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Audience Analysis
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AUDIENCE ANALYSIS: INTERVIEW WITH A PARTICIPANT
IN THE POZNAN RIOTS

SOURCE MUNICH: Wlodzimierz KACZMAREK, 27, a participant in the POZNAN uprising, who escaped from Poland on July 20 1956.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Until July 20 1956.

EVALUATION COMMENT: None.

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Source was born in POZNAN in 1929. During the German occupation he attended a German elementary school. He continued in a Polish school after the war and he graduated from a two-year electro-mechanical high school. He also passed an examination, equivalent to three years' vocational school. He then completed his apprenticeship as a confectioner and worked with his father in what remained of the latter's confectioner's business.

Radio Listening

For years source had been listening to Western broadcasts, including RFE, VOA, BBC, PARIS and MADRID. The latter was most heavily jammed of all, BBC least of all. RFE and VOA were both badly jammed. The intensity of jamming increased particularly last year. Even in 1955 source could listen to Western broadcasts whenever he wanted.

Whoever has a wireless set, listens to Western broadcasts. On the whole people distinguish between individual radio stations, but - according to source - they do not care particularly and the question of their respective popularity does not arise.

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The point is to get a Western station, and people listen to the one they can hear best. Perhaps BBC is less popular than others, on account of its "official" tone, but then it is well heard.

People listen chiefly in order to obtain trustworthy information, as they do not believe the regime media. But they would like above all to hear the sort of information which would give them hope for a change. They are also most interested in any comparison between the life in Poland and in the West, especially as far as the standard of living is concerned. The more detailed such information, the better.

Source knew - and liked - many RFE programs, e.g. the news bulletin, Jacek SNIADY's Workers' Program, the "Young Eaglets," Radio Tea Party. He heard practically all of SWIATLO's broadcasts, as did everybody in Poland. He found them most interesting. He finds nothing to criticize in RFE programs. His only suggestion concerns the fate of escapees from Poland about whom more should be said. It is particularly necessary to counter the regime's propaganda on this score, which pretends that all escapees from Poland are forced either into the Foreign Legion, or into a spying system.

Source is all in favor of Western stations broadcasting information about events in Poland, considering that people at home are very often ignorant of happenings in their own country. Thus for instance, it was the Western broadcasts which told the truth about POZNAN, while Radio WARSAW kept on telling lies. Without the Western broadcasts, people outside POZNAN would not know the facts about the POZNAN uprising.

While approving of the coverage of POZNAN by RFE and other Western stations, source criticizes MADRID which pretended that the number of POZNAN victims ran into thousands. It is true that MADRID qualified this statement by adding "according to unconfirmed reports," but even so the situation should not have been exaggerated to that extent.

Stopping of Western broadcasts would mean complete isolation of the Polish people from any trustworthy information.

Leaflets

Source heard about leaflets being dropped in Poland, but has never come across one himself. A colleague of his found

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one near POZNAN, but none fell on POZNAN itself.

Asked whether he considers leaflets a good thing, source replies that it depends on their contents. Apart from this, they are less useful and more dangerous than is radio. To-day people are no longer afraid of listening, though they are still cautious about repeating the news.

Attack on the POZNAN Jamming Station

Source's account of the attack on the POZNAN jammer corresponds exactly to the one already given by him in RFE Item No. 8061/56. He adds that he listened to Western broadcasts in the evening of the same day and that, in fact, jamming was weaker. This lasted for a few days, whereupon "they must have repaired it," because Western stations again became as jammed as before.

Regime Press and Radio

Source read the local POZNAN press, such as "Gazeta Poznanska," "Glos Wielkopolski" and "Express Poznanski." He listened to entertainment programs from Radio WARSAW, because they have considerably improved recently and carry more music. On the other hand, he did not listen to the news bulletin, because he relied for information on Western broadcasts and also on the regime press, comparing the two sources.

Radio Facilities

Source used to have a pre-war French set "Rennes." It was a powerful set, with six tubes. Unfortunately, it was confiscated by fiscal authorities for tax arrears. He then had a "Mazur-Lux," of Polish make. It had all three bands, the short-wave band starting only at 25 m.

He did not register his set, as he found the monthly fee of 30 zloty too expensive. He thinks that about 10 per cent of radio listeners refrain from registering their sets.

Attitudes

90 per cent of the nation are against Communism. The Communists would be beaten in any free election. There is nothing good in Communism and source cannot think of any regime achievement which would be good for the people. Communist leaders are all equally disliked. Source mentions in particular CYRANKIEWICZ's

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broadcast speech in POZNAN which created the worst possible impression, because CYRANKIEWICZ was telling lies about the uprising.

Source thinks that, after liberation, heavy industry, mines, railways, etc. should remain in the hands of the State. But small private establishments should again be allowed.

The "thaw" exists only in newspapers. In real life there is no change for the better. On the contrary, the economic situation of the people is growing worse.

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