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15 August 1951  
NPOLANDINDUSTRY  
Fishing

An apprentice fisherman working for the "Barka" fishing enterprise in KOLOBRZEG receives a salary of 300 Zloty a month plus a small percentage of the price of the catch. A regular fisherman gets 380 Zloty monthly and 2.5 per cent of the price while a senior fisherman is paid 480 Zloty a month and 3.8 per cent. The average income of the skipper of a fishing boat is 1,100 Zloty a month. This includes his regular pay of 600 Zloty plus 4.12 per cent of the price of the catch.

In 1950 the financial situation of the fishermen was much better. The firm then took 50 per cent of the value of the catch, and the other 50 per cent was divided among the fishermen after the cost of their food and fuel had been deducted. In a very good month, a fisherman could earn then up to 3,500 Zloty calculated according to the new currency regulations. This means that present incomes are only one-third of what they used to be.

In the winter of 1950, the incomes of the fishermen began to drop. A fisherman could earn 750 Zloty at the outside. At one time, during an especially good season, fishermen used to be able to earn 10,500 Zloty a month each. Nowadays, a good season means 1,200 Zloty.

A motor-man now earns a maximum of 1,500 Zloty, as a result of the new collective bargaining system which went into effect in August 1950.

The income of fishermen is low nowadays also owing to the fact that for service on sea on several days in succession and on holidays, they are not given any extra rewards. They are paid their regular salaries and the usual percentage of the value of the catch. On 1 May 1951, the fishermen were ordered out to sea and to work the entire day without any reward at all.

There has been quite a lot of sabotage as a result of such exploitation of the fishermen. In the spring of 1951, for instance, a model net was made 60 feet long. It was tested and found excellent for catching fish, and as a result it was decided that it should be sent to LENINGRAD for the First of May exhibition. However, it never got there since somebody destroyed it, cutting it into very small pieces, the night before it was to be shipped to USSR. The UB never found the culprit.

15 August 1951

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POLAND  
(cont'd)

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Up to summer of 1951

EVAL. COMMENT:

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