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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Poland	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Raising of the JASTARNIA	DATE DISTR.	6 October 1954
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This is UNEVALUATED

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. Toward the end of May or beginning of June 1954, the wreck of a large German ship, sunk at the beginning of 1945, was raised from the Bay of Gdansk by the PRO (Polish Ship Salvage organization) and then towed into the repair shipyard at Gdansk (Danzig). The sunken German ship was probably named STRASSEBURG, and is larger than the Polish ship BATORY. The ship itself was damaged very little and the engines are in good condition, having suffered little from the water. It is reported that, after undergoing repairs, the ship will be taken by the Soviets as war reparations, although it has already received the Polish name JASTARNIA.
2. The ship, which was a whaling factory ship, was sunk during the German evacuation of Gdynia. The salvaging of the wreck took three years, during which time eight divers lost their lives. During that time officials of the security authorities were to be found, under various covers, in the units employed on the salvage work.
3. When the wreck was finally raised, the area was surrounded by ships of the Polish Navy. Immediately after salvaging, several iron cases were lifted from the wreck by crane, and loaded on to a warship, which then sailed to an unknown destination. The wreck was then towed on to a sandbank, where it was still guarded by units of the Polish Navy.
4. The following rumors about the wreck are circulating among the personnel of the PRO:
 - a. Among other cargo the ship had several cases of jewelry brought from Gdansk by the Germans. Forster is believed to have known about this, and therefore the death sentence passed on him as a war criminal was not carried out.
 - b. The wreck is connected with Forster's statement in which he is alleged to have said that if his death sentence was not carried out, he would rebuild Gdansk to be more beautiful than before.
 - c. The cargo taken from the wreck was transported to Kaliningrad. There were some Russians among those who guarded the reloading of these cases,


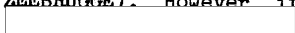
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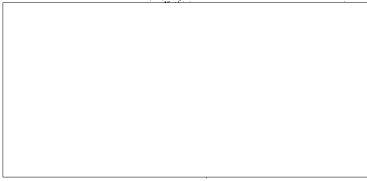
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 Comment: Several reports received in the past year have mentioned the German vessel SEEBURG (also reported as ZEIBURG and ZEEBRUGGE). However it cannot be ascertained if it is identical with the JASTARNIA.  the SEEBURG was sunk near Jastarnia while evacuating high-ranking German families from Poland. The ship was refloated in 1953 but had to be sunk again due to technical difficulties. This report added that it was expected that the ship would again be raised in May 1954.



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