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POLES IDENTIFY 9 AS AGENTS OF C.I.A.

Police Film Purports to Show 3 American Spies at Work — 6 Others Are Cited

By JOHN DARTON
Special to The New York Times

WARSAW, Jan 28 — The Polish Government accused the United States today of espionage in Poland and said the Central Intelligence Agency had played a significant role in creating anti-Government opposition.

At a news conference, three colonels presented what they said was evidence of spying. They showed film clips of three diplomats once posted here and named six others stationed outside Poland who they said were C.I.A. agents.

The film was part of a five-part series being shown on television. Titled "Who is Who," it uses Interior Ministry film purporting to show spies at work.

Poles said the television series was more anti-American than anything that they had seen since the height of the cold war. It was regarded as a retort to the United States Government-sponsored television program, "Let Poland Be Poland," which is to be aired on Sunday.

Chill Is Cast Over Contacts

The accusations also appeared intended to cast a further chill on contacts between Poles and Westerners, especially diplomats, and to undercut the Solidarity trade union and dissident groups by suggesting that they were linked with foreign subversion.

One of the officers at the news conference, Col. Zbigniew Wislocki of the Interior Ministry's counterintelligence unit, said in response to a question that actions of Solidarity "aimed at the breaking of the state were to a significant extent the result of activities by the U.S. secret services."

United States diplomats here derided the accusations in private and said public comment on specific charges must come from the State Department.

Others at the news conference, which was held at the Government press center, were Col. Hipolit Starszak, head of the Interior Ministry's investigation bureau, and Col. Boleslaw Klis, who is with the Military Prosecutor's Office.

Espionage Devices Under Glass

To one side were two glass-enclosed booths containing what was labeled as American spy devices, including transistor radios, cameras, code paper that was said to vanish on contact with water, and pellets of disappearing ink hidden in the handle of a shaving brush. Reporters examined the objects before the conference opened, as a song sung by Tom Jones was piped into the room.

The first film was about Leslie Sternberg, identified as a third secretary in the consular division of the United States Embassy here from 1979 to 1981. The film, evidently taken from a moving van, shows a Fiat car being stopped "for a routine road check," on March 13, 1981. Inside the trunk, according to the narration, were found printing ink, brochures and leaflets from the Confederation for an Independent Poland, a dissident group. Miss Sternberg is shown standing grim-faced beside the car and later at a police station.

Embassy Job Is Called Cover

The camera zeroes in on her American passport.

"It was learned that she speaks Polish, but not well enough to answer certain questions," the narration says, adding that her embassy job was a cover for collecting information, such as the home addresses of police officials.

The second episode concerned Peter Burke, described as a second secretary in the embassy's political section in 1979 and "an important spy." The film shows his identity papers, his local residence and then a park where a stone had been placed under a lamppost. A car is seen stopping nearby, a man picking up the stone. Then Mr. Burke is brought to police headquarters where, according to the narration, "he keeps repeating 'I am an American diplomat.'"

Inside the stone, which is opened on camera, was said to be information on Poland's air defense system. A close-up of Mr. Burke's face follows.

"This is the man who worked for the C.I.A. and slipped on a stone in Poland," the narrator says.

Pole Tells of Vietnam Incident

A third segment was about an unidentified Pole, the man who was said to have left the stone. He describes on film how he was recruited by the Americans while a member of the Polish Control Commission in South Vietnam.

The fourth concerned Alicja Wesolowska, a Polish citizen who worked for the United Nations and was arrested while on a visit here in August 1979, was charged with espionage and is now serving a seven-year sentence. Her case has become an international cause célèbre.

The film was apparently made during her interrogation. Over a scratchy soundtrack, she is seen saying that she had provided "bits and pieces" of information on diplomats at the United Na-

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Colonel Wislocki said the Government did not want to create a "spy mania."

"We are not planning to limit contacts of Poles with Western embassies," he said, "but frequently official contacts later change into something else."

He acknowledged that Soviet-bloc nations might also be using spies in the West, but said: "Poland is not threatening anyone. We must defend ourselves as a small European country."

Colonel Wislocki gave the names and positions of six people he said were C.I.A. agents attached to United States embassies in other foreign capitals. Many of them, Colonel Wislocki said, tried to recruit Poles abroad to work for the C.I.A.