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POLAND  
CSR  
HUNGARY

SOVIET UNION (3900)  
Labor Camps (3903)

PoWs (2400)  
PoWs in USSR (2401)

SOVIETS AGAIN SEEK TO NATURALIZE DEPORTEES FROM ANNEXED TERRITORIES

SOURCE HAMBURG: Returned German prisoners or civilian deportees.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Until August 1956

POLISH EVALUATION COMMENT: This attitude of the Soviet authorities has been known since at least 1939 when the USSR annexed the eastern parts of Poland and forced Soviet citizenship on the population through a mock plebiscite. It was confirmed again by the returnees from Russia in 1955. We doubt whether the recently set up Polish repatriation mission in Moscow will be able to influence the Soviets to change their stand.

CZECH EVALUATION COMMENT: Sub-Carpatic Ruthenia was ceded to the USSR by a unanimous agreement of the Czechoslovak Parliament in 1945, reached after a preceding Soviet "fait accompli." The inhabitants became Soviet citizens. Many deportations to the Soviet interior took place then.

HUNGARIAN EVALUATION COMMENT: It is known that in early post-war years the Soviets made efforts to repatriate to the USSR all those persons who were born in Soviet occupied territories.

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News is seeping through of some of the Soviet measures which make repatriation not only of Poles but also of Hungarians, Rumanians and Germans almost impossible, although they have expressed their wish to return to their native country. The hardest of these measures is that which treats as Soviet subjects all persons who were either born or were living at the time of the Soviet entry into the war in the large parts of Eastern Europe forcibly annexed by the USSR in 1945. Returned German former prisoners have reported that there has been recently strong pressure put upon people to accept new Soviet citizenship papers and to abandon all attempts to leave the area where they are working. It is stated that if such persons refuse to accept their forcible Soviet citizenship they will be brought before a court and be subject to sentence of up to two years' forced labor. It is not the intention, according to some sources, to allow Poles who were removed from the territories east of the river Bug and who now fall under the forcible Soviet naturalization scheme to return even to their former homes in the Soviet annexed part of Poland. The reason for this is said to be that they would be a bad propaganda influence in these areas and that some would undoubtedly cross into Communist Poland which could only lead to difficulties between the MOSCOW and WARSAW Governments. The number of Poles so affected is given by German returnees at between 10,000 and 60,000. Exacter figures will probably be impossible to obtain.

The same fate applies to Hungarians, Rumanians and Slovak-Ruthenians formerly living in or having given their birthplace as in the Soviet annexed border territories of Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Rumania. In the case of Czechoslovak and Hungarian deportees from the Carpatho-Ukraine, whatever their nationality was before the war, it is stated that the Soviet have no intention of allowing them to return to Czechoslovakia or Hungary as the peace-treaty between Hungary and the Western Allies in 1947 overlooked this subject in a way now very convenient for Soviet interpretation. Germans born or living in any of the Soviet annexed areas are treated in the same way as Polish, Czechoslovak, Hungarian or Rumanian deportees and also have no present prospect of escaping Sovietization.

The case of a little village, SCHADRICHA-UTSCH, in the Tjumenskaja Oblast whose inhabitants consist to 90 per cent of deported Germans, Poles and Ruthenians is of special interest as it had been heard that the inhabitants have decided to resist in masse the Soviet attempt to reaffirm their Soviet citizenship. Whatever the results of this courageous community effort, the distances involved not only in SCHADRICHA-UTSCH but also in most other settlements of deportees are such that their prospect of reaching the West are of the most remote. As one recent returnee said "The Siberian settlements where there were formerly slave labor camps no longer really require any barbed wire at all and the granting of freedom recently widely advertised by the Soviet Government was an easy thing to grant.

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The reason is that it is usually impossible for the normal person to reach even the next nearest settlement by his own means as many of them lie several hundred kilometers apart in country which is completely desolate."

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