

~~U.S. EYES ONLY~~  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
**INFORMATION REPORT**

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2001 2007

COUNTRY Poland

REPORT NO. 00-B-69101

SUBJECT Information on Prisons and Forced Labor Camps

RESPONSIVE TO	
1	2
CD NO.	
OO/C NO.	Guide 172
ORR NO.	
DAS NO.	
OCI NO.	

PLACE ACQUIRED London  
(BY SOURCE)

DATE ACQUIRED Jun 53 and Earlier  
(BY SOURCE)

DATE DISTR. 20 Oct 1953

DATE (OF INFO.) Jun 53 and Earlier

NO. OF PAGES 6

~~THIS SECURITY INFORMATION AFFECTS THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES. DISSEMINATION OF THIS INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC, OR TO THE PRESS, OR TO ANY OTHER PERSON OR ENTITY, IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. THE REPRODUCTION OF THIS REPORT IS PROHIBITED BY LAW.~~

NO. OF ENCLS.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SUPP. TO  
REPORT NO.

SOURCE Polish research unit in London.

This unit, which claims direct contact with individuals within Poland and with recent refugees, gave the following information to the London representative of a naturalized US citizen of Polish descent who follows developments within the Soviet Orbit.

1. "The following information on prisons and forced labor camps in Poland is dated June 1953 and earlier:
  - (a) Forced Labor Camp at Jelcz
    1. "The village of Jelcz lies some 35 km southeast of Wroclaw, in the Olawa district. The nearest railway station is at Miloszyce. Prior to World War II the Krupp 'Schwesterwerk' factory producing grenades stood near Jelcz. It was heavily damaged during World War II.
    2. "At the end of 1951 and the beginning of 1952, the construction of one-story barracks for political and criminal prisoners was started around the factory. In late autumn 1952, the whole area had already the character of a forced labor camp. It was surrounded with a barbed-wire fence. Within the enclosure stood more than ten residential barracks for the prisoners, separated by a high wall from the remaining area. The prisoners, who numbered at that time about 4,000, were employed partly on the reconstruction of two factory halls and partly on motor lorry repairs in a third hall that had been previously restored. Two more factory halls stand outside the barbed-wire enclosure. It is thought that these will not be restored, as the war damage is too serious.
    3. "Among the prisoners are a certain number of Germans convicted for war crimes; as well as ordinary criminals, and many people sentenced for 'economic sabotage and abuses' after investigations of the Special Commission. Many prisoners are serving short sentences, but there are also men convicted to 10 years.

SEE LAST PAGE FOR SUBJECT & AREA CODES

EXEMPTIONS Section 3  
(2)(A) Privacy  
(2)(B) Methods/Sources  
(2)(G) Foreign Relations

~~U.S. EYES ONLY~~  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SECURITY INFORMATION

DISTRIBUTION	STATE	ARMY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAVY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FBI				
--------------	-------	------	--	---	---	--	--	--	--

This report is for the use within the USA of the Intelligence components of the Departments or Agencies indicated above. It is not to be transmitted overseas without the concurrence of the originating office through the Assistant Director of the Office of Collection and Dissemination, CIA.

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
CIA SPECIAL COLLECTIONS  
RELEASE IN FULL

0000

116

5. "The construction of prisoners' barracks has been rather a shoddy job. The prisoners are urged to hurry as 'the buildings are destined for convicts who do not need solidly constructed accommodation'. (That is the official explanation made by the supervisors). The barracks are divided into rooms about 100 sq meters in size, each accommodating 40-50 prisoners. The men sleep on two-tiered iron bunks with straw mattresses. There is scarcely any other furniture.
  6. "The prisoners are paid for their work. About three-fourths of their wages are deducted for the costs of their maintenance in the camp. About one-half of the remainder is paid to the prisoners' savings accounts to be given to them on the day of their release. The remainder may be spent in the canteen.
  7. "Prisoners are allowed to receive parcels and money from their families. They are also allowed to correspond, but many of the incoming letters do not reach them. A friend who worked in the camp office for some time declared that several times he saw the guards burning heaps of letters addressed to prisoners.
- (b) Wargowo-Zydowo Camp
8. "Near the villages of Wargowo and Zydowo, in Oborniki district, is a new labor camp, the construction of which was started in 1952. The two enormous local barns belonging to local PCR's have been converted into living quarters for the prisoners. The local people have been informed that the inmates of the camp will be engaged in digging peat from the neighboring bogs. Peat-digging machines have been brought there.
- (c) Wroclaw-Kleckowska Street Prison
9. "In the prison at No 1, Ulica Kleckowska in Wroclaw there is a forced labor camp which employs the prisoners. The average number of inmates is about 2000. More than half are considered 'political criminals'. The prisoners receive no payments for their work. Their wages go to pay the cost of their maintenance. This is a bad bargain, since the food is bad and inadequate and the living conditions unhealthy. There is a serious spread of lung diseases among the prisoners. The only exception is the prison carpentry shops where the workers get small cash wages.
- d) Labor Camps in Warsaw
10. "The central administration of all Warsaw labor camps is located in the Centralny Oboz Pracy or C.O.P. This is also a transit camp for new prisoners, who spend a short time there before being assigned to one of the working camps. At the COP is the central hospital for all forced laborers in Warsaw.
  11. "No 1 Camp is at Sluzewiec. (Previously this number was used for the camp at Malwska Street, which has been liquidated.)  
No 2 Camp is in Ulica Podchorazych. Very small.  
No 3 Camp is in the building of the former Tobacco Monopoly adjoining the COP on one side, and the famous Gesiowka Prison on the other. About 3000 prisoners. Their production includes concrete construction blocks.  
No. 4 Camp is at No 2 Ulica Gornoslaska, in the former Opel Factory. About 800 prisoners.
- Camp No 1 (Sluzewiec)
12. "At No 1 (Sluzewiec) the number of inmates ranges between 1200 and 1700. About half are common criminals doing short sentences. The next largest group are persons sen-

tenced for 'economic abuses and sabotage'. Apart from professional black-marketeers and speculators, this group includes many decent merchants, industrialists, artisans and 'kulaks' who are mainly simple peasants who have resisted collectivization. There are a few German war criminals, a few soldiers punished for such offences as desertion and a small group of men convicted for vagrancy, begging etc.

3. "The prisoners work on state construction projects. A state-owned enterprise which wishes to employ forced labor must prepare the building site as if it were part of a forced labor camp, i.e. surround it with barbed wire and erect watch-towers for the guards. The enterprise also provides motor transport to take the prisoners daily to and from work.

On leaving and returning to the camp, the prisoners are subjected to a personal search.

4. According to the existing regulations, a prisoner fulfilling 125% of the normal norms of work should get a reduction of his sentence; i.e. every day in which he has fulfilled 125% of his work is the equivalent of two days of his sentence. The norms are high: For example, the working norm for a bricklayer is to build 2.5 meters of wall in eight hours. Many men work hurriedly and carelessly, which results in a bad job. There has been a general deterioration in the building industry due to such 'speed-up' methods of work. Actually the authorities have cheated many prisoners in the calculation of the reduction of their sentences. When the dates come for a prisoner's release, he is frequently kept longer under all sorts of pretexts. The tendency to exploit the prisoners to the utmost is obvious.
15. "Every two weeks, the camp regulations give all the prisoners the right to receive visits from their families. In practice, this regulation does not work well. There are no arrangements in the camp to handle the influx on Sundays between 9<sup>am</sup> and 4 pm. The visits can be held in one small hut where two prisoners at a time may speak to their relatives through a double row of netting - with a space of nearly a yard in between - and two better trusted prisoners may sit at a wide table facing their visitors.

The theoretical half-hour visit depends on the caprice of the security guards, who can shorten it to a few minutes for a prisoner considered 'unreliable' and extend it for a 'trusted' prisoner. A prisoner can be deprived of the right to receive visits for several weeks as a punishment for misbehavior. Some of the prisoners must work on Sunday. Some unlucky prisoners are not allowed to see a visitor for months. On the other hand, discreet bribes often make things easier. However, regulations to the prisoners' advantage are only executed for those prisoners who enjoy a good opinion among the security network. A 'bad' prisoner, who is considered politically unreliable, cannot get an earlier release, although he has earned it; cannot see his relatives even if they have come from the other end of Poland to see him; and must resign himself to seeing the results of daily work falsified by the controllers calculating the fulfillment of norms.

16. "The behavior of the prisoners is observed by the 'special guards' (SPEC) from the political-educational department, who have detailed personal records of each inmate. An extensive network of spies works for them. Some of the spies are 'official' and known to everybody; they are the prisoners who have been entrusted with various camp functions. The others are secret spies, whom the prisoners usually recognize by the special privileges granted them (e.g. longer visits). They include many common criminals. The Volksdeutsche also make good spies.

17. "To obtain a good mark in the security records, it is necessary to behave well during the political indoctrination courses, which take two hours every week-day. Articles are read from the newspapers allowed in the camp (in Sluzewiec, only Trybuna Ludu and Polnoc) or some propaganda pamphlets and books. A discussion follows. A few officers, trying to gain the good graces of the political-education officers, deliver long harangues praising all Soviets and Communists and denouncing everything Western.

Throughout the day political propaganda is also broadcast through radio loudspeakers installed in every barrack. The camp has its own radio relay station, which works from the morning roll-call at 5 am until 10 pm. All current orders and instructions are also announced through these loudspeakers.

18. "The Sluzewiec camp has a special section for Germans who await repatriation to the NRD, usually after serving sentences in various Polish prisons. These Germans are treated as internees and are not obliged to work, but many of them prefer to work to earn a little money. The prisoners are engaged on various State building projects. The most important work is that performed for the Security organs on orders from the Ministry of Security. To such constructions are assigned the best materials available in the country. If the work is done wrong, it is unmade and started anew.
19. "Barczewo Prison -(German name: Wartenburg).

Barczewo is an old German prison, located in a small town in the Olstzen district. The number of prisoners held there was estimated in spring 1953 at about 1500. Over half are political prisoners. The prisons are overcrowded. Five or six prisoners sleep in the former single cells. They sleep on mattresses on the floor. These 'single cells' are used for prisoners with long sentences. The prisoners with short terms live in common cells; some sleep in beds - as a rule, two in one bed; some have to lie on the floor. These short-term prisoners work in the prison workshops as carpenters and locksmiths. There is also a book-binding workshop used mainly for Communist Political literature.

20. "The working prisoners are more privileged than the others, because they earn a little money with which they can shop in the prison canteen. They also receive a larger daily bread ration.
21. "The percentage of German prisoners in this prison is high.

Bytom Forced Labor Camp

22. "Forced labor camp in Bytom is fairly new. Its formation was probably a direct result of the underfulfillment of production plans by the Dymitrov mine - former Centrum mine - in Bytom during 1951-52. The camp is near the mine and is administered by the authorities of Bytom Prison. The number of inmates is about 1,200. They work in the mine in three daily shifts, and a great stress is laid on the fulfillment of stiff working norms. The prisoners are often kept at work after their regular working hours are ended.

Monteluppi Prison, Krakow

23. "The Monteluppi Prison in Krakow has a separate section known as the 'UB prison', on the lower floor. In this section each cell has three-tiered bunks and each prisoner has a place to sleep. On the higher floors is the general prison in which political and criminal offenders are mixed up in common cells. This part of the prison is so overcrowded that two or three men must use one straw mattress on the floor. There is

no difference in food rations between the inmates of the two parts - in the overcrowded part of the prison there used to be many illnesses caused by insufficient food and bad sanitary conditions. These conditions improved slightly in 1952, when sanitary buckets were removed from the common cells and a water-closet system installed.

Dziwna Camp

24. "A Dziwna (in the Wolin district) the old German military barracks were turned in 1940 into a concentration camp for Greek partisans charged with 'bourgeois-nationalist' tendencies. The camp is strictly guarded by the UB and KBW. The whole site is surrounded with a high wire fence, with watch-towers at the corners. The local Poles feel a great pity for the Greeks who, observed from afar, look half-starved and dressed in dreadful rags. But the guards frustrate all attempts to approach or help the prisoners. It is rumored that the mortality rate in the camp is high and that the prisoners include women. It is also said that the first batch of inmates to arrive at Dziwna were anti-Communists caught by Communist partisans during the unrest in Greece and brought over to Poland to die by starvation and neglect.

Grudziadz Prison

25. "At Grudziadz is one of the largest women's prisons in Poland. It is located at Ulica 1-(Szej Armii Wojska Polskiego. The average number of inmates is 600-800. They are employed in various prison workshops. Their work is badly paid. They have meagre food. The cells are overcrowded. It is estimated that a majority of these women prisoners serve sentences larger than three years. There is a certain percentage of common criminals, but the most common offence is that of 'complicity' in economic or political crimes; which means that the prisoner's husband was charged with such a crime and she herself was imprisoned on the principle of collective family responsibility.

Golesnog Prison

26. "Workshops have been developed in the prison of Golesnog. Until recently, the accepted practice had been to employ in the workshops only prisoners with short-term sentences. Now there is evidence that also those convicted for longer terms, and even those sentenced for life, if skilled in one of the needed professions, are allowed to work.

Jelcza Labor Camp

27. "The Jelcza camp, situated about 38 km east of Wroclaw, is on the site of a metallurgical factory now surrounded with a high brick wall. The prisoners - about 300 of them at the end of 1952 - are employed in the construction of barracks for more prisoners (presumed future capacity of the camp - about 2500) and the restoration of damaged factory halls. At the beginning of 1953 some free workers were also engaged on the repairs of the factory. But it is thought that when completely renovated, the plant will be operated exclusively by forced labor.

Raciborz Prison

28. "The Raciborz Prison (Ratibor) in Upper Silesia holds about 1800 prisoners in terribly overcrowded quarters. Most are political prisoners. There are also 250-300 Germans convicted for war crimes. The prison authorities run a workshop making uniforms for the army. The working norms are extremely high. If they are not fulfilled, the prisoner is deprived of the right to buy extra food in the prison canteen.

Szczecin Prisons

29. "The ordinary prison in Szczecin is in Dabie district at Ulica Pomorska. There is an UB prison in the UB Headquarters on Ulica Malopolska. Both are reputed very overcrowded with sometimes as many as fourteen men in a cell for two.

Siedlce Prison

30. "The Siedlce Prison is a mixed prison for men and women. In late autumn 1952 the women's section was enlarged. Many female political prisoners were brought from Warsaw to serve their sentences there. The Siedlce prison has a very large tailoring workshop which makes mainly uniforms for KBW officers. They arrive at the prison already cut, and the inmates put them together. The workshop employs some 150-200 men. There was an attempt to employ women too, but the work proved too hard for them and they were too slow.

Wilkow Labor Camp

31. "At Wilkow in the Wroclaw voivodship there is a forced labor camp. The inmates are employed in an iron mine nearby. This mine is old and nearly exhausted. The installations and safety devices are rather ancient. Nothing new is being done to improve the conditions, as it is not considered worth while. The forced labor prisoners work in the mine along side a certain number of free miners, with whom their relations are friendly. The total number of inmates in the Wilkow Camp is about 1000, all with short sentences. There is a large percentage of army soldiers and NCOs punished for offences against military discipline. They are accommodated separately and handled in a much harsher way than the other prisoners."

-end-

**LIBRARY SUBJECT & AREA CODES**

761.125  
135.3  
863

55M  
55M  
55M