

G
31 August 1951
NL

POLAND

STANDARD OF LIVING
Food

A catastrophic shortage of meat which has been observed in Poland for several weeks, has caused a wave of indignation and panic among the population.

The official propaganda, trying to appease the public mood, shifts the blame of speculation allegedly inspired by the "enemies of people." A special decree of the Cabinet issued on 22 August 1951 promises special premiums to peasants for delivering cattle and hogs to the state, and at the same time gives the warning of serious penalties to "speculators" dealing with illegal slaughtering and selling of cattle.

The famous Special Commission (Komisja Specjalna) has increased its activities at once, by issuing en masse very severe sentences condemning to one to two years of forced labor camp those caught in illegal trading of meat.

The shortage of meat is caused, on one hand, by large meat exports, particularly to Soviet Russia and East Germany, and on the other, by the laying down of large stocks of meat for Rokossovski's Army.

The example of the factory of meat preserves in WROCLAW, in the Prochowice District, may prove how large these stocks are. This factory is working exclusively for the requirements of the Army. About two thousand workers are employed there, producing 18,000 tins of military type preserves every day. The tins are stored in WROCLAW, at Krakowska street. In May 1951 military authorities took over the supervision of the factory. This is only one of many establishments preparing meat stocks for the army.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Summer 1951

EVAL. COMMENT:

Source : usually reliable
Information: documentary evidence on hand concerning the three first paragraphs. The two last paragraphs: Possibly true, unconfirmed.