

ITEM No. 5158/56

HW
18 May
AA Ref.No. P-254

POLAND

PROPAGANDA 2600
Anti-Western 2601 a

ADDITIONAL AUDIENCE ANALYSIS INTERVIEW WITH A YOUNG FISHERMAN

(Further to Itme No.4260,
I-15787)

SOURCE AUDIENCE ANALYSIS SECTION: A recent ship jumper.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Until March 1956.

EVALUATION COMMENT: None

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Source is 26 years old. He is a radio technician by profession, specializing in radio cable installation. After having worked in his profession in the KOSZALIN voivodship, he was employed as a sailor by the Odra Fishing Enterprise. He jumped ship in Cuxhaven, on 25 March 1956, because for some time he had been under strong pressure of the authorities who wanted to turn him into a spy and informer. As he kept on refusing, he was threatened with arrest.

Source was a candidate for Party membership. He had put forward his candidature because otherwise there was little chance of his being allowed to work in the Merchant Marine.

The fishermen's salaries varied, according to the actual catch, between 80 and 5.000 zlotys monthly, reaching an average of 1.200 a month, plus food. However important the catches, there is an acute shortage of fish in Poland, since most of it is being exported, mainly - as source thinks - to the Soviet Union.

Asked about the "thaw", source firmly denies such a thing. "One man goes, another man comes, but it's always the same." He has not noticed any change for the better in the past two years, except occasional removals of STALIN's portraits. On the contrary, he thinks that life is becoming even more unbearable. The politruks, called educational and cultural officers, continue to function on board ships. The standard of living, far from improving, even deteriorated, owing to the regime's tendency to decrease production costs and the constant raising of norms. "The State keeps on cheating us at every step."

People are nowadays primarily interested in their living conditions. They want above all to be able to earn and live decently. There is a complete indifference with regard to alleged changes, to so-called "political events",

(more)

to the Sejm sessions, etc. They suffer from the lack of freedom which finds its expression even in the fact that certain patriotic songs may not be sung in Poland. It is true that the regime has done something in the field of schools, general education and professional training, but "what of it, when there is misery all round and no joy of life."

These are still Russian officers in the Polish army, and Russian military units are stationed in SWINOUJSCIE. To illustrate the people's attitude to the Russians, source relates with gusto how "nasi" /"our people"/ would occasionally beat up the "ruskis" / contemptible slang term for the Russians_/ in Polish towns.

What do people want and expect after liberation? There should be "democracy like in the United States" and a united Europe. And they want to be able to live decently.

End.