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POLAND

STANDARD OF LIVING

Prices
Wages

How A Building Construction Engineer Spent His Monthly Salary.

SOURCE SALZBURG: Engineer, 35, from NOWO-WILEJCE, worked as a draftsman in the uranium pit PANOWA GORA near STRONIE SLASKIE from October 1951 until his escape from Poland in March 1952.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Until March 1952

On 1 February 1952 an engineer (NU) and draftsman of a uranium mine received 1912 Zloty which was accounted as follows:

monthly salary net	Zloty 1356
plus a premium, which was	
fixed according to the uranium	
output by the mine workers	<u>Zloty 556</u>
	Zloty 1912

There were several deductions made for the rebuilding of WARSZAWA, for Korea, for the Party (even if one was not a Party member,) for "Freedom of Peace," for the Women's Organization (Obrona Ligi Kobiet,) Red Cross, Polish-Soviet Friendship Movement (Przyjazn Polsko Radziecka,) for mine-workers, and for sick insurance. Although all these deductions were made "on a voluntary basis," they were "musts." All the white-collar workers received 15 Zloty per diem in addition to their salaries. The exact amounts of the deductions were not known. There was also an additional premium for each plan the draftsman made, i.e. 1 per cent of his monthly salary for each plan; 12 to 15 plans could be submitted each month.

Out of the 1912 Zloty he spent about 900 for the meals he had three times a day in restaurants. The food was not too good. For laundry he spent 80 Zloty. For a suit, readymade, not too good material, he paid Zloty 720. For cigarettes he spent Zloty 3 for 25 a day, that is 90 per month (type "Mocne.") Adding up 900, 80, 720 and 90 which makes 1790, there is left a balance of Zloty 122. How easy it is to spend such an amount is shown below. (The draftsman has been assigned one room for himself by the mine administration. He did not pay for the room.) In January 1952 he bought a suit for Zloty 2200 for which he had been saving through the previous months.

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Installment payments are possible, but they make buying too expensive. It is best to buy shoes from people who are on leave from the CSR. In the summer of 1951 one pair of good shoes cost Zloty 200 in shops the same kind of shoes were Zloty 530. The last shirts he bought in the summer of 1951 were for Zloty 210, 170 and 100 respectively according to quality.

Expenses in leisure-time: when parties were organized in the mine, it was done by the Communist Party and all workers and employees were compelled to participate. The entrance fee was Zloty 20 to 25 for dancing and floor shows. They had a canteen there which was more expensive than public restaurants. For these occasions they had credit-books which they could use for buying food and drinks. This was later deducted from their salaries. For warm food for two persons they had to pay about Zloty 250 consisting of two schnitzels, for other food 58 to 60 Zloty for two persons. Half a liter beer was Zl. 8.40. Very good vodka from POZNAN was Zl. 48, wine, half a liter, from Poland and no good, was Zl. 14. Better cigarettes, brand "Zefir" cost in the canteen Zl. 14, normal price was Zl. 8.60.

There was just one coffee house in STRONIE SLASKIE which was the property of the state. It had no name (it was just called "coffee house") and was administered by the Fundusz Wczasow Pracowniczych. One cup of ersatz coffee cost Zl. 7, one glass of wine Zl. 7. Music and dancing were permitted. An ordinary worker could not afford to go there, because of the prohibitive cost. It was, however, open for everybody, but very few could afford it. In STRONIE SLASKIE there were three restaurants which were state property; one of the 3rd category, Gospoda III, two 2nd category, Gospoda II. The first category is the best, 2nd and 3rd category sell the cheapest and worst food. The restaurants do not have any names. In WARSZAWA there are some special restaurants for diplomats only.

In a second class restaurant the prices are as follows:
for a menu (soup, gulash, potatoes) Zloty 4.50

for a club menu (soup, veal or pork cutlet
potatoes or dumplings) Zloty 7.20

à la carte: soup Zloty 1.80

pork cutlet, potatoes, Zloty 7.50

salad Zloty 3.70

fancy cake, tart Zloty 3.20

one beer Zloty 2.70

one coffee Zloty 18.90;

which would be a good meal, amounts to
but even an engineer could only very rarely spend such a sum
for one meal. In these restaurants you do not have to pay
10 per cent for the service, but since usually waitresses did
the serving men felt obliged to tip them.

EVAL. COMMENT: The presence of uranium pit in the mines of JANOWA
GORA UNCONFIRMED. Wages and prices in line with other reports.