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1 September 1951
NPOLANDSTANDARD OF LIVING

As tea and coffee have since several months completely disappeared from the market and are obtainable only on the free market for prohibitive prices, the inventive Communist mind had to find something to present to the masses as a substitute for these missing commodities: Communist enthusiasm.

The following experience of the Polish actor MADALINSKI Lech had been described in an article published by the KATOWICE weekly "Zycie Literackie" on 12 August 1951, and presented to the public as a worthy example.

MADALINSKI was touring Upper-Silesia with the play "Odwety", by KRUCZOWSKI, which his troupe was presenting each evening in a different town. One evening, after a most uncomfortable and tiring journey he arrived at a small Silesian town he was dog-tired and longed for a cup of strong coffee or tea to restore his spirits before the coming performance. But there was no coffee or tea obtainable in the entire town and MADALINSKI had to face his audience rather tired and in a dejected mood. But as the curtains went up a miracle happened: at the moment he saw the audience consisting of members of the local Komsomol, he at once felt the vibrant enthusiasm filling the atmosphere whenever young Communist activists assemble, he felt as if he had an injection of stimulating caffeine. MADALINSKI played that evening better than ever.... or so the weekly says.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: 12 August 1951

EVAL. COMMENT:

Source : documentary evidence
Information: confirmed by evidence