

CONFIDENTIAL

CLASSIFICATION **CONFIDENTIAL**
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
 INFORMATION FROM
 FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT
 CD NO.

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY Poland
 SUBJECT Economic - Consumers' goods
 HOW PUBLISHED Daily newspapers
 WHERE PUBLISHED Warsaw; Krakow
 DATE PUBLISHED 15 Feb - 15 Mar 1950
 LANGUAGE Polish

DATE OF INFORMATION 1950
 DATE DIST. 29 Jun 1950
 NO. OF PAGES 3
 SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF ESPIONAGE ACT 50 U. S. C. 31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

REORGANIZATION OF DISTRIBUTION UNDER WAY

ORGANIZE CENTRAL MILITARY TRADE OFFICE -- Polska Zbrojna, No 66, 7 Mar 50

The Minister of National Defense, in cooperation with the State Economic Planning Commission and the Ministers of the Treasury and Interior Trade, has ordered the creation of the WCH (Central Military Trade Office).

The new office is to set up a network of retail stores and canteens for servicemen, officers, noncommissioned officers, and employees of military posts and their families and to provide them with necessary consumers' goods. Creation of model shops for consumer services is planned in the near future. The stores and canteens will be of particular benefit for army men and their families stationed at small garrisons.

Regional departments of the WCH will be in charge of supply and will coordinate the functions of single stores and canteens. The general headquarters will be in Warsaw.

The necessary personnel will be trained by the WCH during the first 3 months of 1950. The personnel will be selected from the families of servicemen and disabled war veterans. The army chapters of the Women's League will take charge of training the female personnel, to be employed mainly at stores and canteens.

Locations of the stores and canteens will be selected by arrangement with the commanders of military units.

The WCH will take over all stores of the former Union of Military Cooperatives, lately controlled by the State Central Trade Office. The transfer is set for the second half of March 1950. Normal sales will begin on 1 April.

The stores will be open 7 hours a day, and their schedules will vary according to local conditions. For instance, hours may be from 0700 to 1000 and from 1600 to 2000, with one hour set aside for administration and accounting operations. Canteens will be open 6 hours; the remaining 2 hours will be taken up with administrative functions, deliveries, etc.

CONFIDENTIAL

CLASSIFICATION		CONFIDENTIAL		DISTRIBUTION									
STATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAVY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NSRB											
ARMY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FBI											

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

The military stores will serve only members of the armed forces and their families, upon presentation of a special consumer's card.

The choice of store will be left to the individual serviceman.

The Central Military Trade Office will maintain close and constant contact with the commanders of military units, with political and Party authorities, socialized institutions, and the Women's League.

WHOLESALE FOOD MARKETING REORGANIZED -- Dziennik Polski, No 73, 15 Mar 50

The reorganization of wholesale food marketing has been completed. The former PCH (State Central Marketing Office) and the CSS "Spolem" (Central Office of Consumers' Cooperatives) have been merged to form the new CS (Centrala Spozywca, Central Food Marketing Office). The CS, at present, has wholesale outlets and branches throughout the country. During the change-over period, CS will, in addition to food, handle clothing destined for local cooperative stores.

As a result of the centralization of supply sources, specialization is now possible in marketing, which means more efficient operation. This has helped to reduce the number of personnel who can be transferred to other branches of socialized trade. Economies in transportation are possible through car-lot shipments.

Former PCH retail stores in larger centers will be taken over by the MHD (Municipal Retail Trade), and stores located in smaller towns will be transferred to cooperatives.

TO CONTROL PRIVATE CLOTHING INDUSTRY -- Zycie Warszawy, No 68, 9 Mar 50

The private clothing market has not yet been regulated. This market is serviced mostly by illegal manufacture from materials purchased in socialized stores and made up in private homes. The articles are taken to market, sold wholesale to peddlers, or sold in clothing stores.

The Textile Trade Center allocates materials only to state enterprises and socialized stores. It is apparent that private merchants buy materials intended for private consumption or from illegal peddlers, disorganizing the market and creating still another form of illegal peddling.

Various methods are used by these operators. For instance, ready-made clothing such as fall coats are bought up from the socialized stores, they are interlined, the pockets and buttons are changed, and then they are sold as winter coats at a 100-percent increase in price.

Such operations create a scarcity of such articles in the socialized stores. Although many of these articles are very poorly made, they are all very expensive.

So far peddling has eluded control, but it is imperative that it be included in the intensive program against speculators.

12 NEW GENERAL MERCHANDISE STORES IN 1950 -- Trybuna Robotnicza, No 46, 15 Feb 50

At present, there are 86 PDT/(General Merchandise Stores) in Poland. The 1950 plan provides for 12 more to be opened in Chojnice, Luban, Dzierzoniow, Klodzko, Kalisz, Bialystok, Piotrkow, and Gdansk-Wrzeszcz, and the expansion of the store in Bydgoszcz. The market hall in Bytom, remodeled for PDT use, was opened for business in January.

CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL



50X1-HUM

Although the assortment of domestic goods will not be greatly changed, high-grade imported articles will constitute about 25 percent of the total turnover. Besides imports from Czechoslovakia and the German Democratic Republic, thermos bottles, various aluminum articles, sports equipment, etc. from Hungary, and three kinds of excellent FED cameras from the USSR will soon be imported.

- E N D -

CONFIDENTIAL

- 3 -

CONFIDENTIAL