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POLANDEXILE

Communist Organizations Abroad (1200)
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"HOUSE OF POLISH CULTURE" OPENED IN EAST BERLIN.

SOURCE BERLIN: A Polish woman from East BERLIN who visited the "House of Culture."

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Early May 1956.

EVALUATION COMMENT: A catalogue of the KULISIEWICZ exhibition may be inspected at the Polish Evaluation Desk.

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Toward the middle of April 1956, a new "House of Polish Culture" was opened in East BERLIN, on Friedrichstrasse 103 (the former seat of the Helmuth-Gerlach society.)

The "House" is composed of one large, tastefully furnished reading room (seating about 150 to 200 persons,) and several adjoining rooms. In the lounge, one can find all the leading Polish papers and magazines, such as "Trybuna Ludu," "Zycie Warszawy," "Glos Pracy," "Przyjaciolka," "Swiat," "Przekroj," etc., as well as German magazines published by the Polish Military Missions in Germany, the "Economic Service" (Wirtschaftsdienst,) and "Poland" (Polen.) The "Arbeiterstimme," a German-language paper published in WROCLAW, can also be found there. A large bookcase in the hall contains all East German books on Poland, and some Polish standard works.

At the moment, the books may be read only at the "House" itself. The library, however, will be enlarged in the near future, and it will then be possible to take books out.

Presently, there is an exhibition of drawings by Tadeusz KULISIEWICZ in the reading room. The administration intends having a different exhibition every month.

The attendants are Germans; some of them (students) speak Polish fluently. The "House of Polish Culture" is administered by a Polish manager, whose name is unknown to us. The "House" is visited by many Germans and is often crowded, especially late in the afternoon or in the evening.

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