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POLAND

YOUTH
Organizations

Until 1950, the college in KOLOBRZEG had provided for lessons on religion. Despite voluntary attendance all pupils frequented them. In 1950, teaching of religion was discontinued, and it may only be resumed if the pupils ask for it; but few pupils would dare asking as the following example shows:

At a ZMP meeting in WROCLAW it was resolved to ask for the abolition of the instruction of religion in schools. This resolution was then presented to meetings organized by ZMP in all local schools. The question was put to the meeting at the girls' college: "Who is against the resolution?" Two pupils protested; after some hesitation, a third one, the chairman of the school's ZMP section, joined them. The first two girls were expelled from school; the third girl remained, but lost her function with the organization, and is now distrusted by local ZMP headquarters.

The pupils, under the circumstances, prefer attending private tuition in religion organized by the church.

In one class of the KOLOBRZEG college, all pupils were members of the ZMP with the exception of one girl. Two weeks before the final examinations, she decided to join the ZMP, as she had been told that otherwise she would not obtain her certificate, although she was head girl in her class. She was rebuked by the ZMP authorities who told her that "the organization did not need members who joined only for the sake of their daily bread." She passed her examinations after all, but was not admitted to enter university.

The ZMP organization in KOLOBRZEG is now headed by 27-year old KULIS, an ardent and fanatical Communist.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: 1950

EVAL. COMMENT:

Source : usually reliable
Information : probably true.