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14 August 1951
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POLAND

INDUSTRY
Fishing

BORDER ZONES

When fishermen were driven out to sea on First May 1951, in order to do extra work, the rumor spread in KOLOBRZEG that a Swedish schooner had sunk a Polish fishing boat in the fog. This caused general confusion at the offices of the "Barka" fishing enterprise which was besieged by the wives of those who were at sea. Party representatives shouted that outcasts of society belonging to the "sanacja" (prewar regime) had invented the story in order to create a chaos at the firm. Nevertheless, a Swedish schooner was controlled by the Polish authorities in order to find out whether it bore any scratches from a collision or not.

When Swedish ships enter the port of KOLOBRZEG, they are guarded by WOP patrols and their crew members are not allowed to move freely when they go ashore. Swedish seamen are not permitted to have Polish currency nor bring a single pack of cigarettes with them ashore. At one time, a Swedish vessel in port was thoroughly searched because it was reported that one of the seamen had Polish currency with him.

Swedish seamen are heckled while ashore in KOLOBRZEG. They are not allowed to talk to local people when visiting dancing halls, or to socialize with Poles at all. A Polish sailor who was seen fraternizing with a Swede at a restaurant was warned by a WOP sergeant not to talk to a Swede another time.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Spring 1951

EVAL. COMMENT:

Source : usually reliable;
Information: possibly true, unconfirmed.