

LL
28 August 1951
NLPOLANDSOVIETIZATIONConditions In LEGNICA

Half the population of the town are now Soviet Russians; most of them live in the southern part of LEGNICA closed off hermetically. This "Soviet town" consists of 10 blocks of streets to which Poles are not admitted. The approaches are guarded by Russian soldiers, and may be passed only when possessing special permits. The inhabitants of the "Soviet town," mostly Russian officers and numerous Russian civilians with their families, have at their disposal shops, restaurants, cinemas, hospitals, etc. But also in the Polish part of LEGNICA are many Soviet institutions. On Chojniewska street, there are large Russian barracks and a big store called "Univermag."

In the park which until 1947 used to be closed to the Poles there are the only theater and an open-air stage. The Poles are now allowed to go to the theater, but they have to speak Russian at the booking office, as otherwise they would not get a ticket.

Near Ulica Czerwonej Armii (Red Army street) there is the Dom Oficerski (Officer's House) with an excellent restaurant and a good movie; Poles are not admitted there. The Soviet High Command in Poland is located on 1 May street.

The Soviet Russians in LEGNICA are very well paid in comparison with the Poles, and have the advantage of buying at much lower prices. For the Poles a kilogram of butter costs 24 Zloty, a kilogram of ham 13 Zloty, of sugar 6.10 Zloty, while the Russians may buy butter for 17 Zloty, ham for 9.90 Zloty and sugar for 4.80 Zloty only. The Soviet shops barred to the Polish population are full of foodstuff, while the food situation of the Polish population is catastrophic: canned meat has disappeared; there has been hardly any sausage for three months; herrings are scarce, and even for bones the housewives have to queue up.

Relations between the Russians and the local Poles are very strained. Russians are not allowed to fraternize with the Polish population. Quarrels, fights and even acts of sabotage occur frequently. Polish girls, with the exception of a number of half-official prostitutes, boycott the Soviet soldiers completely. The only wish of the population is that Soviet troops would leave LEGNICA; however, new transports are arriving.

ITEM No 5672

28 August 1951
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POLAND
(cont'd)

DATE OF OBSERVATION: 1947 to 1951

EVAL. COMMENT: Source : usually reliable;
Information: probably true.