

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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| COUNTRY | Poland | REPORT | |
| SUBJECT | Shortages of Pharmaceuticals, Foodstuffs and Merchandise in the Lodz District | DATE DISTR. | 23 September 1955 25X1 |
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This is UNEVALUATED Information

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE

- In June 1955 all supplies of sarcolan¹ and glucose were withdrawn from the Lodz pharmacies on the official excuse that they were required to meet urgent export requirements. Rumor in the city had it, however, that the drugs were in fact defective and had caused 20 deaths before the authorities could withdraw them. 25X1
- In the Lodz district there is a flourishing black market in the more widely used drugs. Pharmacists, using physicians' blank prescription forms, buy up their shops' pharmaceuticals themselves and resell them at inflated prices. As a result, sick persons are often unable to find the drugs they need, even when searching outside Lodz in the neighboring towns.
- Food shortages persist in the Lodz area and prices rise steadily. Certain items suddenly disappear from the market and then reappear a short time later under different brand names and at a higher price. This happened with tea during July 1955. A popular brand selling at 7.10 zlotys per 100 grams suddenly vanished and was replaced by a brand selling at 14 zlotys. Bread flour and various types of sausage have been similarly affected.
- During June 1955, textiles and other goods of better quality were withdrawn from the Lodz shops and shipped to Warsaw and Poznan to make an impression on the foreign visitors to the World Youth Festival and the Poznan Trade Fair respectively. The Lodz population does not look with favor on the various fairs, festivals, and congresses which are being held in Poland during the summer of 1955. It is estimated that the Warsaw World Youth Festival alone will cost the Polish taxpayers some 1,500,000,000 zlotys.
- Comment: This product cannot be identified further; possibly it is a compound of sarcolactic acid. 25X1

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**formerly Litzmannstadt*

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