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SECRET

SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY Poland  
 SUBJECT Cost of Living

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

DATE OF [REDACTED]

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. [REDACTED]

I was in the Army; after my discharge from the Army, I again lived with my parents until March 1950. Everything I needed was supplied for me at home, so I do not remember prices, qualities, quantities, etc. 25X1X

2. During my employment, I received the following monthly wages:

<u>Job Title</u>	<u>France</u> (1947)	<u>Poland</u> (1947)	<u>Poland</u> (1950)	<u>Poland</u> (1952)
Junior Coal Miner	15,000 fr.	7,000 zl.	30,000 zl.	----
Stevedore	----	----	30,000 zl. - 40,000 zl.	700 - 900 zl.
Apprentice Fisherman	----	----	----	500 zl.
Junior Fisherman	----	----	----	750 zl.

In addition, I received the following non-monetary benefits:

<u>Type</u>	<u>France</u> (1947)	<u>Poland</u> (1947)	<u>Poland</u> (1950)	<u>Poland</u> (1952)
Medical	gratis	gratis	gratis	gratis

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Type	France (1947)	Poland (1947)	Poland (1950)	Poland (1952)
Work Clothes (Coveralls)	----	----	1 pr. every six months	1 pr. every year (plus one quilted Russian style jacket for four years)

3. I did not apply for unemployment benefits from September to November 1949 and therefore received none. As far as I remember, the unemployment compensation was inadequate, and very often miners who were unable to work because of illness etc. had to wait for months to receive payment.
4. I have tabulated some items which constituted my expenditures during 1947, 1950, and 1952 Enclosure A. Although some consumer items were rationed, the full ration was not always available; however, one could buy some of the rationed items in either the free or the black market. The quality of items varied. I classified them roughly as good, medium, or poor. Of the prices listed, I remember best the year 1950. In 1952, there was a continuous scarcity of meat, sausage, flour, soap, butter, eggs, lemons, oranges, milk, coffee, chocolate, cocoa, canned meats and fish, herring, pepper and other spices. Some of these items were available on the free or black market, but one had to pay two to three times the price of rationed goods and only a few were able to afford such prices.
5. In 1952, the prices for items not mentioned in the tabulation Enclosure A were as follows:

Item	Price and Availability
Sugar, 1 kg.	5 zl.; rationed; unrationed, 15 zl.
Coffee, 1 kg.	450 - 500 zl.; on black market only. Unobtainable in shops.
Oranges, 1 kg.	50 - 90 zl. on black market; obtainable in shops only two or three times in year, i.e., before Christmas and Easter.
Grapes, 1 kg.	10 zl.; available only from time to time in shops.
Beer, 1 bottle	1.60 - 2.00 zl.
Domestic Wine, bottle	10 - 12 zl.; (made from apples); imported Hungarian wine, if obtainable, 50 - 60 zl.
Alcohol, 1 l.	120 zl. (to be mixed with fruit juice.)
Vodka, 1 l.	48 zl.
Wool for men's suits, 1 m.	450 zl. in state stores but sometimes quantity was limited.
Hat, man's felt	80 - 90 zl.
Tie, man's	30 - 50 zl.
Nylon Stockings, 1 pr.	180 zl.; there was an insufficient quantity of those made in Poland; foreign makes were available only on black market.

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<u>Item</u>	<u>Price and Availability</u>
Bicycle	800 - 900 zl. for Baltic (manufactured in Poland) but not always available.
Wired Loudspeaker	800 zl.; difficult to obtain.
Wrist Watch	800 - 1,000 zl. There were many second-hand watches, but it was difficult to get one of good quality.
Movie Ticket	4.50 zl. for the better seats.
Circus Ticket	15 zl.
Meal	3 - 6 zl. in a milk bar or second-class restaurant.
Radio	750 zl. for Pioneer brand, manufactured in Poland; there was a waiting list and one had to have special coupons issued by the CP or the Works Council. Better radios were available from time to time in state stores for 1,000 - 2,000 zl.

6. It is difficult to say how much I saved during the various periods. I remember very well that when I was living with my parents (until 1949), that my mother complained that all the money was spent for food and lodging and that it was difficult to save money for clothing, despite the fact that there were four working in the family -- my father, two brothers, and myself. When I left home and was employed in Stettin in 1950, I was able to save money only by restricting my expenditures for food and other necessities; I saved between 2,000 and 2,500 zlotys monthly between April and December 1950. (I remember this figure because at this time I had a dental bill of 21,000 zlotys.) I was unable to save any money after the devaluation of the zloty in the Winter of 1950.

7. It is very difficult for me to give detailed comparisons between the living conditions in France and Poland in 1947 because three months after arrival in Poland, I was called into the Army.

Food: France: there was enough food and it was unrationed.

Poland: food was rationed, but as far as I can remember there was no scarcity.

Clothing: France: it was easier to buy and the quality of suits was better than in Poland.

Housing: France: the miners usually lived in houses owned by mining companies. The rent was deducted from the pay. The apartments and houses were adequate.

Poland: my family, which was repatriated from France, was assigned an apartment, but others had difficulty and lived in small, crowded apartments.

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Medical Service: France: this was well organized, and free. If a miner was ill or had an accident, he usually got one to two weeks off with pay without difficulty.

Poland: in such cases, two days off without pay was the rule.

In general, life in France was easier in every respect than in Poland.

8. From 1947 to 1949, a Polish soldier was generally better off than a civilian. We had plenty of food; meat and sausages were usually served twice a day. After my discharge in September 1949, we had meat at home not more than once a week. Beginning with 1951, conditions worsened in the Army so that I had to send food parcels or money to my brother, who was then in the Army.
9. On the worker's level there was no difference in the living conditions -- except for housing -- between a member of the United Polish Workers Party (Polska Zjednoczona Partja Robotnicza -- PZPR) and a non-member. A Party member, however, was able to get better jobs, promotions, and possibly an assignment to an apartment. The higher-ranking Party members had some privileges, especially the Security Police (Urząd Bezpieczeństwa Publicznego -- UBP); they were able to get extra rations of food in special shops.
10. A member of the Trade Union (Związek Zawodowy) could always apply to the Secretary of the Trade Union for advice and help in matters connected with his job. The workers were urged to join.

Enclosure:

- A. Tabulation of Expenditures for 1947, 1950, and 1952

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