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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

Handwritten signatures and date:
March 3, 1958
DATE

FROM : **AMCONGER, DUESSELDORF** 152
TO : **THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.**
REF. : -----

	ACTION	DEPT.
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	REC'D	<i>10/10</i>
	<i>3/10</i>	<i>10/10</i>

SUBJECT: **Berthold Beitz, Krupp General Manager, Visits Poland.**

The visit of Berthold BEITZ, General Manager of the Krupp empire, to Poland, in February, to tour industrial establishments and to carry on discussions with Polish officials, including Foreign Minister RAPACKI, was announced by the Krupp Public Relations Department on March 3, 1958. The official announcement, which added no details beyond those presented above, was apparently evoked by an editorial appearing in the March 1/2, 1958 edition of Der Mittag, the first known press break on the story.

The editorial reads as follows:

"Krupp and Poland.

While Alfred Krupp is being received with very varied receptions in Australia, his deputy, BEITZ, visited the Polish Foreign Minister RAPACKI. The Federal Government has nothing to do with this, we are told from Bonn. There remains the question to be answered, what subjects Beitz dealt with in a "lengthy discussion" with Rapacki, who is the Foreign Minister and not Minister for Economics. The idea of better economic relations with Poland is nothing unusual. German goods are certainly very much desired in Poland and other East Bloc countries. We could also imagine that Poland would pay for them with coal from Upper Silesia. The distance from Upper Silesia to West Berlin, for instance, is no greater than that from the Ruhr. But what has Rapacki, a man who is not only Foreign Minister but also the father of the Rapacki plan, to do with it? To begin with we would assume that the firm of Krupp and Rapacki have not talked about foreign policy, i.e. about an atom-free zone. Should this have been the case, it would appear to us not only stupid but also useless. Should on the other hand, as we assume, the subject of the discussions have been trade relations between the two countries, then the approach to the Foreign Minister can only mean that the extent of planned contracts exceeds the scope of the normal exchange of payments and that trade agreements and loans are being planned for this purpose. That again would be more than what is usual and would therefore be very interesting. Although we are assured that the Federal Government has nothing to do with this, we

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could imagine that it would be very interested in closer trade relations with Poland as a substitute for diplomatic relations which at this moment would be hard to establish. By the nature of such things direct political effects are not to be expected. One might, however, consider whether this would not decrease tension between Germany and Poland, a fact that might serve a general improvement of relations between East and West by eliminating the harshness of controversies."



Raymond P. Ludden
American Consul General

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