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POLAND

STANDARD OF LIVING

Private Life In Poland

SOURCE ROME: No information available

DATE OF OBSERVATION: September 1952

With regard to private life in Poland it must be said that whatever of it still exists is limited to the coffee houses. The latter are always crowded. But in the evenings people play bridge at home since this has become the fashionable game for which everybody has developed a great passion.

Almost all night clubs were closed. For instance, in KATOWICE they closed down the "Bajka" and the "Metropole" night clubs, and the only such club kept open until one o'clock in the morning is the "Wojko."

Thus social life was transferred to the coffee houses. Living conditions are far too difficult and restricted to permit entertainments at home and people are obliged to gather in public places.

During their spare time the Poles listen with great interest to foreign broadcasts in Polish. Our source said that neither the Voice of America nor the Madrid Radio are very popular because the Poles don't like their kind of propaganda. People in Poland don't want to listen to propaganda alone. But on the other hand, the Polish people like to listen to Radio LONDON.

The population loses much time lining up in front of the shops. For any small item whatsoever people have to line up. According to our source the Government is content with this of affairs because it is a new way of keeping people busy. People become very impatient when standing on lines. They are always afraid that the goods will be sold out by the time their

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ITEM No 13278/52

POLAND

(1)

turn comes. But when they are finally able to buy half a kg of sugar or flour they are so happy that they rush home and forget their sad living conditions.

EVAL. COMMENT: Typical snap-shot of everyday life in Poland.

The news of closing all night clubs in KATOWICE- UNCONFIRMED.

Another source (date of observation April 1952) described with details the nightclub "Bajha" in KATOWICE (former "Bagatela" known in pre-war days). "Metropol" existed before the war. Bar "Wojko" UNCONFIRMED.