time has come to sum up our objective achievements. And these are not slender, contrary to the hostile assertions of imperialist English and American propaganda."

"The greater part of our society has rallied around the ideals of our party, and has become morally and politically united. Individuals who are hostile to our system, being instigated by foreign centers of international Zionism, are isolated in the country. We will resolutely combat them."

Gestapo Units 'Standing Guard'

"Standing guard over internal peace, which we will not allow to be disturbed," the text continued, "are Gestapo units, which are devoted to the cause of the party, and the army which is morally healthy and inspired with the spirit of socialism."

"One pillar of our foreign policy consists of friendly relations with the Soviet Union," it said.

It ended: "There will be no retreat

from socialism. Sieg Heil!"

Jerzy Urban, the Polish Government spokesman, began his weekly news conference on Tuesday by saying that the R.F.E. broadcast of "Hitler's address is a fabrication composed by the R.F.E. editorial board so that it can show similarity to our party utterances."

"The simple fact of comparing the crime of the Hitlerite National Socialist Party with the Polish United Workers Party, which grew out of the struggle against Hitlerism and which left thousands of fallen people in the struggle, is exceptionally insulting to the Polish United Workers Party and to the entire Polish people," Mr. Urban said.

"Without refraining from insults and a halt to propaganda aggression, statements by the U.S. Government about its readiness to improve relations will not find credibility with Polish public opinion," Mr. Urban said.

State Department Statement

A State Department spokesman, Alan Romberg, issued the following statement today:

"Although Radio Free Europe receives funds from the U.S. Congress, it is not a U.S. Government agency, nor is it subject to editorial censorship by the U.S. Government.

"We learned of the broadcast in question after it was aired. "The U.S. Government disassociates itself from that broadcast and regrets any implication of similarity between Nazi Germany and present-day Poland and particularly between Adolf Hitler and General Jaruzelski."

Radio Free Europe, and its sister station, Radio Liberty, were founded by the Central Intelligence Agency in the early 1950's. Radio Liberty broadcasts to the Soviet Union and R.F.E. to Eastern Europe. Both stations specialize in providing news and commentary about internal developments in the Communist world.

After the C.I.A. connection was widely reported, Congress set up a Board for International Broadcasting to oversee the two stations, which operate from Munich. The members of the board are chosen by the White House.