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N/11/7038POLANDARMED FORCESSoviet ArmySOURCE SALZBURG: A 25-year-old Polish escapee.DATE OF OBSERVATION: Until March 1952

The wives of Soviet garrison officers in SWIDNICA (SCHWEDNITZ,) south-west of WROCLAW, have been dubbed "East Americans" by members of the younger generation of that city. The informant explained that the slang term of "East Americans" is complimentary neither to American nor to Soviet women.

"We've heard a lot about the way Americans live in Germany," he said, "that they live in the nicest houses, that the women are always well dressed and that they always have enough money to go shopping."

In SWIDNICA, the Soviet officers' wives live the same way. Their billets are located along a street near the main railway station. They often go shopping, "although not for food, because their food supply is better than ours," the refugee said. "You can tell them from Polish women because they are so well dressed," he added, "but in one way, of course, they don't dress like American women: no matter what kind of clothes they wear, their shoes are always flat-heeled and rubber-soled. American women have the reputation of wearing high-heeled shoes."

Since February 1952, our informant reported, workers in SWIDNICA have received mostly horsemeat for their weekly meat ration of 400 to 450 grams.

EVAL. COMMENT: UNCONFIRMED