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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

# INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

25X1

COUNTRY Poland  
SUBJECT Civilian Mingle

DATE DISTR. 19 May 1955

NO. OF PAGES 2

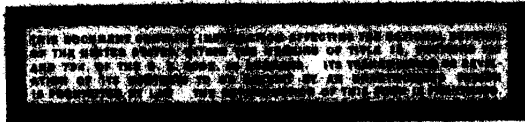
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NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

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DATE OF INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.



THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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individuals complained chiefly about the low standard of living in Poland. Their salaries are as low in relation to prices that they can purchase only the barest necessities of life. Although  25X1

dinner in a restaurant was about 1,000 zloty. The average monthly pay was only 2,000 zloty and some of them had not eaten in a restaurant for years.  25X1

UNCODED liberty

is reported to be especially rampant and to reach almost to the top of some of the ministries. However, even those persons in Poland who have amassed a goodly amount of money by fair means or foul are usually dissatisfied with the present regime. The austerity of daily life, the almost complete absence of luxury items in the shops and stores, the lack of decent recreational facilities, the mental regimentation and the insecurity of life in a Communist police state cause general discontentment even among affluent individuals. Signs of open resistance to the regime were not evident. Most people seem much too respectful of the police to voice their dissatisfaction openly or to oppose the government in any way. The impression, however, was gained, that the people have no feeling of loyalty to the regime, don't associate themselves with it in any way, and would be very likely to side with the Germans when they appear on the east, especially if the behavior of the first occupying troops were good.

- 3. Especially impressing was the absence of anti-German feeling in the Polish population. Most people tried their best to be friendly with Germans and ~~make no anti-German remark was heard. Western clothing and personal effects were seen in the hands of the Polish people.~~

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STATE	X	NAVY	X	ARMY	X	AF	X	NSA	X	IA	X	IS	X	IN	X	IR	X	IT	X	IV	X	IS	X	IT	X	IV	X
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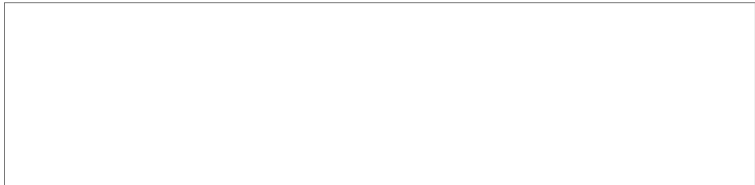
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cut of suits, wrist watches, ball point pens, tie pins and ~~and~~ other personal items were greatly admired by men holding high and responsible positions. It was believed that the Polish people covet especially these small luxury items which are taken for granted in West Germany but which are all but unobtainable locally in Poland. Most people were ~~generally~~ friendly when they ~~learned that~~ ~~the~~ ~~German~~ ~~had~~ ~~not~~ ~~been~~ ~~so~~ ~~kind~~ ~~as~~ ~~to~~ ~~bring~~ ~~them~~ ~~to~~ ~~Poland~~. In general, the Polish people view West Germany not so much as the past despoiler of their own land but as a country in which there are no scarcities, where the standard of living is high and where life is rich and enjoyable.

4. In the area of Katowice in the old German districts of Upper Silesia, anti-Communist sentiment appeared to be especially strong and pro-German sentiment among the population also ran high. The following rumor was heard in Katowice ~~concerning~~ the recent election in Poland: After the election, during which the regime allegedly tolerated some semblance of democratic choice and the secret ballot, the vote was declared null and void in several Upper Silesian districts. Rumors indicated that these elections were declared invalid because a surprisingly high percentage of voters had defaced their ballots or had written profane or obscene remarks across the front. Adenauer and Ollenbauer were also said to have received a large number of write-in votes. The accuracy of these rumors cannot be vouched for, but they are probably correct and are indicative of the general feeling of the Silesian population.

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out of suits, wrist watches, ball point pens, tie pins and other personal items were greatly admired by men holding high and responsible positions. It was believed that the Polish people covet especially these small luxury items which are taken for granted in West Germany but which are all but unobtainable legally in Poland. Most people were especially friendly when they learned that ~~someone~~ was from West and not East Germany. In general, the Polish people seemed to regard West Germany not so much as the past despoiler of their own land but as a country in which there are no scarcities, where the standard of living is high and where life is rich and enjoyable.

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