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1210 NATIONAL PRESS BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

"We, the People"
"The Week in Washington"

File Confidential

Metropolitan 4112
Metropolitan 4113

August 11, 1943.

REPORT ON KATYN.

Henry Field has received the attached report from secret Polish Intelligence sources, tending to substantiate the general Nazi allegations concerning the massacre at Katyn. This report is in line with Putzi's insistence that Goebbels is making Katyn the moral equivalent for propaganda purposes of the "Lusitania". My own feeling is that, irrespective of its accuracy, if enough Axis-Europeans believe in the truth of the Katyn story it will solidify general European resistance to the Soviet Union, and should be taken into account in appraising the Russo-German situation.

J.F.C.

August 11, 1943

REPORT ON KATYN

The following cable was sent to General Sikorski in May by the Polish Underground:

"A trustworthy and responsible sworn participant in the examinations of the graves at Smolensk, on behalf of the Polish Red Cross, a Lieutenant Doctor, presented the following report to me.

1. At the foot of the hill is a common grave, in the form of a letter L. The whole grave is exposed. The dimensions of the grave are: 16 meters wide, 26 meters long and 6 meters deep. The corpses of the murdered Officers are carefully placed one over another, in layers of 9 to 12 persons, each layer with the heads placed in opposite directions. The uniforms, registrations in the pockets, identifications, and medals are well-preserved. On the corpses the skin, hair and tendons are so preserved that during the trepanation the skin and tendons had to be cut. However, it was impossible to identify the faces.

2. At a vertical angle to the first grave is a second common grave, which at present is only partially exposed. The dimensions of it are: 14 meters by 26 meters. All the corpses in this grave have their

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hands tied behind their backs with twine, some have handkerchiefs, rags, stuffed into their mouths, some have their heads bound with the skirts of their coats.

3. So far 906 corpses have been exhumed, of which 76% have been identified on the basis of registrations and letters found upon their person.

4. According to the aforementioned examiner, there are about 2,500 - 4,000 corpses of Officers in both common graves and innumerable Officers of the Reserves, dressed in civilian clothes.

5. On behalf of the Polish Red Cross 12 persons are engaged in digging up the graves, identifying the corpses and collecting the found documents (a doctor and 3 medical non-commissioned officers).

6. It is characteristic that nothing was removed from the corpses save watches. In the pockets may be found wallets containing money and documents, and sometimes even rings are still on the fingers.

7. All corpses have bullet holes in the backs of their skulls. The Polish Red Cross participants in this exhumation placed emphasis upon collecting the bullets pried out of the heads of the corpses,

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bullet shells, ammunition lying in the mass grave, and the twine with which the hands of the corpses were tied. All the material found is being forwarded--given the opportunity--to Warsaw to the Polish Red Cross. The bullets are all 7.65 caliber. The shells are marked "Ceco", the ropes - twisted.

8. In the presence of the above mentioned examiner, a diary was taken out of the uniform of Major Sol ski, recording incidents up to April 21st. It states that they were shipped out of Kozielsk in prison vans to their destination at 5 _____; they were brought to Smolensk, where--after passing the night--they were awakened at 4 a.m. on April 21st and loaded into prison vans. In the glade of the forest they were unloaded from the vans and at 6:30 they were led to buildings located there, where they were commanded to surrender their jewelry and watches. This is the last entry in the diary.

9. Under the supervision of the German authorities a delegate of the Polish Red Cross is exhuming the bodies and performing an autopsy on the corpses, as well as assembling documents. Besides, personal

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contact was established with the local population. All identified corpses receive tags with a number of the Polish Red Cross, which are attached to the bones with a steel wire. Then all corpses are buried in a freshly dug common grave. Amongst the victims identified up to the present time all--save one--were from the camp at Kozielsk; one is from Starobielsk.

10. The forest glade at Katyn is a wide area of several square kilometers, on which were situated the NKWD sanatoriums. The local civil population states that in March and April, 1940, one transport of Polish Officers, consisting of from 200 - 300 persons, was transported there daily."

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PSF J.F. Carter fedu 3-43

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 27, 1943.

MEMORANDUM FOR

J. FRANKLIN CARTER:

I agree that someone should look into what these refugees are doing. I think it falls properly under O.W.I. so will you have a talk with Elmer Davis about it? I assume he would want the help of the F.B.I. and the Army and Navy intelligence people.

F.D.R.

Report on possible technique of a German "peace-offensive", submitted, by J.F. Carter, 10-25-43, with attached report, 10-22-43, from George Walker, re organized German peace offensive in near future, working through two groups in this country and in England, the refugees and the political opposition.

October 30, 1943

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November 26, 1943.

~~SECRET~~

REPORT FROM PUTZI HANFSTAENGL ON RELIGIOUS SITUATION IN GERMANY.

Here is Putzi's analysis of the present religious situation in Germany, indicating the possibility of real concordat between Hitler and the churches, based on the historic European dread of Asiatics (as represented today by Stalin and Communism). I believe that this situation should be thoroughly checked from every angle, as it may have bearing on the European reactions to a "second front" invasion.

J.F.C.
J.F.C.

DECLASSIFIED
By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.
By W. J. Stewart Date MAY 1 1972

November 25, 1943

HITLER'S ROOFLESS FORTRESS-EUROPE AND
PARTY-MEMBER NUMBER ZERO

When in 1933 it became gradually apparent that the victorious Nazi-Party, instead of dissolving itself, as promised in preceding years, was going to entrench itself by the help of the formula: "The Party is the State--and--the State is the Party"; when it became fashionable to draw up lists of the early members of the Party with the secret purpose of making them appear the chosen members of a hierarchy with Hitler as a Nordic Messiah-Fuehrer in permanence, somebody near the Fuehrer ventured the opinion that while it might be à la mode and very tempting to regard National-Socialism as a new religion displacing, and possibly temporarily eclipsing, Christianity, the fact remained that the Fuehrer himself had admitted that the intervention of "Fate," "Providence"--in short "GOD"--had played no small part in the rise of the Nazi-Party, and we therefore should accord to HIM the appellation "PARTEIGENOSSE NUMMER NULL" (Party-Comrade Number Zero)....

Hitler, who at that time still remembered how GOD (or Providence) had frequently leaned out of a cloud to save him, would listen to all good-naturedly, and would nod his head in silence when Dr. S. would go on to point

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out the folly of Bismarck's Kulturkampf¹ and the sagacity of Napoleon's CONCORDAT, whereby in 1802 a modus vivendi was re-established between the First Consul and Pope Pius VII.

This historical parenthesis over, Hitler cleverly would let the conversation drift again towards the trivialities of everyday life--showing thereby that he intended after all to support Rosenberg's un-German, quasi-philosophical atheism. How, following Rosenberg, Hitler has succeeded in the course of years in losing contact with wide classes within Germany and Europe, how Rosenberg's "Drang nach Osten" nonsense led to the Fourth and last Partition of Poland of September, 1939--to the outbreak of World War II and the fateful German declaration of war against Soviet Russia is common knowledge.....

Since the lessons of Stalingrad and Casablanca, a fundamental change however has manifested itself. Hand in hand with the advances of the Allies and the necessity of relinquishing the big Ukraine and Caucasus projects, Hitler has seen himself obliged to go on the defensive and substitute for the "Drang nach Osten" policy the "Festung Europa" idea. When in the Spring of 1943 the Katyn-Mass-Graves were discovered and proven authentic,

1. "Kulturkampf"--the struggle (1872-1887) between the Roman-Catholic Church and the German Government, chiefly over the latter's efforts to control educational and ecclesiastical appointments.

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Hitler's supreme chance--a reconciliation with Poland-- was at hand. Day after day the Berlin Radio pounded out the KATYN story of the 12,000 Polish Officers who had been murdered by order of the G.P.U. because they had refused to take up arms for the Soviets (cf. earlier Reports).

Simultaneously the Berlin Radio began to broadcast Roman-Catholic News and devote hours to the reporting of ecclesiastical news items such as the enthronement of the new Bishop of BAMBERG (cf. earlier Reports). Sacred music numbers began to crop up on the Berlin Radio Programs--to be followed by Hitler's favorite pianist Wilhelm Backhaus playing 12 Chopin Etudes in a row. In this connection it will be helpful to remember that the Polish soul is Roman-Catholic and Frédéric Chopin is a Pole and in fact the incarnation of Polish revolutionary nationalism.

This appeasement policy of the Berlin Radio has continued subtly during the last six months.

Last week even brought the news that Hitler has financed and sanctioned the reopening of Roman-Catholic Seminaries within the Polish Realm. This news was preceded on November 11, 1943¹ by the information from a

1. Cf. Brazzaville Broadcast, November 11, 1943, in French. Time 17.00.

Swedish source, that Alfred Rosenberg had been suspended from his functions of German Minister of Occupied Territories. While the official reason for this measure is the evacuation of KIEV, the real reason is supposed to be an intervention from certain National-Socialists, who demanded the dismissal of Rosenberg, whose outspoken paganism constitutes an unsurmountable obstacle to the reconciliation of the German Catholic Church with Hitler, a reconciliation which Hitler is anxious to accomplish.

Query: What does all this prove?

Answer: It proves that the day is not far off when Herr Hitler will have to fall back nolens volens on "Party-Comrade Number Zero"; when Herr Hitler will have to conclude a CONCORDAT a la Bonaparte; when in order to re-establish his slipping hold on the motley peoples within the Fortress-Europe he will have to cease slighting and insulting Christianity and the hundred thousand followers of the Catholic and Protestant Churches within Germany and the Occupied Countries.

Moral for the U.S.A.- People who indulge in the dangerous illusion that the New Testament (Christ, His Divinity, His crucifixion and His redemption) can and should be ignored in favor of the Old Testament or the

Gospels of Marx, Lenin or Hitler, are committing an error, the potential consequences of which become clear if one stops to reflect that almost 50 per cent of the 2,000 million inhabitants of this planet belong either to the Christian or Mahometan Faith. To ignore these things inferentially amounts to making a political present to Herr Hitler of the greater part of 710 million Christians and 250 million Mahometans--summa summarum 960 million inhabitants of this Earth.

In this case Herr Hitler could indeed elevate to the rank of a third national anthem Luther's Hymn "A Mighty Fortress is our God."