

ITEM No. 5157/56

HW  
17 May  
AA Ref.No. P-253

POLAND

REGIME RESPONSE TO WESTERN BROADCASTS

PROPAGANDA 2600  
Anti-Western 2601 a

"ASTONISHMENT"

SOURCE AUDIENCE ANALYSIS SECTION: Trybuna Ludu, No.107(2620), 17 April 1956, p.2; article by "Slaw".

AUDIENCE ANALYSIS SECTION COMMENT: None

EVALUATION COMMENT: None

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"There are different kinds of astonishment. For example, philosophical or scientific astonishment which consists in being surprised at phenomena that seem quite ordinary to the man in the street. However it is a very valuable type of astonishment which often leads to discoveries. How many people had observed, throughout the centuries, that a stone thrown into the air, returns to the ground? So what? -- people said, it descends, what is so strange about it? But Newton was greatly surprised that it fell to the earth -- and discovered the laws of gravitation.

There exists, however, another, specific type of astonishment, which could be termed "BBC astonishment", or less scientifically, "act the fool astonishment".

Thus on 14 April the London radio BBC -- of course in a "Poland" program -- was extremely astonished that Poland is obliged to spend 12 billion zlotys on defense this year.

-Why? Whatever for?, the BBC asked in astonishment, and then, with the usual BBC pompousness it stated authoritatively that "the Polish nation did not authorize those who rule it to give armed support to Russia against Poland's allies".

Apart from the problem of who supports whom, we should like, in turn, to express our mild astonishment at the small gaps in the military and political education of the "Polish" editors of the London BBC. Have these gentlemen really never heard about the ultra-modern equipment of the West German Wehrmacht, excuse me, Bundeswehr? And did these gentlemen really never hear of its revanchist, anti-Polish aims, directed against the integrity of our territories? If they have not, it is all the more astonishing as these aims have been openly stated by the constitutional head of the Bundeswehr and the Nazi generals that command it.

( more )

We can make a gift of such "allies of Poland" to the editors of the London BBC. On the other hand we are prepared to reduce our armament expenditure immediately and substantially the moment for example Eden's plan of last July is carried out. This envisaged the creation of a controlled armaments zone on both sides of ~~a~~ line dividing East and West Europe". (I am quoting the British memorandum). This means a line running through Germany, according to the Times of 23 July 1955.

Somehow the British government has completely forgotten about this plan and has abandoned it altogether. This can cause sincere astonishment, and not astonishment of the "BBC type".

End.