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OLS/20

POLAND

COMMUNIST PARTY - Inner Life

A colossal purge within the Communist Party is apparently being prepared. It will be directed against all those elements of the Communist party who joined it from Socialist ranks.

In early May 1951 the government press began to expose and emphasise big scandals in public life. The GRYFICE court case was the signal. Other cases followed subsequently.

Scandals connected with the GDYNIA harbor constructions were disclosed, also other huge irregularities in building enterprises, such as waste of materials and similar shortcomings. Shortages and defaults, previously drowned in silence or covered by noisy propaganda about industrial progress, appeared in the press and now fill the columns. Although the responsibility for this state of affairs lies with the central authorities, which are in devout Communist hands, the characteristic feature of the newly disclosed scandals is that the majority of them were caused only by Communists who derived from the ranks of the PPS (POLSKA PARTJA SOCJALISTYCZNA.)

The orthodox Communist ministers will certainly find scapegoats to save their own skins.

No illusions should be nursed that this new epuration campaign is dictated for the sake of the six year plan. The main aim is the preparation of a purge on a large scale, to eliminate from the PZPR ranks all those who are not fully trustworthy.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: May - June 1951

EVAL. COMMENT:

Source : fairly reliable;
Information: possibly true, confirmed
by other sources as to
the facts of affairs and
court cases.

It is possible that the news about a club scandal in WARSAW, in which apparently MINC and CYRANKIEWICZ and certainly other dignitaries were involved, has something to do with this campaign. The police do not disclose scandals without aim or reason.