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Nov 20  
XI-1980/2

POLAND

Ethnic Minorities /1106/  
Description of the Country /3802/

CARE OF GREEK CHILDREN IN POLAND

SOURCE ATHENS: A 37-year-old Greek repatriate doctor.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Until September 1956.

EVALUATION COMMENT: This is a matter-of-fact description of the home for Greek children in POLICE, and there is nothing to be questioned in this report.

The name of /fnu/ LINCZUK is new to us.

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All Greek children in Poland, both those kidnaped by the guerrillas and those who followed their Communist parents, have been assembled since 1951 in a special children's station at POLICE, near SZCZECIN. The children's station consists of about 80 two-storied houses, which had been used by the workers of a large German factory, now ruined, for the production of synthetic gasoline. The houses were repaired, and about 1,800 Greek children were settled there. At present only about 800 children, aged from 3 to 13, have remained. A seven-grade school with Greek and Polish teachers was established in the children's station.

In 1953, a boardinghouse for those children who had graduated from the seven-grade school at POLICE was established in SZCZECIN. These children, aged over 12 or 13, attended the Polish high schools of SZCZECIN, while also following Greek classes, in the boardinghouse.

In the schoolyear 1955-56 there were about 300 children in the SZCZECIN boardinghouse. The expenses of both the children's station and the boardinghouse were borne by the Polish Government. In the boardinghouse, to which source was appointed as doctor, the daily expenditure for food was seven or eight zloty per child. In addition, the boardinghouse's budget provided for 1,000

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zloty per year for medical expenses. Drugs were given free to the children at the drugstores upon the doctor's prescription.

The boardinghouse, which was a three-storied spacious mansion in the center of the town, had a personnel of about 60 who received an average salary of 700 zloty per month. Of these 60 about 15 were Greeks and the rest Poles. The director was a Polish teacher by the name of LENCZUK /fnu/. The personnel had their meals in the boardinghouse against a retention from their salaries of 80 zloty per month.

According to source the food, although monotonous, covered the required 2,500 calories per day. For breakfast the children were given milk with ersatz coffee, cereal, a roll of white bread and 10 grams of butter. For lunch they had a good soup and usually a piece of boiled meat, about 40 grams, and boiled potatoes, mashed carrots, beets or pickles. If there was no meat, the children were given eggs or macaroni with small pieces of sausage. They were also given a thin beverage from boiled fruit or tea. Bread was plentiful. For dinner the children had "kwasne mleko," a kind of yoghurt, with boiled potatoes, bread, butter, jam and tea. On Sundays they were given sausages, bread and butter.

The children's development was normal and their general condition of health good. Weak or underdeveloped children were given some additional food in the afternoon -- an egg or bread and butter.

About three or four Greek women called "mothers" looked after the clothing and underwear of the boys. The girls looked after themselves. The children's clothing was rather poor. Their underwear was insufficient and their suits very cheap. However, they had relatively warm overcoats, caps and woollen gloves. The material of the suits and overcoats was 60 per cent wool and 40 per cent a material called "bawelna." The children who were to leave Poland to join their parents in other captive countries or in Yugoslavia, where many pro-Slav Greeks had settled, were given much better clothing.

On Sunday mornings the children were taken to the cinema.

In the POLICE children's station the children were indoctrinated in Communism, but after some time in SZCZESIN, where they came into daily contact with Polish children at school, they gradually changed opinions. By the time they finish high school, they share the views of the general population and become anti-Communist as a rule.

In the schoolyear 1954-55, the first 12 children

finished the Polish high school. Three of the graduates went to the medical school at WROCLAW and another three went to the polytechnical school at WARSAW. As foreign students they were given 700 zloty per month and lived free in the so-called "Dom Akademicki," the students' home. The Polish students received an allowance of only 250 zloty. Another of the 1954-55 graduates became a tenor and was studying at the POZNAN conservatory. He had, as source was informed, an exceptional talent and although still a student was making over 5,000 zloty per month, appearing at various performances.

The great majority of the children, however, even the 50 per cent who were pro-Slav Greeks, wish to return to Greece. The pro-Slav Greek children added Polish terminations to their names; source did not know who had initiated this change.

End.