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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION



1. [redacted] the ZMP (Union of Polish Youth) [redacted] membership in it was not required. At the University of Lodz there was such a group, the members of which termed themselves "reactionaries" but it was extremely small and created little attention. In 1946-48 there was a general feeling of liberty, and few people belonged to the ZMP. From 1948 on, however, it became imperative to join, otherwise one could not enter the University and it is now [1953] a rarity to find a student who is not a member.
2. Students of the 11-year or middle school, joined the ZMP and candidates were selected for University training from among them. Although all students are not members of the ZMP, only those who are, are selected for higher training.
3. No student is required to join the organization however, anyone wishing to continue his education must join, otherwise he cannot go beyond the 11-year school. Today fully 90% of the youth are members of the ZMP. Membership in the ZMP leads to an easier life and the youth join, whether or not they have any ideas relative to furthering their education, because membership leads to jobs. Some are Communists; most are not.
4. In present-day Poland all students who wish to do University work, must be members of the ZMP and graduates of the middle school with good political recommendations. Each class has its own ZMP organization consisting of chairman, deputy, secretary, deputy. This council observes the political bent of the students and, on graduation, has the power to issue a certificate of either good or bad political character. School faculties fear the chairmen of these organizations because they have sufficient power to bring action against instructors in the event they consider the instruction not sufficiently progressive. The faculty can issue grades for classroom work, but has nothing to do with issuing the "political" certificate. Candidates for University work are selected from the graduating class by the council of the ZMP in the graduating class. They are generally selected in accord with their political reliability. The selected students must pass an entrance examination. No candidate is eligible for graduation who has a 2 on his record. Only candidates with 5 to 3 can be graduated. Below 3 requires that the student repeat the course.
5. The sons and daughters of lower and middle-class peasants have the first choice. The son of a kulak has no chance of selection for University studies. There is a new definition for kulak as known by the Poles. A kulak is a landowner, small or large, who hires someone to farm his land. A peasant can be a large landowner, but, if he farms his land himself, he is classed a peasant; 1 to 5 hectares, lower class peasant; 5 to 8, middle-class. Above eight hectares would be classed a kulak. Sons and daughters of workers also have preference.

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After them the children of professional people, providing they are politically reliable. They must be politically reliable, as must their parents. They must pass an entrance examination, but the decisive voice is the Political Commission.

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6. [redacted] at the University of Lodz no more than 5% of the students were active Communists. In the middle school [redacted] do not believe there were any. In 1946-47 there was an attitude of indifference, later it turned hostile as did the attitude of students toward the USSR. The students identified the Polish government with that of the Soviet, and despised both. [redacted] would discuss these matters in select circles since it was not safe to discuss them openly. [redacted] The same attitude held for the PZPR. [redacted] was no PZPR at the University [redacted] an organization was formed in 1949 and that perhaps one percent of the professors joined. Today perhaps 20 to 30% might be members.
7. Marxism was introduced into the University in 1948 but old timers [redacted] seldom attend the lectures. [redacted] and four to six hours on Marxist theory but today a greater percentage of time is spent on it, fully a third of the classroom work. [redacted] Polish contemporary history is not required except for those majoring in [redacted] history.
8. [redacted] all lectures were held in the evenings, so that students could be gainfully employed. A good 90% worked. Today all lectures are held during the day. There is a government edict forbidding students to work. They must turn their attention to university work and must attend all lectures. About 80% of the students receive scholarships today 200-300 Zlotys per month. However, the scholarship isn't enough to exist on, so all students must receive aid from their families.
9. Living conditions were very poor and life was extremely expensive. Food, clothing and living space were at a premium. Today, about 60% of the students live in dormitories where the expenses are very low. Students not living in the dormitories are allowed to eat there since food is much cheaper. Generally, however, it is impossible to live on the scholarship.
10. There was only minor interest in listening to Western broadcasts [redacted] as few students had radio sets. During the succeeding years, interest grew due to the fact that conditions became progressively worse, and there was more time to listen. Since evenings were free and the broadcasts came in during the evenings. It should be noted, however, that most students live in dormitories and it is therefore dangerous to listen to western broadcasts. [redacted] VOA or BBC were both popular. Today, it depends on which one will come through. When jamming exists on one, an attempt is made to get another. All stations are popular if the reception is good. Attempts are made to get any station, whether it be Paris, Madrid, VOA, RFE or BBC, but care must be taken to escape detection.

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