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NPOLANDRELIGION

## Roman Catholic Church

Catholic priests in the district of OLSZTYN, in East Prussia, are continuously persecuted by the Polish Communist regime.

During 1950 two priests, MALACHOWSKI and KALINSKI, both wellknown in the district, were arrested. They were released only after the repeated and insistent demands of the broad masses. Another priest, JANUSZ, was sentenced to death in connection with the so-called Scouts' Trial in OLSZTYN in 1950. His arrest and sentence came about as follows:

When Jagiellonska street was renamed Stalingrad street, a group of highschool boys scratched off the street sign the new name and put the old one instead. On this occasion anti-STALIN and anti-Soviet remarks were also made. A trial followed the incident and the priest JANUSZ was made the scapegoat and sentenced to death.

In their persecution of the Catholic clergy in OLSZTYN, the Communists started the movement of the so-called "Patriotic Priests." In this connection, they published a magazine called "The Priest as Citizen" (in Polish: "Ksiadz Obywatel,") and sent it to the Catholic clergy most of whom, however, returned the copies to the publisher.

Neither the Communist-sponsored magazine nor the "Patriotic Priests" movement have met with any success among the Catholic clergy in the district of OLSZTYN. Names of two priests who joined the movement are: KARAS and KUROWSKI. They soon lost their influence among the faithful of the district.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: 1950 - 1951

EVAL. COMMENT: Source : fairly reliable;  
Information: possibly true, unconfirmed.

This news was reported by a recently escaped elementary school teacher.