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POLAND

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TEXTILE ENGINEER ANSWERS AUDIENCE ANALYSIS.

SOURCE FRANKFURT: Source is a 36-year-old Polish textile engineer born in LODZ but resident for the past three years in WARSAW. He obtained his technical training in the former city, but did not receive his degree in textile engineering until 1954. Having worked in central offices of the textile industry in LODZ, his last position was in a central office in WARSAW as chief of the planning section for textile, clothing and leather goods production in Poland. He escaped in June 1956.

He had joined the PPS /Socialist/ Party in 1946 and was induced later to transfer to the PPR /Communist/ Party prior to the merger of the PPS and PPR into the PZPR /Communist/ Party in 1948. He claimed that he held no positions in the Party and was not active beyond attending a minimum number of meetings. He explained that having decided to leave Poland several years ago he did not wish to be either too active or too inactive in Party affairs for fear of attracting attention and possibly jeopardizing his chances of leaving Poland. This same reason was given for not listening to Western broadcasts regularly. However, he learned a good deal about Western broadcasts through his father, whom he had given a small Polish "Pionier" radio set.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Until June 1956.

EVALUATION COMMENT: The report has little up-to-date value since source left Poland in June 1956. Beyond this the remarks on Western broadcasts are secondhand as source admits that he never listened to any Western station himself.

We have no record on KILANSKI Janusz and "KUNSTMANN."
SZAFIARSKA Danuta /full name EKIER-SZAFIARSKA/ is a stage

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actress. BOCHENSKI Tadeusz joined the staff of "Kraj" broadcasts in WARSAW in August 1955. The television station at the WARSAW Palace of Culture and Science was officially opened on April 30 1956. There is television in KATOWICE and LODZ /since July 1956/ and POZNAN and SZCZECIN are building television stations. The price of the East German television set "Rubens" /18 valves/ was officially quoted in August as 7,500 zl.

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News Sources.

1. Source purchased copies of WARSAW's leading morning paper, "Zycie Warszawy" and the afternoon paper "Express Wieczorny." Only occasionally did he read certain articles or reports in the office copy of the Party organ "Trybuna Ludu." He read the morning and afternoon papers for local and international news and the "Trybuna Ludu" for extraordinary stories such as those of last February and March concerning the denigration of STALIN. In addition, he subscribed to the following Polish illustrated periodicals: "Panorama," "Swiat," "Dookola Swiata," "Przekrój," the pseudo-satirical "Szpilki," the architect's journal, "Stolica" and the radio weekly "Radio i Swiat." He read the illustrated Publications for the occasional glimpses of the outside world which appeared in photographs and captions, and the last two because of his interest in architecture and domestic radio listening.

2. Source thought it interesting that the radio magazine "Radio i Swiat" never referred to the regime's propaganda program radio "Kraj," which beamed special programs in Polish to Poles residing abroad. He listened to radio "Kraj" quite frequently for it offered better music /popular Western tunes which were all labeled as "jazz" by most Poles/ than did "Radio Polskie" on the domestic programs. He attributed the discrepancy between the domestic and radio "Kraj" music programs to the desire of the regime to impress the listeners living abroad. He assumed that radio "Kraj" was more powerful than regular domestic stations because his radio's tuning "eye" closed more tightly whenever he tuned in to that station than it did in the case of the nearby WARSAW domestic station.

3. With reference to the domestic newspapers, source suggested that in their broadcasts to Poland the Western radios might point out the failure of the Polish Communist press to

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report news of catastrophes, accidents, government scandals and other news events which occur in Poland. He stated that although most adult Poles are aware of that deficiency of the Polish press, an occasional reminder by Western broadcasters would embarrass the regime.

Radio.

A. General Availability, Distribution, etc.

1. Source owned an East German-made "Stern" radio receiver equipped with six tubes, two loudspeakers and five wave bands, including three for short wave. Generally WARSAW shops were adequately supplied with East German sets, and Polish radio sets were only occasionally in short supply during the past year. People who had enough money could quite readily purchase either the Polish sets or the more expensive East German radios.

2. In addition to the more common sets as the "Pionier," "Aga," "Mazur" and East German "Stern," a small battery operated portable, "Turist," and new "Syrena" set, both Polish-made, were available occasionally. Source described the latter as an improved "Aga." Only as many "Turist" sets were distributed and sold as the supply of corresponding batteries permitted. For this reason and because the production of batteries was limited, it was practically impossible for "Turist" owners to replace worn batteries.

3. The supply and variety of radio sets was normally sufficient to preclude black-market sales. However, radio salesclerks had been known to purchase sets themselves for resale at higher prices. Commission shops prices for second-hand sets were often higher than for new sets selling at regular outlets. East Germany sets were preferred to domestic receivers.

4. Radio spare parts for domestic sets other than the "Turist" could usually be found at reasonable prices. Special parts in short supply might require a month or so to find. Parts for foreign sets presented more of a problem, requiring searches for as long as several months. Repair facilities, both socialized and private, were adequate in the WARSAW area, and charges were reasonable. Private technicians tended to give faster and better service for which they charged somewhat more than did the cooperative. The latter frequently book up to five weeks for a minor repair.

5. Source thought that possibly 40 per cent of Polish families had radio sets, but had no idea as to the breakdown by types of receivers. Claiming that radios were

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not doctored to prevent reception of Western stations, he confirmed earlier reports concerning the 15 zloty monthly registration fee charged radio owners. He did not know the fees charged for wired radio. Source opined that the obvious purpose of the wired radio system was purely propagandistic and directed at flooding the rural population /the predominant hearers of the captive sets/ with regime propaganda. He thought that listeners could not avoid absorbing unconsciously at least some of the daily propaganda fare of the wired system. He also thought that increases in the domestic production of wired radio would result in the early saturation of rural areas with these receivers.

B. Domestic Radio Listening.

1. Source listened occasionally to domestic news broadcasts and programs of music. He subscribed to the weekly periodical, "Radio i Swiat," which listed each week's scheduled programs and also had articles on themes which interested source. He did not recall ever seeing any anti-American material in this periodical.

2. The general tenor of domestic radio programs improved following the conclusion of the Soviet Union's 20th Party Congress in that there was less pure propaganda, fewer long, dull talks and more Western popular music, which source labeled "jazz." A "jazz" enthusiast and a collector of American phonograph records, source recalled that in the spring of 1956 he heard a "Les Paul and Mary Ford" record played on the WARSAW station. He said this would never have taken place prior to the Soviet Party Congress.

3. Source remembered the names of the following Polish radio personalities, all announcers: Janusz KILANSKI, /the former owner of the "Ziemianski" Café in LODZ,/ Danuta SZAFIARSKA /also a TV announcer, a movie star, and the wife of KILANSKI,/ Tadeusz BOCHENSKI, /a pre-war and now aged announcer noted for his fine and pleasing voice,/ and "KUNSTMANN" /an announcer in LODZ before 1939 and last assigned to SZCZECIN's radio station./

C. Foreign Radio Listening.

1. Not knowing any Western language /except some German,/ and fearful of listening to Western Polish language broadcasts, source restricted his Western radio listening to music, usually from AFN-STUTTGART, LUXEMBURG or MONTE CARLO. Reception of these programs after 1800 hours was usually very clear and the programs were seldom jammed. In explaining his fear of being overheard while listening to foreign Polish

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language programs he noted that the walls of his new apartment were only one brick thick. This meant that every sound could be heard by neighbors living to the sides, above and below. In view of what he said were his long-laid plans to escape from Poland, source was particularly anxious to avoid attracting unfavorable attention.

2. For news from outside Poland, source depended mainly on his father in ŁÓDŹ. In the course of his business, he made frequent trips to ŁÓDŹ, generally at least once a week. Retired and hostile to the regime, the father reportedly made a practice to listening to Western Polish-language radio programs. Because reception of Western stations was usually good in ŁÓDŹ, source thought that the father managed to follow international events, which information he passed on to his son during the latter's visits. His father's "Pionier" set may have been less affected by jamming than more powerful sets, which accounted for his father's being able to receive clearly in the center of the town despite the jamming, the conglomeration of buildings, traffic and other obstructions.

3. The father reportedly had a preference for RFE, considering its programs to be the most comprehensive and timely. He also felt that at times RFE tended to be inaccurate in reporting on events which had occurred in Poland. The father also listened to VOA programs and occasionally to BBC. Reportedly he was often very annoyed with BBC for what he described as the dull presentation, reminding him of Radio WARSAW in this respect.

4. From his father's comment and his own observations, source recommended to Western broadcasters to present news in a simple, straightforward manner, **succinct** but comprehensive. He suggested that they report more fully on daily life in the West, giving specific details of the wage and price structure found in the West, in present day Poland and, for additional contrast, in pre-1939 Poland. He thought that Polish workers and peasants tend to forget such unpleasant aspects of the past as the long and frequent periods of unemployment in pre-war Poland. Consequently, programs avoiding reference to unemployment, but recalling the purchasing power of the pre-1939 zloty, increase worker-peasant discontent and intensify their dislike of the regime. He added that since the intelligentsia is a much smaller and less anti-regime group, a particular effort should be made to reach the uneducated, unsophisticated masses by presenting news and facts in an "express" or tabloid style.

5. The father and son both felt that too many VOA broadcasters and, to a lesser extent, RFE broadcasters spoke Polish with an American accent and intonation. Source lectured the interrogator at this point, stating that Poles are very

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nationalistic and view suspiciously any person claiming to be a Pole who does not speak modern day idiomatic Polish without an accent. /This same feeling, less strongly worded, was expressed by two earlier Polish sources./ Source suggested that Polish feelings on this point might be appeased by using tapes corrected for accent and intonation. A continued use of speakers who do not speak in a manner approved by Poles resident in Poland would, in source's opinion, only give the regime more opportunity to ridicule Western radio programs.

6. Source claimed that many of the Western German-language programs heard in Poland had been jammed recently, and that the regime had started jamming Western programs in Czech and Russian, two languages understood by a considerable number of Poles. Jamming was described as a very effective counter-measure in WARSAW and other large cities. Although source had heard of individual attempts to counter jamming by combinations of antennas and other measures, he felt that on the whole, these attempts were fruitless. The regime's jamming devices were so strong that they were probably able to frustrate these individual efforts to counter jamming.

Television.

1. Source stated that at the time of his departure in June 1956, Poland had only one regularly used television transmitter located in WARSAW's Palace of Culture and Science /the experimental station was located in the former "Prudential" Building and did not transmit on a regular basis./ He could not recall the exact times of transmission but said that the WARSAW papers carried the schedule. Programs were shown several days a week for brief periods, probably for two hours at a time, twice daily on the days of transmission.

2. Having seen a number of TV programs on the three sets in the social rooms at his place of work, source described them as poor and uninteresting. The screens were small, and the viewer had to manipulate the several dials and knobs constantly. On the whole, reception was quite poor. New Polish, Soviet and East Bloc films, occasional newsreels, and live music programs were shown. Because of the weak and wavering lines the viewers' eyes became sore and irritated after a short while.

3. Source recalled that an East German "Rubens" television set cost 5,500 zloty, a price far beyond the means of most Poles. He could not recall the price of the Soviet-made "Leningrad" radio and television combination. He believed that WARSAW's television reception was limited to an area having a radius of about 50 kilometers from the transmitter. As with the wired loudspeakers, source thought that the regime would

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develop television for the sole purpose of advancing its propaganda controls over the populace.

Western Leaflets.

1. Source claimed he knew almost nothing about Western leaflets dropped into Poland and, moreover, did not know any one having first-hand knowledge of the leaflet campaign. His only information had come from the regime press and its reports of air accidents resulting from Western balloon interference. /Source said he did not believe the regime's anti-balloon propaganda./ Rumor current in WARSAW in 1954 and 1955 reported that leaflets written by the defector SWIATKO had been dropped and circulated in Poland.

2. Although he had never seen a Western leaflet, he thought the idea of using leaflets as a communication medium to be sound. He considered the leaflet program an effective anti-regime weapon, if well done. Shown a copy of the first BIALER leaflet after his escape, source criticized its style as too reminiscent of "Trybuna Ludu," its content as too stale and its appeal as limited to a small intellectual WARSAW group. He said "every Pole knew long before BIALER's revelations that the Communist system was no good and that the Soviets had always interfered and intervened in Polish life." Because the leaflet system was a good means of imparting information, especially in the rural areas where radios were few, source suggested that leaflets be dropped over the countryside, particularly at night to facilitate collection. Since news received by farmers gets to urban areas speedily, a successful drop in a rural area would automatically mean that both country and town would learn of the leaflets' contents.

3. Despite the positive aspects, source stressed the dangers and risks involved for the Poles. While one could quickly turn off a radio program or deny that he had been listening to a Western broadcast, a leaflet found in one's possession could not be disclaimed. Because of what source termed the risk of long imprisonment, he expressed reservation on the wholesale use of leaflets. If a choice between the two media had to be made, source would opt for broadcasting as against the leaflets methods, since the former generally gets through to some of the people all the time with little or no serious risk of punishment.

4. Source urged that the West not abandon its information efforts directed at Poland. He said that the radio and leaflet campaign -- especially the former -- permitted many Poles to live in hope of eventual liberation from their present regime and to know that the West had not forgotten their existence. He thought that by compromising the Polish Communist Government, the Western programs perform a valuable service for the Polish people who are practically all anti-regime in their sentiments.

End.