

ITEM No. 4593/56

HW

4 May

AA Ref.No. P-235

POLANDREGIME RESPONSE TO WESTERN BROADCASTS

PROPAGANDA 2600  
Anti-Western 2601 a

EXILE WRITERS ON RFE PAYROLL

SOURCE AUDIENCE ANALYSIS SECTION: Radio HOMELAND (KRAJ), 24 April 1956,  
 0730 hrs, Polish monitoring p.1407, talk by Jan SZELAG.

AUDIENCE ANALYSIS SECTION COMMENT: None

EVALUATION COMMENT: None

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(The subject of the talk is the attitude of exile poets and writers to Poland and to remaining in exile. The author says he is particularly concerned with the absence in Poland of WIERZYNSKI, BALINSKI and WITTLIN)

( Excerpt )

"...I must admit that I am somewhat embarrassed in this talk by the allegiance of a number of our emigre writers to FREE EUROPE. I refuse to believe that the FREE EUROPE cashiers pay these writers monthly stipends in return for nothing. I think that they pay them at least to keep silent. When I hear about these stipends -- and at the same time all those words about dignity and the Polish cause -- I must admit that it makes me feel sad.

NOWAKOWSKI said at a talk he delivered at the "Polish Hearth" that "he had never written a single word on order". "I am a free writer", he said, "and I wish to remain one until I die; that is why I am not going back."

The freedom of a writer is a great thing. But do these FREE EUROPE stipends, articles for the POLISH DAILY, etc., -- really spell true freedom? I don't want to start a discussion on the freedom of writing, or creative work in general, under capitalism or under our system... However, I think one thing and this what I want to say to the emigre writers. I think that one circumstance certainly gives a writer freedom, and that is contact with the nation. No arrangement with FREE EUROPE or any similar institution can possibly be a substitute for such contact. No writer, if he wants to remain a writer, can possibly say: I went to FREE EUROPE, because my nation is building socialism. The nation, and the nation only can be a source of life for a true poet..."

End.