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REPORTS EX-MINISTER LECHOWICZ TO BE TRIED

SAYS GOVERNMENT WILL STAGE "SHOW" TRIALS -- Ostatnie Wiadomosci, No 139, 9 Dec 49

According to a recent well-informed source from Poland, the government is getting ready to stage a series of show trials, starting with the former minister, Lechowicz; several vice-ministers, and other high state officials.

The names of the accused vice-ministers, Dubiel and Jaroszewicz, were already mentioned at the last plenum of the United Polish Worker's party as accomplices of Lechowicz. Premier Cyrankiewicz declared then that another accomplice of Lechowicz was T. Kochanowicz, the recently arrested Vice-Minister of Social Security. It is also highly probable that Kowalewski, Grosicki, and Borowy, three other vice-ministers, will be brought to trial together with Lechowicz.

The Lechowicz trial aims at uncovering incriminatory evidence to be used in the future trial of Gomulka, Spychalski, and Kliszko. This trial will also determine the fate of many others, but will mainly hit former supporters of the present regime from the Democratic Party, of which Lechowicz was one of the foremost leaders.

The position of Lechowicz's old friend and protector, Chajn, is likely to be shaken. Following the former's arrest, Chajn lost his post as Vice-Minister of Justice, and was put, together with Gomulka, in the secondary position of vice-president of the Supreme Control Commission. There they are closely watched by the president, General Jozwiak, known as "Witold," former vice-minister of the security police.

Several PSL leaders, including Bryjn and Mrs Hulewicz, have been awaiting trial for 2 years. It is generally believed in Poland that their trial following the usual tactics, would have taken place before the merger of the PSL, but, apparently, that was not the intentions of the Politburo.

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The editors of the Catholic weekly *Tygodnik Warszawski* have been in jail without trial for more than 2 years. Priest Kaczynski, Studentowicz, Kwasięborski, and others were imprisoned when their weekly paper was closed down by the police. They will be held in prison until the time when the Security Police decides to use the trial as a pretext for an attack on the Catholic Church in Poland.

GETS 3-YEAR SENTENCE FOR GOSSIP -- *Ziemia Pomorska*, No 11, 12 Jan 50

The Appellate Court in Bydgoszcz sentenced Pawel Kraszucki to 3 years' imprisonment and the loss of civil rights for spreading false rumors and gossip likely to damage seriously the interests of the Polish state.

Kraszucki's whispering campaign on political and economic matters was entirely false and was intended to undermine the morale of Polish factory workers.

ACQUIT NIGHT WATCHMAN CHARGED WITH ARSON -- *Ziemia Pomorska*, No 11, 12 Jan 50

At an emergency hearing, the Appellate Court in Bydgoszcz tried Zygmunt Szplet, a night watchman at the Warta-Goplo Canal construction project, suspected of having set fire to a large grain stack near Aleksandrowo Kujawskie. Because of insufficient evidence, Szplet was acquitted.

SOVIET ARMY DETACHMENTS CONCENTRATING IN POLAND -- *Słowo Katolickie*, No 51, 17 Dec 49

Large Soviet Army units, some detachments coming directly from the USSR and others transferred from eastern Germany, are being sent to Poland's western territories. Quarters for the larger units have been prepared along the Lignica-Wegliniec route. New detachments of the Soviet Army have been quartered in Patnow, Tomaszow, Zebrzydowa, Zagażnik, Wegliniec, Milkowice, Chojnow, and the neighboring villages. Bolesławiec is the center of a large concentration of Soviet antitank artillery and the MGB Motor Brigade which patrols the area quartering the main Soviet Army has been located in Osetnica for some time now.

Soviet troops are also being concentrated in central and eastern Poland. They are usually quartered in barrack camps situated in woods and enclosed in barbed wire, located for the most part in the neighborhood of Białystok Sokolka, Miedzyrzeka, Siedlice, Włodowa, Lukowa, Hrubieszow, Lublin, Przemysl, and also in the Białystok, Podlesie, and Lublin areas. The greatest concentrations, however, are found in the former Polish lands east of the San and Bug rivers. In areas occupied by the Soviet troops, Polish garrisons are limited to a few insignificant detachments in the cities, where Soviet uniforms are seen more frequently. Officers are especially noticeable as privates are watched by the MVD detachments and cannot easily mingle with the Polish civilian population.

There is not one air force regiment east of the Wisla River. In general, air force officers are usually Russians, and the Poles are privates. Since the shortest route to Germany is through Poland, Soviet transports are rolling across Poland unceasingly in both directions, resulting in continuous plunder by the Russian soldiers. They follow two main routes: the northern route through Insterburg (now Czerniakowsk) on the former Prussian-Lithuanian border, through Krolewiec (temporarily Kaliningrad) and through Elblag, Malbork, Tczew, Czersk, (Pomorze), Chojnice, Człuchow, Szczecinek, Tarogrod, Szczecin (Main) to Stobno, the Polish border station, on through to Pasewalk on German territory; and the southern route through Lvov, Przemysl, Krakow, Zabrze, Opole, Lignica, to Wegliniec, the last Polish border station, and through to Wehrkirch on German territory.

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Soviet Army detachments have been placed along these transportation routes for protection. The chiefs in charge of the transport routes are housed in a villa on Waly Krola Jana III in Poznan. Col Boris A. Archegov, MGB officer, is responsible for the safety of the Russian transports over other routes. There are through trains from Moscow (Beloruskiy Station)-Berlin over the following route: Smolensk, Minsk, Brzesc on the Bug, Warszawa Gdank (Station), Poznan Franowo (Station), Slubice, through Frankfurt on the Oder, the border station of eastern Germany, to Berlin. Poles are not allowed on through trains; even Bierut would not be allowed aboard, but Rokossovskiy uses these trains continually.

RUSSIANS INSPECT SHIP -- Ostatnie Wiadomosci, No 135, 30 Nov 49

When the SS Springford returned from the USSR with a shipment of logs, sailors related that the ship had been subjected to rigorous inspection on the Omega River. All field glasses, photographic apparatus, navigation books, and even personal letters of the crew were removed until the ship's departure. The sailors observed that school-age children were doing heavy work in the port. The children refused gifts of oranges or chocolates if a Soviet guard was nearby.

REPORT MILITARY PREPARATIONS -- Slowo Katolickie, No 47, 19 Nov 49

The Berlin Der Abend reports that wire barricades, antitank trenches, and emplacements for machine guns and reflectors are being set up along the Polish banks of the Odra and Nysa Luzycka rivers.

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