

LL
31 August 1951
HL

POLAND

YOUTH

After the merger of former youth organisations in ZMP in 1948, this organisation gradually achieved a strong control over the schools. There was a stiff opposition among the pupils, but soon it was realized that those who did not pass their political examinations, would not obtain school certificates even when receiving best marks on all other subjects. Thus, the youth is compelled to study Marxism-Leninism, increasing the Communist influence. In the college in KOLOBRZEG 10 per cent of the pupils totalling some 200 in 1947, are now sincere Communists. Even at the local primary school attended by about 100 children, 10 are convinced partisans of Stalinism. Home does not always serve as an antidote to Communist propaganda, as the parents, struggling with material difficulties, are anxious to obtain for their children the facilities (scholarships etc.) which are granted only to reliable ZMP members.

To this day, however, the overwhelming majority of the Polish college youth have only pretended to approve of Communism.

Teachers are also under a strong Communist pressure. The experience of a school headmaster is typical. For some time he had tried to stay away from political issues, and to carry on his work in accordance with his pedagogical upbringing. Some years ago, it happened that one of his pupils attended a ZMP course without the headmaster's permission who, consequently relegated the boy from school. The heads of the youth organization and some people from security office summoned the boy and asked him whether it would satisfy him if the headmaster were immediately fired. The boy said: "Why? We have not got enough qualified teachers; he is a good teacher." However, the headmaster was called to security office, and probably received a serious warning, because he completely changed his behavior. He stopped going to church, obstructed children in attending church services, agitated for ZMP, gave bad marks to those whom he considered opponents to the regime, and became an ardent Communist. As a reward he was promoted and transferred to a better job.

ITEM No 5955

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(cont'd)

DATE OF OBSERVATION: 1947 to 1951

EVAL. COMMENT:

Source : usually reliable;
Information: probably true.