

10 July 1951

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POLAND

LABOR - Voluntary Contribution

While Polish Communist propaganda maintains that Polish workers contribute voluntarily to the reconstruction of WARSAW through deductions from their wages on a percentage basis, official Polish documents tend to contradict the line that such contributions are really voluntary. Internal circular No.56, issued by the Polish Council of Ministers on 29 March 1951, shows how these "voluntary" contributions are collected from employees and workers.

The circular says: "Concerning deductions from salaries and wages of contributions for the rebuilding of WARSAW by Government offices, state institutions, and units of socialized economy;

"Bearing in mind that the rebuilding of WARSAW is one of the most important tasks to be carried out by the whole nation in the near future and that the carrying out of this task depends on continual mass contributions for this purpose, the following procedure is recommended for collecting contributions to the Social Fund for the rebuilding of WARSAW:

"1) Managers of government offices, state institutions and units of socialized economy, hereinafter called 'places of work,' shall give permission to deduct contributions to S.F.O.S. (Social Fund) from the employees' wages and salaries.

"2) Contributions to S.F.O.S. may be deducted without an employee's personal declaration, provided the amount deducted does not exceed 0.25 per cent to 0.5 per cent of his earnings, if a decision to make such contributions has been approved by a majority of votes at a meeting of all employees concerned at the request of a representative of a Trade Union unit.

"3) Managers of places of work may issue instructions to deduct such contributions on paydays, after having received the minutes of a meeting held as above, containing the agreement of the majority of employees and mentioning the period for which the commitment has been undertaken...."

It is well known that all employees and workers must attend the mass meetings arranged to demonstrate their "spontaneous" support for resolutions declaring their willingness to such deductions. If one were to assume that the contribution system introduced by the above measures, concerning about four million workers in state and semi-state employment, and taking into account the average monthly wage of 480 Zloty and 0.5 per cent in deduction, such a "voluntary" contribution would amount to about 115 million Zloty yearly.

ITEM No 2197

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POLAND
(cont'd)

DATE OF OBSERVATION:

20 March 1951

EVAL. COMMENT:

Source : has documentary evidence
Information: documentary evidence.