

"ZYCIE WARSZAWY" - April 2/3, 1967

" E X N I H I L O "

by Jerzy Putrament

Making mountains out of molehills has long ceased to be something in the way of a technical sensation. Also, biology accepts quite calmly the metamorphosis of a fly into an elephant. In the face of scientific progress in the latter half of the 20th century, both the above examples of miraculous multiplication and the transmutation of dead matter, or even living matter - have become a commonplace trick in a whole gamma of material and moral abuses....

...But is it possible to create matter out of nothing, ex nihilo?...

... Well, I am in a position - and I am the first person to be able to do this in this world - to give an unequivocally affirmative answer to this question: yes!

It is possible to create matter out of nothing. It is possible to make a mountain without even a shadow of a molehill, as it is possible to make an elephant - without any fly...

Surely, this is not an easy nor a pleasant operation, not everyone can do it, and the overwhelming majority of mankind, even if it could, would turn its back on such an undertaking with disgust, feeling its stomach turning at the very thought of it. But there is a certain group of people, who are not easily disgusted and who have undertake

this experiment and accomplished it victoriously. I am referring to the team of gentlemen working in the Polish language for FREE EUROPE....

It must be admitted that quite a few extenuating circumstances could be found for this team. Deemed to a lifelong separation from their country, they must at the same time, for their living, think up daily all sorts of atrocities against that country; because, after all, they are paid for nothing else than for reviling their own - though former - fatherland...

...Recently, we have been able to observe a revolutionary change in the technology of work among this none too glorious team. They seem to have found someone, some genius for the rationalisation of mass lies. I really don't know what could have been the direct cause of this change. Perhaps they got scolded <sup>by</sup> ~~from~~ their boss (what is his rank? A US lieutenant, or perhaps a captain? If so, congratulations; after all, it's a kind of a social status to take orders from a US captain...) for poor operativeness? Or perhaps there was need for quick counter-action in connection with the scandal about that CIA? ....

And then someone had a brainwave: what do we need a molehill for? All we need to do is sit down to think, and just invent everything, from beginning to end!

And here is an example of the new style of work: the "drugs scandal", which the gentlemen from Munich invented from beginning to end; that many millionsworth of psychiatric

drugs were imported and then left to rot in warehouses, because no one would take them; that the circumstances of the whole affair were most mysterious and quite criminal. And so on and so forth, in accordance with the set pattern of instructions about ~~the~~ psychological warfare, issued by the CIA for the gentlemen in Munich....

I wonder how one should assess this effort on the part of the gentlemen from Munich? How will that American lieutenant, or captain, assess it? Will he praise or condemn it?

(Here Putrament continues his sarcastic meditations on whether the American bosses of RFE will be pleased with the blunder of the "gentlemen from Munich", since there are plenty of petty criminal offences in the daily <sup>from</sup> (Homeland) press which they could pick in making mountains out of molehills, instead of inventing everything from beginning to end. At all events, Putrament advises the "gentlemen from Munich" to demand premiums for their work, for as long as the CIA is still able and willing to pay, which Putrament maintains, won't be for long, because CIA funds for these purposes are shrinking. Naturally, he adds, some new institution will be set up, in which the bosses will be professors of psychology and psychiatry, instead of lieutenants. And in case these psychiatric specialists should turn out to be a little psychotic themselves as is sometimes the case, the gentlemen from Munich are very welcome to these large quantities of foreign drugs with which Polish depots are literally bursting at the seams...)