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~~Top Secret~~

POLAND: Food Supplies

Four months after the large increases in the price of food, the Polish market continues to be relatively well supplied. The improvement reflects diminished demand by many consumers who cannot afford even rationed goods, rather than an increase in available food. Food prices increased 128 percent in the first quarter of this year, as compared with the same period last year, while wages increased only half as much. Although price hikes have shortened food lines and reduced hoarding and waste, the increases are causing hardship for more people.

Comment: Consumers remain restive over the increased food prices. Even well-to-do consumers will be angered if meat supplies are reduced in the third quarter.

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