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COUNTRY USSR

PORT NO. 00-A 3137957

SUBJECT Thorough Search by Customs at Soviet-Polish Border (Brest)

REGISTRATION 24-200-25-5-1

PAGES 1

REFERENCES

DATE OF INFO Jul 59
PLACE & DATE ACQ Brest Jul 59

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE: US citizen traveling in the USSR as a tourist.

Source who speaks Russian traveled to the USSR to see relatives and to collect pictures and material for lectures. He is not a professional lecturer, but does it more as a hobby. He is a second generation Soviet with relatives living in the area of Novogradok.

1. I have recently returned from a 17-day trip to the USSR [1 July-17 July 1959]. At Brest on the Soviet-Polish border upon leaving the USSR my wife and I were subjected to an extremely rigid and careful search by the customs and military personnel.
2. In traveling from Minsk to Warsaw, our train stopped in Brest and a Soviet customs official in a white uniform boarded our car, which was a first-class accommodation. He asked to see our passports and as soon as he was satisfied that our papers were in order, two soldiers entered the compartment and proceeded to go over our compartment inch by inch. First, all the printed material, magazines, pamphlets, etc, both Soviet and US, were taken from us. As far as I could determine, after we had gone through customs and it had been returned, all of it was intact, including my notes, which I had purposely kept vague.
3. During the absence of the customs man who had departed with our printed material, the soldier first shook out all our bedding and removed the mattresses. They examined every recess and the underside of every ledge or protrudance in the compartment. They examined the windows even to rolling the curtains up and down several times, examining both sides as they did it. It would have been impossible for me to have secreted anything however small in the room, so thorough was their search.
4. It would have been possible for the soldiers to have looked further in our compartment during the time the wheels of our car were being changed from the Soviet gauge to the Polish gauge track. We were asked to leave the car and wait until the change had been completed.
5. At no time were we subjected to a body search, but I thought the thoroughness of the physical search of the compartment was unusual. I was unable to determine if the remaining compartments of the train got the same going over, but I suspect they did not. I was so concerned with what was going on in my space that I had no interest for the other passengers.
6. After we had crossed the border and reached the Polish customs, things were much different. There was only a cursory examination of our luggage and a passport check.

-end-

7 OCT 1959

STATE	ARMY	NAVY	AIR	BI	AEC				
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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

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