

LL  
31 August 1951  
NL

POLAND

YOUTH  
Organizations

The following describes conditions in the paramilitary organization "Sluzba Polsce" (Service to Poland) in which Polish youngsters of 16 to 18 years have to spend two months out of every year.

Those without any specialized training or courses are performing manual work, clearing up ruins, building new houses, working at factories and mines. In NOWA HUTA near CRACOW, 12 such brigades with 12,000 young people are engaged; they receive soldiers' pay.

The youths do manual work on four days a week; the remaining two days plus Sunday are used for military training and political education. There is scarcely any free time left to them.

Although propaganda and entertainments occasionally offered by Sluzba Polsce are bound to have some influence, especially on simple peasant boys, the majority of young people in the ranks of the organization are reportedly opposed to the regime.

The attitude of Sluzba Polsce brigades (23 of them in all) in the camp of WAPLEWO WIELKIE, District GDANSK, is cited as an example: when they were informed about the decision to forbid the singing of the song "Rota" and morning and evening prayers, the news was received by all the brigades with greatest indignation. On the same evening, the boys from WARSAW intoned the hymn "Wszystkie nasze dzienne sprawy" (evening prayer) and afterwards the "Rota;" all the long verses of the hymn were sung from beginning to end. The deputy chief political officer tried to stop the singing by shouting, but the young men sang on. Next day, representatives of the district command appeared for an investigation. Several boys were put under the guard of armed soldiers who accompanied them to their meals and even to the latrines. All this is contrary to the rules of "socialist education of youth" which do not permit imprisonment in Sluzba Polsce brigades.

The above described incidents occurred in August 1950.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: August 1950

EVAL. COMMENT:

Source : usually reliable;  
Information: probably true, unconfirmed.