

19 January 1952

N-5714

POLAND

(Part of the Eastern
Provinces now incorporated
into the Soviet Byelorussia)

The New Year "gifts" for the Red Army under the slogan "Workers of Byelorussia in gratitude for the liberation from the slavery of bourgeois Poland" were envisaged in an appeal to the workers in GRODNO, LIDA and SKIDEL, according to an information received through underground channels.

The appeal was made between 15 and 20 December 1951 by GORBUNOV Timofey, chief of the political section ("Polisektor") of the Communist Party of Byelorussia, a Russian, who issued an order to all the Communist cells (Partorganizatsya) in the factories in GRODNO, LIDA and SKIDEL, that they should start an immediate propaganda campaign among the workers to take part in this drive.

This order of GORBUNOV requires the textile workers of GRODNO to produce an additional amount of clothing material for military uniforms and in connection with this demands an additional and unpaid work for eight hours a week during the next two weeks.

In LIDA, the workers in the dried milk factory were obliged to produce in additional night hours of work more dried milk for the used of the Red Army.

This LIDA dried milk factory sustained in the first half of December 1951 a loss, caused by the fact that three or four railway cars of dried milk were spoilt by rain. After this had been disclosed, the workers from the packing section of the factory were punished by a 50 per cent decrease of their wages for six months, while the other workers had to pledge themselves "voluntarily" to do additional, unpaid work to make up for the loss. The New Year obligation for the Red Army had therefore affected these workers more seriously than the other obligations.

In SKIDEL, the workers of the sugar "Combina" had to resign "voluntarily" their monthly sugar allocation which they receive free of charge (the so-called "Deputat.")

The new order on "voluntary" gifts for the Red Army is commented by the workers as a first indication for an increased production planned for 1952 and connected with making military stores for the Red Army.

ITEM No 842

POLAND
(cont'd 1)

DATE OF OBSERVATION: December 1951

EVAL. COMMENT: Source : fairly reliable
Information: interesting because very scarce
news from beyond the double Iron Curtain reaches the West.
All names of localities are correctly quoted.