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Services Division  
European Satellite Committee

Meeting of 13 August 1958

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Present: [REDACTED] S/COM; [REDACTED] S/CST; [REDACTED] S/TF; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] S/TR; [REDACTED] A/E; [REDACTED] M/FM; [REDACTED] M/NF

Mr. [REDACTED] S/COM, discussed the project he has recently finished, Economic Intelligence Survey of Post and Telecommunications in Poland, 1950-57. He described what post and telecommunications services consist of in Poland, the similarity to systems in this country, the present status of each system, and finally the effect of Gomulka's policies on telecommunications.

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Mr. [REDACTED] pointed out that the various telecommunications systems can be grouped into civil and functional systems. The civil systems are all-pervasive and are under the control of the Ministry of Communications. They could be used by the Army if the need arose.

The postal system in Poland is similar to the system in this country. It has grown with the population, and there has been a substantial growth in the number of letters. The service appears to be adequate at present.

The telephone system is similar to the one in this country also. However, 94 per cent of the telephone subscribers are in urban areas and only 6 per cent in rural areas. About two-thirds of the telephones are for official use, and one-third for private use; in rural areas most all telephones are for official use. Around two-thirds of the local telephone exchanges are automatic.

The telegraph system is similar to the one in this country. The number of telegrams sent has not increased too much from 1950 to 1957, and there was actually a decrease in the number sent from 1956 to 1957. However, the telegraph system is the most widely available system throughout the country. In recent years a subscriber-telegraph or Telex system has been introduced which is similar to our business teletype service and which has 350 to 400 subscribers.

The broadcast system consists of radiobroadcasting, wire-diffusion, and television services. The wire-diffusion service differs from radiobroadcasting in that only a loudspeaker is installed in the home, and the subscriber has to take whatever is piped in. The number of radiobroadcast subscribers has grown faster than the subscribers for wire-diffusion, probably because higher incomes in recent years enabled them to buy receivers. The principal advantage of wire-diffusion from the point of view of the government is that it does stop the people from listening to radiobroadcasts such as the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe. Recent plans emphasize development of FM, which is similar to wire-diffusion in that the audience is restricted primarily to domestic programs - because of the limited range of FM broadcasts.

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The wireline network is the principal means of coverage throughout Poland. This network is composed of open wirelines and multiconductor cables which have an average capacity of 52 channels. A high-capacity co-axial cable is planned to East Berlin. An extensive microwave radio relay network is planned for transmission of messages and television programs within Poland and throughout the Bloc by means of connections with microwave networks of Czechoslovakia, East Germany, and the USSR.

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Mr. [REDACTED] concluded that the general effect of Gomulka's regime has been that jamming has been stopped - which releases transmitters for domestic use. Some international broadcasting has been discontinued because it is too expensive. Also, fees for services have been raised in an attempt to cover costs.

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For the meeting next week, tentative arrangements are for Mr. [REDACTED] to speak to the Committee on his research [REDACTED]. The day and hour may be changed from the usual meeting time in order to fit into Mr. [REDACTED] schedule. If Mr. [REDACTED] is available, Committee members will be notified by telephone and given the time and place of the meeting. If you receive no notification, there will be no meeting on 20 August.

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[REDACTED]  
Secretary

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A hasty check with Mr. [REDACTED] on his remarks about agriculture in the Satellites during the discussion of 6 August apparently was too hasty. To the last sentence in paragraph 3 of page 1 (of the 6 August minutes) concerning Hungary's crop of bread grains should be added "and imports may be necessary." In paragraph 3 of page 2, the final sentence should read "East Germany and Czechoslovakia probably will be greater importers of livestock products."

*M. M.*