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15 December 1951  
VI/R/4/1701POLANDSTANDARD OF LIVINGRestriction Of The Use Of ElectricitySOURCE ROME: A private letter from PolandDATE OF OBSERVATION: Recent period

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Recently the consumption of electric energy in WARSAW was limited. As during war time the use of electric stoves, flat-irons and small electric furnaces is permitted only in those houses where electric appliances are necessary. Any one using these things where coal or gas stoves are available must pay a fine and in the event of a second offense trespassers are subject to two years imprisonment.

Often certain districts of WARSAW have no electric light for many hours. This makes life very difficult for the workers as they must be punctual at their factories, and should the electricity fail during lunch or supper it is impossible for them to eat and to arrive at their place of work on time. The people carry flash lights to enable them to walk in the streets and to climb stairs in darkness. Sometimes the blackout lasts two hours or more.

EVAL. COMMENT: The cuts confirmed by warnings in the papers.