

AH
15 January 1952
N/9/5609

POLAND

COMMUNICATION
Waterways

In order to create the impression that Poland needs all present Polish harbors, 26 ships from GDYNIA and GDANSK have been given a base in SZCZECIN. Actually no one of the ports operates at full capacity.

The Polish navy has been largely taken over by the Soviets. At present, about 50 per cent of the commanding staff are Soviets but this percentage is soon to be raised to 70 per cent.

Furthermore, the number of captains on each ship is now more than one, following the Soviet example. On some ships there are as many as three captains, all Soviets, but in Polish uniforms.

The UB (Political Police) is often making use of former Gestapo agents. The informant knew of such an agent on board a Polish merchant vessel: a couple of years ago, a man of about 40 and by the name of OLECHNICKI came to the M/S "Soldek" as junior steard and was soon advanced to the rank of "ochmistrz" (chief steward.)

The man was a UB informer, but it soon became known that he had also informed on many Poles during the German occupation. As this fact became generally known, OLECHNICKI's reputation could not be whitewashed. The UB simply got rid of him and he spent the year 1951 in prison.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Up till December 1951

EVAL. COMMENT: Source : usually reliable
Information : UNCONFIRMED.

This is the first news mentioning Soviet captains on board of Polish ships. It must be taken cautiously until further confirmation.