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POLAND

GENERAL MOOD

Allegedly among the reasons behind the GOMULKA trial has also been the food shortage in Poland.

GOMULKA was Minister for the new Western Territories and, keeping the supply problem in mind, he did not want to provoke great upheavals in these areas. He realized that this would certainly have happened if large scale collectivization had been introduced.

GOMULKA is now being blamed for not carrying out large scale collectivization: the good shortage will be declared as resulting from his neglect to collectivize the territories under him "in spite of the brilliant Soviet example showing that Socialist agriculture is the base of general prosperity."

On the whole, people show very little interest in the GOMULKA trial. It is regarded as an internal quarrel of the Communists and nobody is particularly sorry for the defendants.

What the people are interested in, however, is why the Atlantic Pact is so feeble, why the European Army is not taking shape, and why the United States does not call England and the rest of Western Europe to order.

The Polish people, he pointed out, are tremendously worried, feeling that the free world does not understand the danger of Communism and the seriousness of the present situation.

During the month of Soviet-Polish Friendship, a Russian song and dance company "Beriozka" visited Poland. It gave performances in WROCLAW, WARSAW, GDANSK, and at a place along the coast. At the last performance, the audience consisted only of sailors who were very apathetic: there was very little applause and almost no shouts of "bravo."

DATE OF OBSERVATION: current

EVAL. COMMENT: Source : fairly reliable  
Information : confirmed by other sources.