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POLAND

FOREIGN TRADE (3305)

Foodstuffs From Poland For The DDR

SOURCE BERLIN: A source which usually brings interesting information.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: September 1953.

EVALUATION COMMENT: The denuding of the Polish food supply market for the benefit of East Germany is a well-known fact, which -- as the report rightly emphasizes -- is concealed from the Polish and East German public.

A wide publicity of this situation would be of great propaganda value.

SPECIAL ATTENTION: Mr. STOWE
Mr. NOWAK
Mr. GRIFFITH

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The East German press has been reporting continually about imports of foodstuffs from the Soviet Union and the people's democratic countries. The Polish People's Republic has had a large share in this. For example, during the first ten days of September, according to East Zone figures, 14 car loads of pork and canned meats, two cars of fowl, 25 cars of eggs, 96 cars of fruits and vegetables arrived in the German Democratic Republic from Poland. In the middle of the month an additional 100 tons of butter and canned meat arrived.

While the Communist papers in East BERLIN emphasize the foodstuffs aid from the east block nations with special propaganda, the press in Poland remains silent about it. This reticence and aversion to publicity about the food aid for the Soviet occupied zone of Germany is apparently to be attributed to the continued scarcity of

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of good quality foodstuffs. However, should the food shipments to East Germany be announced later by the Communist press, the facts about the consequences of this action for the Polish economy will still have to be concealed from the Polish readers.

The present food imports from Poland are the result of an agreement between WARSAW and East BERLIN outside of the frame work of the currently effective trade agreement and are to be paid for by means of a special blocked fund credited to Poland, which in the near future will have no trade-political effect. In other words, it is a matter of a purely deficit business deal for Poland. This is also the opinion of the Polish trade officials in East BERLIN, Karlplatz 1.

End.