

ITEM No. 10494/56

SPECIAL ATTENTION: Chief of Polish Desk
Political Advisor

PRIORITY
MV
Nov 16
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POLAND

FOREIGN RELATIONS /1500/
Regime Poles Abroad /1507/1/
GENERAL MOOD /2000/

POLISH TRADE DELEGATES ON THE GOMULKA GOVERNMENT.

SOURCE FRANKFURT: A West German businessman engaged in the export-import business with Poland since years. Source is objective and absolutely reliable. He does not speak Polish.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: November 12 1956.

EVALUATION COMMENT: Attention Economic Program Editor.

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In contrast to his experience with official Polish visitors in the past, source could notice that members of Polish trade delegations on business trips to West Germany within the last three months have taken the habit of freely discussing and criticizing political and economic conditions in Poland. Some members of the recently arrived delegations, it is true, were newly assigned personnel whom source had not met before, but some of the discussion-seeking delegates were the same persons who had carefully avoided to commit themselves in conversations with their Western business partners in the past. While accompanying two delegations on their tours to West German industrial enterprises in September and October, source had ample opportunity to listen to the delegates' arguments.

Most delegates rate the development to "National Communism" under GOMULKA as a "lesser evil," but not as a final solution. In their opinion, the GOMULKA government will only be of temporary nature. It will either have to give way to a more democratic government in the near future - following the ever increasing demands of people for more and more freedom, - or Polish politics will return to Stalinist principles, if the Soviets should become aware that further liberalization would develop into a stage where they could lose all control over the Polish people. Many delegates also think that GOMULKA

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is not a very capable statesman and that his present popularity will decrease as soon as no remarkable improvement of the economic situation would be achieved by the new government. None of the delegates believes in another uprising of the Polish population, "because the events in Hungary constitute a bitter warning against further actions of force as long as Soviet troops are stationed in the country."

Upon special request by his Polish business partners, source took West German newspapers along whenever he made a business trip to Poland. Polish border police has never confiscated any Western publications taken along by source, although he deliberately placed them always visibly on the back seat of his car. The daily "Bild Zeitung" is the most popular West German newspaper with source's Polish friends because of its concise and sensational set-up.

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