

ITEM No. 10692/56

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SPECIAL ATTENTION: Political Advisor
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Nov 27

XV-543

POLAND

Audience Analysis /2910/1/

AUDIENCE ANALYSIS INTERVIEW WITH A GERMAN WOMAN FROM
KUZNIA RACIBORSKA. /SUPPLEMENT/

SOURCE FRANKFURT: An ethnic German woman, 37, who lived in KUZNIA RACIBORSKA from 1945 until her repatriation.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Until April 1956.

CORRESPONDENT'S COMMENT: This is a re-interview of source on the two subjects listed below, made upon special request of the Audience Analysis Section.

EVALUATION COMMENT: This is a sequel to Item No. 10111/56.

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1. "Some convinced Communists were shaken in their ideology as a result of listening to Western broadcasts," said source in the preceding interview. Here is her explanation of how she came to this conclusion:

There were also some ethnic Germans among Party members in KUZNIA RACIBORSKA. Some of them have been known as convinced Communists since the early thirties, others had joined the Party for more or less opportunistic motives after the war. During the first years after the war when regime media was the only means of information available, over-zealous Party members did not become tired in spontaneously praising regime measures and in spreading tendentious comments on all events about which domestic press and radio had previously reported. Shortly after Western Radio stations had started broadcasting to the countries behind the Iron Curtain, these Communists gradually decreased their attempts to convince their fellow-citizens of the objectivity and accuracy of regime information. As of 1955, such attempts ceased completely. Party members must have listened to Western broadcasts themselves, because for quite some time at the beginning of this development they still tried to rebut the arguments of Western radio stations.

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And they could not have learned about such arguments other than by personal listening to Western broadcasts because, in fear of punishment, non-Communists would never have dared to bring up Western arguments in discussions.

In source's opinion, the only plausible explanation of the obvious change in these Party members' attitude from over-zealous activity to complete passiveness is that listening to Western broadcasts must have shaken these people's ideology. They must have felt that they would only expose themselves to ridicule when continuing their fruitless attempts of making people believe in twisted regime versions of problems, of which they themselves were no longer fully convinced and on which people were already thoroughly informed over Western radio stations.

The change in the attitude of these one-time over active Communists even went so far in 1955 and 1956 that they started attempts of making friends with their former ideological enemies /ethnic Germans who had applied for resettlement in West Germany/.

2. "Police patrols make frequent house checks under the pretext of searching for hidden arms but with the real purpose of checking on listening to Western radio stations," said source in the preceding interview. Source insisted that her statement is correct because this pretext was definitely still being used by the police until the autumn of 1955. She admitted, though, that her statement should better read: "Police patrols made frequent house checks under various pretexts from innocuous inquiries to the argument of searching for hidden arms, but with the real purpose of looking on the dial of the radio sets. The ridiculous pretext of searching for hidden arms, the most usual one until 1953, was still occasionally used during the last two years, definitely until the autumn of 1955, most probably in such cases when the policeman in question found no better excuse."

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