

18 January 1952  
NL-31POLANDSPORTSSports Organizations Of University Students In Poland

The central sport organization for students is the AZS. It kept only the initials of the old Akademicki Związek Sportowy, so well known and popular in Poland; otherwise it has but little in common with it. The initials now mean: Akademickie Zrzeszenie Sportowe. Instead of an eagle of various colors on white ground, depending on the color of each university where there was a club, the present badge shows a green eagle in a white field for all members without exception.

The AZS is centrally ruled from WARSAW, under the Party's supervision. Sporting propaganda among students is now carried on under the slogans of mass sport ("Umasowienie Sportu") in a "socialist spirit." The Party interferes with all activities. The greatest pressure is put on to make every AZS member compete for the sporting badge.

But the slogan of "mass sport" remains an empty word, as can be shown by the example of the AZS sailing section. This is only active in its clubs situated on inland lakes and rivers, which have no possibilities to get in touch with the outside world. The AZS clubs engaged in sailing and situated on the seashore, e.g. in GDANSK and GDYNIA, have to fight overwhelming difficulties in order to carry on some sort of sporting activity. Even the joining of the club meets with difficulties from Party and UB control officers. Then it is considered whether a member can be granted the right to sail, and about 80 per cent of all applications are rejected without giving any reasons. Even ZMP membership does not necessarily give the right to sail. In this way sailing is turned into an "elitarian" sport after all, as only a certain number of people can be trusted to engage in it. A member may have finished his studies at a Merchant Marine school, or be an officer or teacher in a PCWM training center, but that does not help him either. The membership records of the clubs are constantly checked up and verified by UB, and the results withdrawals of the right to sail, or even expulsion, on the members found "unreliable."

Normal club sailings are permitted on Sundays, only on the distance from GDYNIA to JASTARNIA, and only from sunrise till sunset. Before leaving GDYNIA, the boat and its crew undergoes a very strict control by WOP; another control takes place upon arrival at JASTARNIA. The club members have no right to sail without permission in the bay where their club and boats are located. A member - even a club manager - has to make an application to the Sea League (Liga Morska) in GDYNIA and to register there every individual trip; the League in its turn asks UB for permission. After checking on the names and taking the League's and AZS's guarantee for the crew, the UB at GDYNIA eventually gives permission.

ITEM No 824

POLAND  
(cont'd 1)

Every AZS member, if wishing to sail, has to send in an application in six copies, a personal history in six copies, six photographs and the famous questionnaire, also in six copies. To get a permit authorizing entrance of the harbor, one must send in all these papers in 12 copies, 80 per cent of the applications are usually refused, but those granted are very curious: some get permission for sailing in the bay only others only on high seas. Thus, it may happen that a member is allowed to sail on the high seas but not in the bay close to the shore.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: recent

EVAL. COMMENT: Source : usually reliable  
Information: partly confirmed by evidence, partly  
in line with security measures taken in the coastal and border areas.