

SPECIAL ATTENTION: Political Advisor
Audience Analysis

EH
Nov 16
XI/1884

POLAND

Reaction to Western Broadcasts (2910/1)

Ethnic Minorities (1106)

AUDIENCE ANALYSIS

SOURCE ATHENS: A 27-year-old Greek woman repatriate.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Until June 1956.

EVALUATION COMMENT: Since source was not familiar with the Polish language, her second-hand observations are of limited value. The name of the weaving mill and of the TB sanatorium are badly misspelt.

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Source was abducted by guerrillas in 1949 from her native village of NAOUSSA and sent to ELBASAN, Albania, for ten months. In November 1949 she was sent to Poland. She spent one year at a tuberculosis hospital in SKOVA GHOURNE and then went to work in WROCLAW, first in the "Boyatina" weaving mill for a year and later in a tailor's shop.

Source learned a few indispensable Polish expressions- only enough of the Polish language so that she could carry out her work in the factory. She did not understand Polish well enough to know what the Poles discussed about Western broadcasts.

Source owned a Polish make "Pioner" radio set which cost 800 zloty. She does not remember how many tubes it had, but she said that it even had short wave bands. The radio set was the only entertainment source could afford during her stay in Poland.

The first thing she did when she returned home in the evening from her work was to tune her radio to the stations broadcasting in Greek and listen to some music. Usually she got the SALONICA station (transmitting VOA) and IOANNINA. Every Sunday morning she listened to Mass over the ATHENS station. Occasionally she listened to the Greek broadcasts of the LONDON

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station at 1930 hours. Since she was unfamiliar with the Polish language, she did not follow the Polish broadcasts from the foreign stations. Source said all these stations could be clearly heard late at night. She herself never listened late at night; being tired from the day's work, she went to bed early. Source was not familiar with RFE broadcasts.

According to source, the majority of the Poles own radios. Those who can afford expensive radios prefer German, Czech, and Hungarian makes; others have to settle for the Polish makes.

In source's opinion, the Poles listen to the foreign stations but do so secretly, as there were strict orders about that. Source often heard them speaking about LONDON broadcasts which they considered very objective.

Source had heard of the "Wolna Europa" station which the Poles follow with great interest. One night many months ago source visited a Polish girl friend. She found many persons gathered there around the radio. The housewife requested that she be silent, as all were listening to the "Wolna Europa" station. After the conclusion of the broadcast, they began to discuss the news they had heard, but source could not understand much, as they spoke in low voices and used words unknown to her. One thing she did realize was that the Poles find that the "Wolna Europa" station tells the truth and is well aware of the political situation in all countries. The Poles would read the local newspapers and then make comparisons with "Wolna Europa" broadcasts and draw conclusions.

The Poles listened to "Wolna Europa," as well as to other foreign stations, with great precautions, as it was forbidden to listen. Source heard them say that many times these stations were full of static that they could hardly receive them. According to some people the static was the result of the damp weather in the country, and according to others the jamming was intentionally produced.

Source avoided speaking about the political situation, as she was afraid. She desired to return to Greece and tried not to draw the attention of the Communists.

Source never saw or heard about leaflets or balloons being dropped in the area of WROCLAW.

Source was convinced that the Poles like the Americans very much, and from them they expect their liberation. How or in what way it could be done, source was not in a position to state.

Source said the youths in Poland are greatly influenced

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by American music and make no attempt to hide their interest when they hear this music over the radio or in the movies. Once source attended a German film which contained some American music. The young Polish boys and girls stamped their feet on the floor and swang to and fro in rhythm with the music. They could not prevent themselves from expressing their fondness for American music.

Source's Polish friends spoke about the political exiles and said that the Polish Government promised them amnesty and a good life if they would return to Poland. The anti-Communist Poles knew very well (probably from radio broadcasts, source said) that the exiles never would return to Poland as long as the Communists continue to rule over the country. Once (source could not recall the time,) she heard that a colonel returned to Poland, and his arrival brought about many discussions.

Concerning TITO, source said he was accused of being an enemy of Communism some time ago, but recently the Poles changed their policy and began to praise TITO and consider him a very good ally.

Source stated that the Poles are not pleased with their present life. They often remember their old life with melancholy. They would like to see the return of the old regime, but how it will be done none of the Poles could determine. Source stressed that the Poles are civilized people. They dislike the Russians, and the great majority are anti-Communists who suffer greatly under the present regime. When source was repatriated in May 1956, the Polish workers in her factory were overjoyed. "You must be very happy," they said, "because you leave Poland and go home. We envy you."

The regime officials were very severe before de-Stalinization, according to source, but since then they behave somewhat better, and the Poles can speak a little more freely.

Source was unable to estimate the number of sincere Communists among Party members. Speaking only about the Greek Communists, she stated that, in her opinion, all have changed their minds and would like to return to Greece if possible.

According to source, the Polish press reported events in Greece and covered the Cyprus situation. Source said the Poles felt sorry for the Cypriots and expressed their indignation against the British.

Source was unable to answer any further Audience Analysis questions.

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