

JB
Nov 29
X/7281

POLAND

EXILE (1200)
Refugees (1204)

APPEARANCE OF ALLEGED RUSSIAN ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE AMONG
POLISH UKRAINIANS.

SOURCE HAMBURG: Camp refugees.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: November 1955.

CORRESPONDENT'S COMMENT: As stated in the first paragraph, there may be an innocent explanation for the visits described above. In view of the great suspicion of all repatriation agents existing in refugee camps in Western Germany at the present time, it should be most strongly urged on all genuine assistance committees that their representatives act in an open manner and identify themselves whenever requested. Perhaps inquiries could be made in MUNICH among Russian relief organizations to see whether they have any knowledge of such visits.

EVALUATION COMMENT: A photocopy of a letter received from the MARIENTAL Camp (in Polish) may be seen at the Polish Evaluation Desk.

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Three camps in the Lower Saxony and HAMBURG areas have recently reported the appearance of alleged representatives of a Russian Assistance Committee. The information at our disposal is at present not sufficient to assess the true nature of these representatives but their unwillingness to identify themselves has led to suspicion among camp inmates. It is possible that they are agents of a Soviet repatriation movement, although, for the benefit of the doubt, it may be that they are working in Western interests. In the HAMBURG FUNKTURM camp two men

(over)

approached the Camp Directorate and inquired whether Russian or Polish refugees were living in the camp as they would like to talk to them. A camp official requested proof of their identity informing them that the HAMBURG Social Welfare Authority insisted on knowing who was entering the camp premises. One of the two men then said he came from the Russian Assistance Committee in MUNICH but both men declined to produce any proof of their identity and left without more ado.

At the beginning of November, persons claiming to be representatives from a Russian Committee visited the refugee camp in MARIENTAL-HORST near HELMSTEDT on the zonal border and distributed parcels and small sums of money to Russian families living there. At the same time they claimed to be in a position to procure work in the Rhineland for those who wished to move. The promises they made were so enticing that a certain number of Polish-Ukrainian families asked for their names to be transferred to the Russian national list in the camp so that they would qualify for the assistance. The visitors have not since reappeared in this camp and it was unfortunately omitted to register their names and addresses so that doubts are now appearing among those who were expecting assistance. The fact that ^acertain Russian refugee in the camp is known to have definite Communist leanings, is considered an agent by his fellow-countrymen and claims to be in touch with the assistance committee has also caused cooling off of the enthusiasm which followed on the original visit.

End.