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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland

DATE DISTR.

23 July 1951

SUBJECT Construction of Highway and of Broad-gauge Railroads

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Highway and Railroad Construction

1. The Soviet Government has ordered the construction of a two-lane highway across Poland to provide a rapid means of communication between Moscow and Berlin. The highway will avoid all centers of population. By early spring of 1951 it extended from the Polish border near Brest-Litovsk to the vicinity of the town of Biala Podlaska (S 53/M 46).
2. Work on the highway is progressing day and night at a forced rate. In order to encourage the best efforts of the workers, they are being paid the abnormally high wage of 2,000 zlotys per month. They are housed in isolated quarters and kept under police surveillance.
3. It is reported that the USSR, Poland, and Czechoslovakia have concluded an agreement providing for the conversion of the Brest-Litovsk-Warsaw-Poznan-Berlin and the Lwow-Krakow-Prague-Bratislava railroad lines to broad (Russian) gauge.

Soviet Production Control Commission

4. The USSR is sending a mission to Poland to supervise strategic production in that country. The mining industry, the electric power system, the chemical industry, and the precision machinery industry will come under the control of the Russian commissioners. The Soviet control group will be under the direction of General Lomonosov, who served as a director of economic mobilization in Russia during World War II.

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