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16 August 1951
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POLAND

AGRICULTURE
Collectivization

In February 1950, the Communists started organizing a kolkhoz at WYSOKA, District LANCUT. The man in charge of setting up the kolkhoz was SWIETLIK (fnu) former headmaster of the agricultural school and a very active Communist. Right away, he gave orders for the demolition of the village chapel and had a road built across the place where it used to stand.

The second organizer of the kolkhoz was CHMIELAK Michal. Others who helped were LENCZNAK (fnu), RUPAR Jozef and ZYMBRON Wojciech, all of whom tried to convince the peasants that a kolkhoz was to their own advantage. The idea of a kolkhoz was further propagandized by three lads from the ZMP (the Polish Communist Youth organization.) As a result a few peasants signed a declaration to join the collective farm. Others followed suit, and finally over 30 farmers out of 600 farms with a population of 4,500 people belonging to WYSOKA, signed the declaration. Among the 30, there were even a few ambitious or opportunist "kulaks" who hoped to remain in the kolkhoz as managers and thus to save their social position. All of them, however, had trouble with their wives who were very much against any kind of collectivization.

The majority of the peasants in WYSOKA took such a hostile attitude toward the idea of collectivization that the plan had to be dropped. The WYSOKA peasants are very anti-Communist and anti-Russian.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: February 1950 to June 1951

EVAL. COMMENT: Source : usually reliable;
Information: probably true.