

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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1. Approximately 50 persons attended the reception held at the Polish Legation in Rio de Janeiro on 22 July 1950 in commemoration of the anniversary of the Independence Day of the Warsaw regime. Excluding the Legation staff and officers and crew members of the Polish merchant ship KOSCIUSZKO, which was then in port, there were not more than 15 local Poles in attendance, the rest of the guests being from other Rio legations and embassies. This failure of the Poles to put in an appearance is of interest in view of the fact that advertisements in the local newspapers several days prior to the reception invited all Poles to the celebration.

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2. It was noted that of the Polish Legation and Consulate staffs only Jerzy Szturm, Commercial Attache,* was missing. According to a report dated 2 August, Szturm resigned from his position and plans to remain in Brazil. Also according to this report, Polbraz,** import-export firm in Sao Paulo which has been importing Polish cement, porcelain, and other manufactured articles, is in the process of closing its office and liquidating its business interests in Brazil. With the resignation of Szturm, the company could look forward to very little success in getting Polish materials.

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3. Among the guests at the reception in the Polish Legation were the two new officers of the Polish Legation in Buenos Aires; namely, Bronislaw Romkowicz*** and Wladyslaw Musial,*** who were transit passengers on the SS KOSCIUSZKO. Romkowicz, who [redacted] is to be the Commercial Attache in Buenos Aires, was evacuated to the USSR in 1940 from his home in Lwow, Poland. Later he spent about three years in Iran with his wife and subsequently served in the Polish-Russian Army. It was observed that he spoke fluent Russian during the course of his conversation with Grigorij Bifler, Assistant Commercial Attache of the Czech Legation in Rio. Romkowicz was travelling on Polish Diplomatic Passport No. W/3364 issued in Warsaw on 3 May 1950. Wladyslaw Musial, who [redacted] will assume the position of Third Secretary in the Polish Legation in Buenos Aires, was travelling on Diplomatic Passport No. W/3368, issued in Warsaw on 3 May 1950.

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4. Also representing the Czech Legation at the reception were Jan Rosa, Commercial Attache, and his secretary. It was learned at this gathering that ^{BJC} Viasta Havlinova, formerly a secretary at the Czech Legation, had left that mission to work for Skoda Brasileira. Since Skoda's activities have been discontinued,**** she has gone to Sao Paulo to visit friends while waiting for passage to Czechoslovakia.

5. Other Czechs present were Frantisek ^{BJC} Svitalek and Frantisek Audolensky. The former is the Brazilian representative for the Czech cotton-buying organization Centrotex. About 27 years of age, Svitalek arrived in Rio in April 1950 from Czechoslovakia. After a stay of approximately three months he will move to Santos, from which city he will conduct his purchasing operations. His wife will fly to Brazil from Czechoslovakia and join him in Santos in about two months. [Frantisek Audolensky, who is about 37 and who spoke in English to Svitalek, is the new representative of Kovo, which is the successor to Skoda Brasileira in handling the commercial activities in Brazil of all Czech firms.

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6. Included in the delegation from the KOSCIUSZKO were the Captain, Kazmierz Lipski, and various members of the PZPR (Polish Communist Party) among the officers and crew.

7. The only passenger from the KOSCIUSZKO debarking in Rio was Dr. Irena Lipska, who came to Rio at the expense of the Polish Government to attend the International Bacteriological Congress. Dr. Lipska, who is about 67 years old and who is travelling on passport No. 63883, issued at Warsaw on 12 July 1947, is living at the Polish Legation during her stay in Brazil. She stated in confidence that many of the so-called scientists who are being sent abroad by the Polish Government are Communist Party members with ulterior motives.

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**** Comment. It was reported that the Czech Government had decided to close Skoda Brasileira because it was losing money, particularly because of the high salaries paid to its officers, who allegedly knew nothing about business but, as good Communists, were concerned mainly with politics in the local Czech colony. The Czech Government at that time wanted to acquire private local representatives, preferably Czech nationals, to handle the representation of Czech factories and products. With the exception of those remaining to liquidate Skoda, the entire staff received notice that business would be discontinued as of 1 May 1950.

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