

ITEM No 10513

G  
5 November 1951  
VI-1260

POLAND

POPULATION

LETTER CENSORSHIP IN POLAND.

The letters which a Polish citizen intends sending abroad, must be taken open to the post office, where he also pays for the stamps. The letter is then closed by the post office clerk.

This is the way to avoid disclosing to foreigners that a correspondence censorship exists in Poland. In fact anyone receiving a letter sent abroad from Poland does not notice that it was read or could have been read.

In Poland all letters going abroad must be handed in at the post office still open.

Photo Censorship in Poland:

The wife of an inferior officer in the Polish regular army sent a photograph of herself and her husband to a friend in Italy. As the officer is shown in his military uniform, the insignia of his rank were carefully crossed out with an indelible pencil, evidently not to reveal a "military secret." The Polish lady certainly did not do this of her own initiative, therefore there are evidently precise orders about the matter. The Communist regime does not even want people abroad to know what the faces of its officers are like.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: current

EVAL. COMMENT:

Source : fairly reliable

Information: confirmed by evidence