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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Poland
SUBJECT Railroad Operating Conditions

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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SOURCE :

[Redacted]

- Only three major incidents occurred on the railroad lines inside Poland between 17 June and 20 July 1953. The first involved a military train on the Schneidemuhl-Bromberg line, the second the Blue Express at Malosna near Warsaw. Both incidents resulted in extensive damage from mines, and both took place between 6 and 10 July 1953. The third incident seems to have been more serious, involving damage to the railroad bridge over the Vistula at Torun. As a result of the third incident, all brigades which formerly travelled to Gerdauen were rerouted to Brest. Rerouting was started between 1 and 3 July.
- Otherwise travel to Brest has remained normal, and only one unscheduled stop of six hours has been reported. Between 1 and 20 July traffic was even heavier than it was before 17 June. At present 15 to 20 trains leave Frankfurt/Oder for Brest each day, while eight to ten arrive in Frankfurt/Oder from Brest. All the trains mentioned above are freight trains. The Blue Express and the Russian military leave train are both on their normal schedules.
- Freight trains going to Russia contain machine parts, printed matter from Leipzig and gasoline, and include salon cars (Salonwagen) and empty refrigerator cars. The refrigerator cars are usually loaded with munitions, though some really do contain butter as claimed. These cars are allegedly used for the transport of munitions because they have thick double walls on the sides which are heavily insulated, thus affording more protection against small arms fire than an ordinary car. It is possible to tell which cars are used for this purpose, as they do not have water dripping from the underside of the cars, as is the case when they are loaded with butter. Such cars have been observed after being opened by German customs, and the contents of the cars consists of unmarked boxes which are heavy and resemble ammunition cases; the boxes do not look like butter cases.
- Because of the increased traffic on the Frankfurt-Brest line, the Reichsbahn has been forced to take many locomotives from the Cottbus yards, so many in fact that traffic on the Rawa-Luska line cannot possibly have been increased. As noted above, the line to Gerdauen has been closed from 1 July to 20 July. There has been no unusual movement of troops either in or out of Frankfurt over the border.

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4. The controls over the border into Poland and into Russia are neither heavier nor lighter than heretofore. The Russian military **commanders** have not been strengthened on the freight trains travelling to Brest. No evidence of strikes or any sign of open resistance to the present regime in Poland has been reported. The Poles appear to be friendlier to the German train personnel and complain about the prices in Poland which have been raised since 1 July.

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1. Comment: [redacted] date of information 16 June to 10 July 1953 stated that the Soviet Blue express was derailed by Polish partisans near Warsaw on 21 June 1953.

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