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AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATIONS

It is not the United Peasants' Party but the Peasants' Mutual Aid Association that has great influence upon the lives of the Polish peasants. The latter, known in Polish as "Zwiazek Samopomocy Chlopiackiej," organizes all kinds of political and propaganda meetings and executes the directives of the central committee of the PZPR (Polska Zjednoczona Partia Robotnicza - the Polish United Workers' (Communist) Party.)

The Peasants' Mutual Aid Association is also affiliated with the Agricultural central office of cooperatives (Centrala Rolniczych Spoldzielni - or CRS.) At its headquarters the latter has six departments for:

1. Economic planning
2. Agricultural products
3. Industrial products
4. Production establishments
5. Kolkhozes
6. Staff training (this department is of political importance.)

The CRS is connected with the Peasants' Mutual Aid Association through these various departments which have their corresponding counterparts at the headquarters of the latter organization.

When the CRS was first established, the man in charge of policy making at headquarters was PSZCZOLKOWSKI (fnu), also head of the agricultural department of the central committee of the PZPR. His job at the CRS was to organize this office in accordance with the needs and rules of the Party. Officially the president of the CRS is JANCZYK (fnu).

The close affiliation between the Peasants' Mutual Aid Association and the Agricultural Central Office of cooperatives, the CRS has been unfavorable to the Polish peasantry. On the one hand, the CRS tries to buy from the peasants the greater part of their agricultural products, with the aim of leaving them very little to keep for themselves or sell on their own. This is one kind of pressure, another is exerted on the peasants by the Peasants' Mutual Aid Associations, which tries to keep the peasants politically submissive: If the political loyalties of a peasant are suspected by the leaders of this organization, he will not get the industrial products it is supposed to provide him with.

27 July 1951
NPOLAND
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Pressure from both sides thus leaves a peasant very little freedom and aims at forcing him to produce articles needed by the states. The policy of the Association toward the peasant is based on the following condition: "If you won't produce what we need, you won't get what you need."

The method of help extended to the peasants by the Association depends always on the political opinion of the peasant requesting help. If he happens to have had his property burnt during the war but nevertheless is classified as "politically uncertain" by the association, he might not get any help.

The chaos which exists in the supply of food to the towns and of industrial products to the countryside, is a result of the inefficiency of the agricultural central office of cooperatives. Two examples will illustrate this inefficiency:

In a certain town people cannot get any coal, and yet in the stores of the CRS there are 80 tons of coal. The coal cannot be sold to the people since it had been ordered by the local kolkhoz. The kolkhoz is unable to pay for it, and it remains in the stores with nobody benefitting from it. At a local cooperative, as another example, there is a shortage of meat. The shortage is a serious problem since this cooperative is the only distributor of meat for the whole neighborhood. The shortage itself is due to thoughtlessness: at a certain time, the cooperative ordered a very large quantity of meat which soon rotted, as it could not be kept under refrigeration. The slaughter of cattle and distribution of meat is done very inefficiently, and means of transporting it are very poor.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: 1950 - 1951

EVAL. COMMENT:
Source : usually reliable;
Information: confirmed by many sources.

This lengthy description is accurate and corroborated not only by other information, but by daily Polish Press. The announcements of the regime, the complaint letters to editors as well as selfcriticism of local branches and local bosses, all this confirms the described state of affairs.