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REPORTS ON POLAND
AND
LITHUANIA

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July 1, 1942

SOVIET-COMMUNISTIC ACTIVITIES IN POLAND

I. Objectives and Tasks.

The military situation of the U.S.S.R. and its political designs impose upon Communistic activities in Poland the following specific tasks:

- 1) Military intelligence as well as sabotage and guerilla activities;
- 2) Preparing the ground for an armed insurrection, which would relieve the pressure on the Soviet front;
- 3) Promoting of sympathy for the U.S.S.R. and combatting any and all influences inimical to Communistic activities ("K");
- 4) Revolutionizing the country to enable the "K" to grasp power and create a situation which would justify intervention from without.

"K" activities are being conducted along two channels:

- (a) Political propaganda emanating from organization centers of the Polish Communist Party (KPP) and of the Polish Workmen's Party (PRR), as well as penetration into the centers of Polish pro-independence organizations;
- (b) Parachutist and guerilla activities.

II. Political Activities

1. Methods and Tactics.- In January, 1942, the Society of Friends of Soviet Russia, organized in the autumn of 1941, was renamed the Polish Workmen's Party (PPR).

The change indicates no shift in the "K" orientation, because both the management and the organization machinery remained the same as before.

The change of name resulted from tactics, as adopted at present, which consist in avoiding names indicating Communist Party affiliations because of their antagonizing effect on public opinion.

In reality the activities of the KPP and of the PPR run parallel.

(a) The KPP continues to serve as the skeleton formation and directing center, which - while directly subordinated to the Komintern - constitutes a supervising authority for the PPR. The members of the KPP are not engaged in any overt activities. They are active in local organization cellules, dating back to pre-War days and in the inner PPR circles. They do not engage in propaganda, do not distribute literature and do not recruit new members. They do, however, manage "free circles", composed of sympathizers and of new members of the PPR. Accordingly, the KPP constitutes the hierarchy within the PPR.

(b) Organizing and propaganda activities are being conducted officially by the PPR, which assumed the character of a

proletarian political party including in its platform both the slogan of social revolution and of Poland's liberty.

In this way the PPR aligns itself with Polish pro-independence organizations, but at the same time it engages in socio-political, as well as in military activities.

The platform of the PPR is couched in such general terms, that it differs but little from the platform of the Polish Radical Party. It calls for a common struggle against Hitlerism, stresses the necessity for an international co-operation among the proletarians of the world and proclaims the PPR to be the only Polish organization affording the working class a chance for achieving its specific demands (control over and participation in the management of the country's economic production, as well as a full measure of social justice).

The most immediate objectives have been summarized in Circular No. 1, dated May 5, 1942, of the PPR's Central Committee, as follows:

"The circumstances under which the PPR came into existence constituted the period of the most brutal terrorism and aggression on the part of Hitler's invaders. If that situation should continue for any length of time with nothing but passive resistance on our part, we would soon be threatened with utter annihilation as a nation. We must act to prevent such contingency. We do so by forming a widest possible front of national liberation which should establish in the enemy's rear a second battle line, since the objective of such front of

national liberation is the expulsion of the invaders and the extermination of Hitlerism.

The PPR is not a branch of the Communistic Internationale nor of any other international organization.

The PPR stands on the platform of principles, as set forth by Marx and Lenin, namely that national liberation is possible only when accompanied by social emancipation".

2) Activities.

(a) Insofar as organizing activities are concerned, the PPR forms local cellules, both urban and rural, as well as committees in the various regions and districts.

The enrollment of new members is being conducted with great caution, special emphasis being laid on the caliber of the individuals to be enrolled. Erstwhile party members, who - during the war - have lost contact with the party, are being put through a painstaking process of selection. Those who happen to have lived under Soviet occupation are being scrupulously scrutinized as to their loyalty, because many of them, due to personal experiences and to the practical application of communistic doctrines, have lost faith in the Russian brand of Communism. They constitute elements not to be fully depended upon, which - pursuant to the instruction of the PPR's Central Committee - may be admitted to membership in the Party, provided they sincerely stand by the Party's political platform and are actively working in any one of the Party organizations,

as rank and file comrades until such time, as by the Party's resolution they should be individually commissioned with the execution of a specific assignment, or else designated for being attached to some superior party unit (see PPR circular).

Information secured in the field indicates that attempts at re-establishing the Communist Party's influence are being undertaken all over Poland.

Wherever "K" cellules had once been in existence and wherever communist sympathizers had been forming any groups whatever, efforts are now being made to build up the PPR anew.

District committees are endeavoring to extend the network of the organization over larger labor centers. They seek contacts with the intelligent middle class, they try to penetrate into the groups of young people, particularly such among them which hold socially radical opinions.

Of late propagandist efforts on a fairly large scale are being made in the rural districts and are mainly conducted among the land-less, the land-poor, and the forcibly evicted.

The instructors display an increased activity and since they have considerable financial means at their disposal, they succeed with relative ease in penetrating into the field.

There is a noticeable intensification of propagandist activity in Warsaw and surrounding territory, in Łódź and its environs, in the Dombrova Basin, in Czestochowa, Kraków and the country around Tarnów, in the Radom country, in Starachowice,

around Kielce, Biala Podlaska, Wlodawa, Parczew and Chelm.

PPR activities are also reaching into areas incorporated into the Reich, as well as into the regions around Lomza, Bialystok and Grodno.

Up to the present, the results are insignificant, but the "K" cellules are indirectly exercising a powerful influence on the environment within which they operate and thereby enlarge the purview of their ascendancy.

(b) The "military section", constituting an integral component of PPR's party organization, carries on an intense activity, the objectives of which are:

(1) To organize special combat groups (e.g. for defense, attack, guard and other purposes). Such combat groups are regimented into a compact organization of military type, under the name "People's Guard";

(2) To organize and train military detachments for purposes of close cooperation with parachutist and guerilla operations;

(3) To supply such groups with material, arms and ammunition;

(4) To set up auxiliary services, such as for instance medical aid.

Assigned to the "military section" are such members of the "K" party, who were commissioned or non-commissioned Officers in the Polish army.

The present scope and method of action on the part of combat groups have been worked out in conjunction with Soviet Army Officers, who came to Warsaw at the close of 1941 as emissaries (Colonel Glebow).

The "military section" conducts training courses both for soldiers and for instructors. The graduates of such courses are sent in batches into regions where parachutists are operating.

The curriculum of the training courses covers instruction in matters military and in political propaganda work.

Recruited for the training courses are being preferably young men from urban centers, particularly from among the laboring class. Specifically desirable are candidates from the younger age bracket, who were non-commissioned Officers.

Recruitment has of late been extended to include the rural population possessing elementary education.

Preferred for enrollment in the training courses are candidates who are familiar with the Russian or the Ukrainian Language.

(c) Propaganda activities are being conducted through PPR publications, such as: "Radio Bulletin" (war news and broadcasts of the "Kościuszko" radio station at Moscow), "Tribune of Freedom", a periodical for the urban population, "Peasants' Tribune", for the rural population, and by means of pamphlets published under the auspices of sundry anonymous organizations, such as the National Liberation Front, the

Committee for Struggle against Hitlerism, etc.

Hand in hand with the press propaganda, a mouth-to-mouth propaganda is being waged on a wide scale; by means of spreading rumors, gossip and properly selected news. Propaganda of such intangible type meets with easy credence among the large masses of the people.

The propaganda activities show the following trends:

- (1) Convincing public opinion that the PPR represents the only nucleus of a united national front of active warfare;
- (2) Provoking an immediate armed contest with the invaders;
- (3) Spreading of confidence in the might of the U.S.S.R. and the part it plays, as the sole savior of the Polish nation;
- (4) Undermining of the faith placed in the Western powers, in the Polish Government and in the pro-independence elements in Poland proper, which resist the solicitations of the "K" Party;
- (5) Promoting among the masses of the people a feeling of aversion for the historic past of the Polish State;
- (6) Exacerbation of social conflicts and preparing the ground for a revolution.

Practically all of the articles, manifestos, etc., constituting the "K" propaganda, evidence the demand for an immediate war against the invaders by means of sabotage and guerilla activities.

Such demands assume the form of appeals to Polish national honor, point to the Polish-Soviet pact and to the brotherhood-in-arms, play up the U.S.S.R. as a guarantor of Poland's independence, sound the tocsin of alarm, lest continued passivity be threatening the Polish nation with total destruction.

The injunction issued by the Government's Delegate and the Commander of the Armed Forces to await orders and to beware of provocation, caused dissatisfaction among the "K" (Communists), as well as criticism of and threats against the opposing elements in Poland and against the Polish Government, which was "doing England's bidding", by exhorting the country to passivity and by delaying the mobilization of the Polish army in Russia.

The struggle against reaction constitutes a steady refrain of the propaganda in question and is aimed indirectly at all organizations, other than Communist.

These activities, skilfully conducted by the way, have considerable effect particularly on the politically inexperienced elements of the population (See Appendix No. 1).

3) Penetration.- Penetration into political, social and professional organizations, which had been practised prior to the War, continues right along.

Conditions, as they exist at present and which render scrutinizing of new recruits difficult, make it easy for the

"K" (Communists) to infiltrate themselves into all conspiratory groups, particularly those with socially radical tendencies.

There has been no instance thus far, aside from the left wing of socialist Young People's Party under the name "Red Banner", of gaining control over an entire organization, or of its management, but nonetheless "K" (Communist) influences are at work among the rank and file of the various organizations and among the district leaders.

The phenomenon in question is noticeable among the socialist and syndicalist youths and also among several groups of rural youths.

Provocatory activities are not always and not readily perceivable. This causes confusion and disunity in the political symbiosis and furnishes the ground for suspecting pro-communist trends in each and every radical point of view.

Observations of industrial centers (such as Warsaw and environs, Łódź, Piotrków, Częstochowa, Radom, Kielce, Zawiercie, Sosnowiec), disclose a considerable intensification of "K" (Communist) activity among the industrial workers and also among the neighborhood population.

Under the pretext of partisanship, which betrays class interests, old time labor parties and their leaders are being made the subject of scorn, while at the same time the seizure of power by the people at the turning point of history is being advocated.

Activities of this nature are approved only by the least intelligent among the workmen, but they nevertheless prepare the ground for the seizure of leadership over the masses by the "K" (Communist) leaders.

Continued forecasting of the Red Army's march into Poland causes many labor leaders to forebear any overt opposition to such "K" (Communist) propaganda activities, because of fear of Soviet-Communist terrorist reprisals in the future.

There are also frequent instances of sympathizing with the "K" (Communism) for the purpose of securing safety in the event of the Soviet army, marching in and of the PPR seizing power.

In rural districts the "K" (Communists) stirs up not only the antagonism of the peasantry against the owners of estates, but also against the entire self-government and cooperative machinery, as well as against the Polish administrative personnel, which is very frequently the object of hatred on the part of the peasants.

Any and all incidents of abuse, corruption and servility to the invaders, are being used to good advantage by the "K" (Communists) for exacerbating conflicts in the social field.

The steady trends towards a radical distribution of land and the hardship of peasants evicted from holdings which were incorporated into the landed estates administered either by Germans or Polish managers, are being exploited by the "K"

(Communists) for their purposes.

Conditions rendering life chaotic, as well as radical trends permeating the masses of the people, produce sentiments and moods closely related to Communistic notions.

The radicalism herein described is saturated with patriotism to be sure, but the convergence of slogans as to the method of achieving the objective, reduces the resistance of said radicalism to the influences of the "K" (Communism), which strives hard to organize or to direct it.

To this end the methods and tactics were amended, so as to make use of the PPR's patriotic slogans for the purpose of gaining control over this spontaneous social trend, which - while not articulated - possesses nevertheless a considerable potential force.

Similar communistic moods exist in the several "ghettos" and the intensity of the symptoms grows proportionately to the increase of the distress. These moods obtaining in the "ghettos" did not, as yet, produce any results insofar as organization is concerned, but the prospect of "K" (Communist) propaganda having an assured success among the Jews, must be reckoned with.

III. Parachute and Guerilla Activities.

1) Origin

The eastern counties of the Province of Lublin constitute

for quite some time past the theatre of Bolshevist guerilla and propaganda activity sui generis, the intensity of said activity being continually on the increase.

The principal manifestation of the activity in point has been the existence in the forests of that region of numerically strong and for the most part armed bands of semi-military character.

The formation of these bands is closely linked to the vast camps of Bolshevist war prisoners, which were established throughout this region in the autumn of 1941.

The monstrously brutal treatment of these prisoners caused mass desertions and the accumulation of bands of deserters in the neighboring forests.

At the same time and as early as the autumn of 1941 small detachments, having the character of military cadres and originating from parachutists dropped from airplanes, began to make their appearance in this region.

In the spring of 1942 both the frequency and the number of parachutists increased considerably.

Their task was to form adequate cadres, to bring in supplies and assemble dispersed material held by the escaped prisoners, to enlist the support of the native population and to give to the action, as a whole, the stamp of a planned undertaking on a large scale.

All these objectives have been accomplished to a con-

siderable degree. An important factor facilitating the task was the ever-increasing hatred of the Polish and Ukrainian population for the German authorities, as well as the short-sighted reprisals on the part of the occupants directed primarily against the local population.

The conclusion of it all was the coming into being of a now sizeable "forest army", which causes no end of trouble to the local German administrative authorities and which, at the same time, symbolizes, as it were, the assuming of protection over Polish territory by Bolshevist-Russian elements, giving rise to far-reaching apprehensions from the Polish point of view.

A characteristic moment is the selection of the region with a mixed population (the Province of Lublin, Polesie, the country around Wilno and Bialystok, Volhynia), for a theatre of parachutist operations, since it greatly reduces the value of counter-measures on the part of the Poles. Equally characteristic is the avoiding, up to the present, of eastern Galicia in view of the nationalistic trends of the local Ukrainian masses of the population.

2) Organization of the Guerilla Bands.

Insofar as the territory of the General-Government is concerned, the guerilla bands endeavor to operate in the entire border strip along the river Bug, as well as in the southern sector of the Province of Lublin. The guerilla operations cover in particular the counties of: Hrubieszów, Zamość, Chelm, Tomaszów,

Bilgoraj, Krasnostaw, Wlodawa, Radzyń and Biala.

The numerical strength of the bands could not be determined because their shifting from locality to locality is greatly confusing.

The frequency of the appearances of these bands on the left bank of the river Bug and in the country around Wilno and Bialystok is, however, an undisputable fact.

It is no exaggeration to state that nearly all of the forests of the western Bug region are being occupied by bands, remaining in the same spot for several weeks and even months on end and withdrawing only during local razzias undertaken by relatively large bodies of German troops.

At the close of May and through June of this year, the numerical strength of the several bands has been steadily growing and so did the intensity of their operations, which extended to include the counties situated farther to the west and containing purely Polish localities (the environs of Lublin, Parczew, Milejów, etc.)

The number of guerillas throughout Poland reaches nearly twenty thousand, of which more than 5,600 men operate in the province of Lublin alone.

The bands are augmented by the local population, which seeks refuge in the forests from the terrorism of the invaders.

The guerilla bands operate in not overly large compact military detachments, numbering a score or several scores of men, commanded by officers.

Some of the detachments number more than a hundred men.

The backbone of the guerillas, however, consists of Soviet parachutists who direct the operations, whereas the personnel of the bands consist of:

1. Soviet war prisoners, who escaped from camps; now and then Ukrainians released from camps are to be found;

2. Communist elements of sundry nationalities, who are hiding for fear of imprisonment and individuals sought by the Gestapo;

3. Local inhabitants, mostly peasants, who fled from repressions and conscription for forced labor in the Reich, or who deserted from construction labor camps. Occasionally deserters from the German Army are to be found as well.

The chaotic conditions resulting from the operations of the guerilla bands enable criminal elements to infiltrate themselves among the guerillas or else to form bandit gangs, which operate independently.

The guerillas possess by and large a good armament. In addition to regular and automatic rifles, they have heavy machine guns and even anti-tank guns and motorcycles.

There was an incident of an abandoned tank having been put back into running order.

The armament is of diverse types and its origin is hard to ascertain. In addition to Polish arms and ammunition from supplies hidden by the population, the guerilla bands are also being equipped with air-borne supplies.

3) Tactics of the Operations

Neither the behavior nor the activities of the bands justify their using the name of guerilla detachments.

The majority of their operations is limited to wiping out small gendarmerie posts, to attacks on lone Germans and to small acts of sabotage.

Stress should be laid on the contrary on the absence, insofar as Polish territory is concerned, of attempts at military sabotage, particularly in the field where such acts could be of considerable importance, namely through damaging the lines of communication.

On none of the more important railway lines, as for instance the line Lublin-Dorohusk, over which military transports are running regularly and which traverse regions teeming with guerilla bands, have there been up to now any serious attempts at disrupting communications, destroying of tracks, bridges, etc.

The more intelligent among the band commanders explain this fact, somewhat shamefacedly, with time not being ripe as yet for openly opposing the Germans and aver that real guerilla warfare would begin after orders to that effect shall have been received and when their numerical strength shall have grown in the given region, etc.

In their talks with the local population, the guerillas claim that, according to instructions they are supposed to have received, their number would be increased to 200,000 and

that they hoped to enlist an equal number from among the inhabitants of the region.

The intention behind the spreading of these rumors is to convince the local population of the impending rule of the Soviet Army over Polish territory.

At the present time parachutist and guerilla operations are aiming at influencing the population to organize a sort of an autochthonous Soviet Government, which would take the control over the entire region into its hands. To further this end, the guerilla bands ostentatiously show themselves on the highways and in the villages, prohibit giving obedience to orders issued by German authorities, control the comings and goings of the population by examining documents, issuing permits for unhindered travel or for performing certain specified functions, etc.

All this officiousness on the part of the guerilla bands and their methods of procedure bespeak much more clearly their solicitude for preparing the ground for a future propaganda and political Soviet activity directed in actual practice against the Polish authorities, than for engaging at the present time in any active military operations against the Germans.

The part played at the moment by these guerilla bands could best be explained by the fact that their instructions do not emanate from Soviet military authorities, but from the

Komintern, a body not geared for the actual conduct of things military, but for preparing the ground for the coming Soviet activity in post-War Europe.

This hypothesis is substantiated by their attitude toward the Polish population. By and large the relationship is correct and characterized by ostentatious cordiality towards the Polish people, while by way of contrast the Ukrainians are being blamed because of their cooperation with the Germans.

In their contacts with Poles, the guerillas make efforts to engage in political discussions, during which they make use of arguments and slogans identical with those employed by the PPR propaganda.

They refer to the Polish-Soviet alliance, urge the Poles to render active assistance to the guerillas, who are their allies, fighting for Poland's freedom. They criticize all Polish pre-War governments and the corps of officers, attributing Poland's military defeat in 1939 to the fact, that the Polish people were being deceived and held in bondage by the ruling classes, which after the War should not be permitted to come back again to power.

They praise the system and social conditions in the U.S.S.R., stir up social antagonisms and exploit any and all instances of abuses and of cooperation with the Germans.

Instances of beatings administered to Polish functionaries, for executing orders causing economic hardships to villagers (for instance in re quotas of agricultural products)

and similar acts of interventions are calculated to secure for themselves the reputation of being the peasantry's champions.

The antagonism between the peasantry on the one hand and the manor and the parsonage on the other hand, is being nurtured along, not only by propaganda, but by actions of predatory and requisitionary nature.

At first such actions had the character of military requisitions, but of late the purely predatory element is coming more and more to the fore.

The example set by the guerillas influences the peasants, who - hiding in the woods and lacking both food and money - attack manors, parsonages, town-halls, well-to-do homesteaders, etc.

This is an indirect result of the guerilla activities, which brought about repressions by Germans and compelled the fugitive inhabitants to engage in banditry.

The phenomenon of banditry must be ascribed to a certain extent to the activities of an ever-increasing number of bands of criminals, who at times pose as guerilla detachments.

IV. German Counter-measures.

At first the German authorities displayed a great deal of helplessness. Official trips were being curtailed to a minimum and gendarmerie posts were stationed along the highways which they patrolled in daytime only, showing no initiative

whatever in dealing with the guerillas. Only lately was there any organized terroristic and repressive action undertaken, primarily against the local population suspected of sympathizing with the Bolshevists. Such action assumes the character of punitive expeditions against individual localities, in which - as a rule - a number of homesteads are being set on fire and a few scores of people shot.

Farm employees are also in dire danger of repressive measures. There were many instances of farm help being taken to concentration camps and of not enough hands being left to take care of the stock.

Mass repressions produce panics and escapes to forests, thereby furnishing new recruits for the guerilla bands.

In addition to the repressive measures applied to the population, there is also an action of a military nature being taken against the Bolshevists themselves. For purposes of this action, posts of the gendarmerie and of the Polish police (dark blue police) have been increased in number and in strength.

At times the Germans are using tanks and airplanes for covering difficult ground.

The local Polish and Ukrainian population is being pressed into service when razzias are made against the guerillas.

The German gendarmerie displays a great distrust of the units of Ukrainian volunteers which some time ago were being recruited in the camps housing Bolshevik war prisoners.

Protective battallions (Schutzmannschaftsbataillone) are being formed from among the Polish inhabitants and the volunteers recruited for these units are being given to understand that they shall be used in the future for service in the eastern territories.

The Polish Police remains under the command of the German gendarmerie.

In connection with the intended liquidation of the Bolshevist bands, handbills were distributed, calling upon the population to report, under penalty of death, any and all information concerning the guerillas, to the German authorities.

An armed militia was formed from Ukrainians and White Russians.

In some sections of the country a permanent police guard was placed on church steeples and fire towers.

All of these activities failed thus far to be productive of any important results. The Soviet bands have reliable advance information on preparations for razzias and shift their camping spots in time to avoid being surprised.

Regular battles have been fought in some localities, without the country having anywhere been successfully swept clean of the guerillas. They continue to operate and are being replenished with parachutists, with instructors trained by the PPR and with local civilians seeking refuge in the forests.

V. Reaction of the Polish Social Body.

Political opinion condemns unanimously Soviet activities on Polish territory, but the attitude of the masses toward the PPR and the parachutist and guerilla activities is not uniform.

Generally speaking, guerilla activities, bearing a military stamp, meet much more easily with a favorable reception than propagandist and political operations of the PPR, because the people are fundamentally hostile to Communism.

Military guerilla activities undertaken against the Germans, arouse the people from an attitude of passive expectancy and releases the feeling of hatred for the invader. The slogan of forthwith waging war on the Germans finds a receptive ear among the younger, politically inexperienced elements. The older generation, hearing of the German repressive measures and aimless premature sacrifices of human lives, distrusts and fears the U.S.S.R.

Soviet activities, however, are helped along by the policy of the invaders, whose blind terrorism applied to a peaceful population, disturbs the thinking process of even the most prudent individuals.

The favoritism shown to estate owners, the oppression of the peasantry, an economic system facilitating excessive gains, exploitation and enrichment of producers, while at the same time the wage, scale of workmen and laborers is kept at a starvation level, intensify the nationalistic antagonisms.

In this way a fertile ground is being prepared for a demagogic propaganda.

Bolshevist sympathies are being held by the land-less, the land-poor, the farm employees and by urban radical labor and middle class elements.

The rank and file of the peasantry and the population of small towns, while holding no sympathies for the guerillas, are submissive to them for fear of terroristic reprisals.

As the result of such conditions, estate owners escape wholesale from the regions infested by Soviet activities. Victims of these conditions are also the clergy, the teachers and the officialdom.

VI. Appraisal of the Situation and Conclusions.

Soviet parachutist activities in Poland, combined with political activities engaged in by the PPR, constitute a two-track action -- each of said tracks being complementary to the other - conducted by the "K" (Communists).

This interconnection may be seen in the propaganda, the methods, the practices and the cooperation in organizing activities, such as for instance the supplying military instructors and propagandists, drafted from among the membership of the PPR, to the guerilla bands.

The absence of any and all initiative, insofar as guerilla activities are concerned and the uniformity of behavior on the part of not only all the scattered guerilla bands, but also on the part of the newly-arriving Soviet parachutists, is indicative

of their acting under uniform instructions emanating from one and the same directing center, which regulates their activities and diverts the latter into political channels.

The Soviet-Communist action, taking advantage of the patriotism and of radical trends, contributes to making Polish life still more chaotic and works on the masses over which it is gradually assuming control.

The conditions as they exist in the Province of Lublin, constitute an ominous warning.

The substantial number of Polish lives which have been sacrificed, stands in no proportion to the negligible military results of the guerilla activities.

The Soviet action threatens to wrest the initiative in directing public opinion from Polish hands, since it systematically discredits the Polish Government in London and the influential Polish circles in Poland, which recommended waiting for orders.

At the moment, the Soviet action constitutes only a local peril, but should Polish territory continue being saturated with Soviet parachutists, the Polish people may some day face a hopeless situation.

Things may come to such a pass, that the population may be drawn wholesale into an active movement directed by alien, Communist elements.

By way of conclusions drawn from the foregoing review of the situation obtaining in Poland, the following suggestions

are submitted:

(1) It is essential to make another démarche, demanding from the U.S.S.R. Government to live up loyally to the terms of the Polish-Soviet pact, which means that Soviet Russia should not undertake any actions in Poland and should not further stir up the already smouldering guerilla operations;

(2) It should be demanded that any further landings of parachutists on Polish territory be discontinued and that parachutist activities be shifted to U.S.S.R. territories, in which no guerilla operations are taking place;

(3) In return, the Bolshevists might be asked to present their demands, which would then be complied with by the Polish Armed Forces in Poland in the same manner as the gathering of military intelligence;

(4) It would be essential once more to issue a radio broadcast to the Polish people, exhorting them to obey the Polish authorities in Poland and to join the struggle only upon receiving pertinent orders from Polish sources.

I beg to report that if matters were given the course, as outlined above, I would take it upon myself to start an intensified sabotage and guerilla activity on Polish territory and also guerilla operations in the east, beginning with the autumn of the current year, after the fashion of the operations now conducted by Wachlarz (Fan).

APPENDIX NO. I

Radio Bulletin.

"Broadcast of the Polish Tadeusz Kościuszko Station."

"....Soviet victories and the reverses suffered by Hitler's bands give rise to hopes that the year 1942 will be the year of the invader's defeat. One might think that we should remain idle and watch the soldiers of the Red Army fight for their and our freedom.

Freedom will not fall by itself from the sky into our lap.

Just as the entire Soviet nation fights shoulder to shoulder with the Red Army, so should we fight together with our Army.

By operating in the enemy's rear, sabotaging production, conducting guerilla warfare, destroying stores and transports, we must weaken the enemy and in the end rise in arms and jointly with our Allies drive out the foe".

"Tribune of Freedom" - Issue No. 4.

"....Sabotage and guerilla warfare are the weapons with which we must, even today, strike at the foe. These weapons constitute the very foundation of the struggle from which a nationwide rising will unavoidably spring forth, like a mighty flame.

We are drifting towards an armed insurrection".

"Tribune of Freedom" - Issue No. 6.

"The youth in the van.

....We have learned to think soberly. Stop talking about what would have happened if Do not make us get weaker and lazy. There is an enemy abroad in the land destroying it and sapping our strength. Tell us how to fight this enemy, now, today....

Our struggle, workers of Poland, makes the hour of freedom draw nearer".

"The Second Slav Congress" issued an appeal, which reads, as follows:

"Brother Slavs! The hour has struck. All Slavs must join in the struggle for freedom". Further on the appeal recommends resorting to sabotage and guerilla warfare, as well as to armed insurrection in the rear of the German Army.

"The main transport routes run through Poland. Destroy bridges, derail railroad trains. Slavs, kindle the flame of the People's War... The hour has struck..... To arms!"

"Tribune of Freedom" - Issue No. 7.

"This year must bring us the end of slavery and also victory. You shall see it come to pass, when the Allies will have coordinated their efforts, when the soldier at the front and the saboteur and guerilla in the rear, will rush at the enemy with fury, with courage and without fear.

May 1, 1942, is the symbol and the day of a national fight for liberation.

The tocsin sounded on May 1 is: "To arms! For Freedom and independence! This is the signal to attack, this is the spark to set off the blast. The explosion will wipe out the tyrants."

"The road leading out of slavery". It leads through active combat against the invader, today, jointly with the entire nation in one solid powerful anti-Hitler block, on all fronts at once, it leads through sabotage and guerilla warfare to an armed insurrection and to the re-establishment of a free and independent Poland. The conviction of this road, pointed out by the PPR being the right one, keeps on penetrating deeper and deeper into the masses of the people. The imperative of active warfare is being recognized by those sympathizing with sundry groups and organizations. It is the road chosen by the youth of the Lublin Province, who en masse are joining the guerilla bands, by the peasantry of the Radom country, who are offering active resistance to spoliation, through quota requisitions, by the avengers from Nowogródek.

The paramount dictate of this momentous hour of history is the establishment of a widest possible front of active combat.

"We had enough of degrading submissiveness"-

The first reflexes of an armed action on the part of the

Jewry against Hitler's bloody executioners at Nowogródek, met with warm sympathy on the part of fighting Poland. All the methods of combat, employed by the Poles, are open to us as well. Organize self-defense squads, farm combat organizations for waging war on the foe, escape into the forest, to take part in guerilla operations.

Jewish youth! Your place is in the fighting ranks!

Radio Bulletin.

"Enough of waiting. Let us congregate in front of German stores. Let us demand bread, soap and medical assistance for our children... The Germans are massing for an offensive in the spring. The entire Polish nation must impede their plans. Polish guerilla warfare must include huge masses of the people. The guerilla, bands should be linked to each other and to the detachments operating in occupied Soviet territories by organization ties... The time for struggle has come!"

"Tribune of Freedom" - Issue No. 6.

The article on the independent character of the movement refutes the allegation that the PPR was a foreign organization. It goes on explaining that the foundation of the PPR's activities is "the struggle for a strong, independent Poland and a movement aiming at the liberation of the working class. Foreign

agents are those who advocate the British type of struggle based on waiting. We know what such type of struggle means: it is just waiting and procrastinating, while others are bleeding to death, prolonging the war till 1945, at the expense of the conquered peoples... Such method runs counter to the best interests of Poland and for this reason we oppose it and shall continue to oppose it. The masses of the Polish people want a policy of their own. They see in a ruthless struggle against the invaders their own way of gaining freedom and for these reasons they turn their backs on the schemers".

"Tribune of Freedom" - Issue No. 7.

"Review of the fighting strength" - Poland will be independent because she will be following a line of Polish policy, in brotherly alliance with other nations and with the Soviet Union. How wretchedly look, compared with these great objectives, aims and accomplishments, the impotent attacks on the PPR, emanating from individuals belonging to a past era, who long for the return of the old conditions, from small minds, who learned nothing from the upheaval of war. Momentous revolutionary eras always bring to the fore men, who are strong of spirit and determined, while cowards and traitors are being pushed aside".

"Our attitude towards General Sikorski's government" -
Statement by the PPR.

"The existence of the Polish Government in exile must, in view of the existing conditions, to wit, loss of independence and the World War, be considered as opportune, primarily for the purpose of maintaining relations with the allied countries and of developing Poland's armed forces. In these fields General Sikorski's Government can undoubtedly show tangible results, such as some of the International Treaties it entered into, as well as the organizing of Polish Armies in the U.S.S.R., in England and in Canada.

From the very moment of its inception, the PPR has been consistently striving to bring into being a united national front for fighting Hitler's invading hordes and it stands prepared to cooperate with anyone, who sincerely wants to fight the enemy. Proceeding from this assumption, the PPR supports the Polish Government's efforts along these lines. We feel compelled, however, definitely to disapprove of those moves made by the Polish Government, in the course of the last few months (excluding the period until July, 1941), which proceeded along the lines of supporting the so-called English type of waging war, which consists in passive waiting and postponing the showdown with Hitlerism till 1944/1945, in urging the Polish people in Poland to offer passive resistance and in delaying the mobilization of the Polish Army in the U.S.S.R.

Inane discussions about future boundary lines will not

contribute to the enhancing of the Polish Government's authority".

"Peasants' Tribune" - Issue No. 2.

The article on interior fronts takes issue with the idea of waiting for an Allied victory and of shifting the burden of the struggle exclusively onto the shoulders of the U.S.S.R. and of the Red army. "It is essential that a second front be established in the West.....It is time to throw into the discard any and all naive idle fancies and speculative notions; it is time to get rid at last of that idiotic and blinding fear of the East, which once before had led our nation into a fatal misfortune. It is essential to discard any and all idle fancies and speculative notions, which lull the nation to sleep and paralyze its eagerness to fight".

In the press the PPR restricts the discussion of morale problems to fragmentary hints and slogans, somewhat like the following: "A voice, expressing the indomitable will and decision of the Polish people, resounds loudly and peremptorily throughout the length and breadth of Poland. You will not succeed, you bankers and owners of large estates, to make of independent Poland a manor of your own, as you did before. Independent Poland shall be the homeland of the people as a whole, of workers, peasants and the intelligent class. Poland shall be strong, because she will base herself on the widest

possible masses of the people. Poland shall be independent, because she will follow the lines of Polish policy in a brotherly alliance with the Soviet Union and with other nations. Poland shall be free, because the power shall rest with the working people, who will abolish oppression of the individual, once they succeeded in crushing the very fetters that bind them".

"Tribune of Freedom" - Issue No. 11.

Ever since its inception, the PPR has been striving to establish a united front for a national struggle against the invaders and to begin active, armed hostilities forthwith. The pact of alliance and cooperation, concluded between Great Britain and the Soviet Union, gives support to our endeavors. Today, when the hour for mobilizing all of our forces for an active, armed warfare has struck, the pact in question constitutes for those, who have been fighting a token of approval and encouragement, whereas for those who have been waiting up to now, it is a call to arms. The time for a fight to a finish has arrived. Accordingly, wherever the news of this historically momentous pact shall produce a deep feeling of courage and hope, there must also be taken the firm resolution: I am going to the front! We shall win both a victory and liberation in 1942.... The possibilities and conditions of warfare, discussed as to their sundry aspects, are producing a situation, due to which the basic slogans and orders issued for the country at large must be specifically adapted to fit the sundry regions individually. Hence, the necessity for local committees, which

would combine all those waging war on the invaders. The objective of such committees of national struggle would be to organize and conduct warlike operations in that term's widest meaning. Such committees would have to establish an intelligence service, for gathering information on the really existing situation, both political and military. Such national warfare committees should become active in improving conditions and in preparing political strikes. Since the enemy closed the schools, the necessity arises for providing underground schooling and self-education facilities. Support of sabotaging and guerilla activities constitutes the chief task of such committees, and so does the organizing and supporting of active warfare and of self-defense, both active and passive. The committees would constitute a Polish authority, which would work to thwart the German officialdom in towns, counties and provinces. The appointment of Polish chiefs of local subdivisions of government, who in gala attire would wait under cover "for Poland to erupt", would be, of course, nonsensical. Only committees of the afore-described type could possibly stir up the entire nation to enter the struggle. And they also would know how to weld the nation together much better than any and all combines among political organizations. As soon as the administrative machinery of the invaders breaks down, the committees in question should take charge of maintaining order, counteract anarchy and proceed forthwith with organizing legally constituted Polish authorities.

Only by shifting, through the intermediate stage of guerilla warfare, from passive resistance to an organized mass attack on the enemy, can the downfall of the oppressor be accelerated and the hour of deliverance brought nearer. Socially reactionary elements are desperately clinging to the slogan of passive resistance, so as to postpone a showdown with the enemy till some unknown future time. This renders difficult the formation of a nation-wide battle front and by conjuring up the spectre of terrorism urges endurance, as if it were at all possible to win the War by endurance alone.

The masses of the people, however, are no longer willing to wait and passively to witness the murders perpetrated by the invaders. The exhortations that the people at large should confine themselves to passive resistance only, are but a cloak, under which is hidden a kernel of class struggle, namely the fear of the new Poland re-established by the people themselves. These exhortations, however, are unable to stem the daily swelling tide of guerilla and sabotage activities, they are powerless to hold the Poles back from an active, immediate and organized struggle against the invaders."

September 25, 1942

SITUATION IN THE GENERAL-GOVERNMENT

A. German policy in the General-Government becomes increasingly ruthless. Actual power is passing more and more into the hands of the Chief of Police, Kruger, who is directly subordinated to Himmler. Himmler's instructions dating from July, but disclosed only now, forecast that once the Jews are liquidated, a final breaking-down drive against the Polish nation would set in, threatening the destruction of the intelligent classes and of the active elements of the population.

Early in August, while giving final instructions to the assembled Gauleiter, Goering reproached Frank for not having sufficiently exploited the General-Government for the benefit of the Reich's needs. By way of carrying out Goering's instructions, the following measures are now being executed:

1. A mass draft of labor to be used in the Reich is being made. Five percent of the population is to be conscripted,
2. Preparations are being made for resettling all the Poles from Cracow and for locating the Polish middle classes of Warsaw in the Ghetto area after the Jews were disposed of,
3. The functioning of organizations is being restricted and they are all threatened with liquidation. A spokesman for the government of the General-Government stated to one of the leading representatives of Polish charitable

institutions, that at the behest of Berlin a most severe procedure will be applied, which shall submerge Poland in a sea of blood,

4. Preparations are also being made for forcing the Poles out of commercial, industrial and handicraft pursuits. The issuing of industrial licenses has been prohibited,

5. One of the provincial Labor Bureaus (Arbeitsamt) managers disclosed the fact of preparations being under way for drafting 100,000 young people above the age of 14 for deportation to the Reich. After having undergone a process of Germanization in Germany, they are to be returned to Poland to serve as tools for the Germanization of the country.

B. The collection of the quotas of agricultural products has been made considerably more rigid and the quotas increased. Beginning with August 1, a state of extraordinary emergency has been declared for the duration of the harvest season, during which all transgressions are being punished by death. Wholesale hanging of peasants is going on.

Over and above the quotas hitherto in force, the General-Government has to provide for the increased needs of the Reich. For this purpose 30% of the cattle in the General-Government was destined for slaughter.

CAMPS IN POLAND¹

1. Segregation camps.- These are camps to which prisoners are sent on their way to a concentration camp. They are kept there under terrible conditions and their stay varies from several days to several weeks. Both men and women are kept in the same camps. One of the most typical of these camps is that of Dzialdowe to which deportees from the Pleck and Ciechanow areas were sent. There are other camps in the Głowna district of Poznan, in the Radogeszcz district, the Gilksman and Abbe factories in Lodz, and in Sosnowiec. All these camps are the same. Accommodation is unheated and consists of wooden sheds or factory buildings without glass in the windows. The food is bad, hygienic conditions are terrible, and prisoners are subjected to the most brutal treatment at the hands of the prison guards. As a result, infectious disease and illness caused by this treatment, cold and exposure are rife. People die in great numbers, children and the aged being the chief victims.

2. Concentration Camps.- Up to the present concentration camps have proved the most effective means of killing and terrorizing the Poles. A great deal of space should, therefore, be devoted to them. These camps, with the exception of

1. Reports from Poland, received in London in July, 1942.

Oswiecim, are all situated far in the interior of the Reich. There are separate camps for men and separate camps for women. Space does not permit us here to give a detailed list of them. The largest and best known camps for Polish men are: Dachau, near Munich; Mathausen and the adjoining camp of Gusen especially for Poles near Linz, Austria; Oranienburg known as Sachsenhausen near Berlin; Oswiecim (Auserwitz) near Biala in the Cracow region, intended originally for Poles from General Governement, Silesia and Hamburg; and Neuengamme near Hamburg. The concentration camp for women is at Ravensbrueck near Furstenberg in Mecklenburg. The large camps such as Dachau, Oranienburg, Mathausen, and Oswiecim, can accomodate as many as 12,000 or even more prisoners, while Ravensbrueck holds 3,000.

The camps are spread over a large area and are surrounded by a high wall and three barbed wire fences. The central fence is charged with electric current. About 100 - 150 meters apart, between the fences and the wall, are small wooden towers, equipped with machine guns and manned by camp guards. In the night, searchlights are turned from these towers onto the camp and the surrounding district to make escape impossible.

The camps are self-supporting. In addition to the prisoners huts, there are barracks for the S.S. men (the camp guards), offices, a camp hospital, workshops, stores, and a crematorium. Oswiecim also has its own large farm.

The prisoners are housed in sheds. Every shed is called a block. Usually, a block of this kind holds 200 prisoners and consists of two wings, stube A and B. Each wing consists of a sleeping room and eating room. The bathrooms and lavatories have to serve for both wings. The sleeping room is equipped with two or three-tier bunks, each provided with a straw mattress, a sheet, pillow and blanket. Every morning the beds have to be made and left in perfect order. A badly made bed is a pretext for torturing the prisoners, who are sometimes punished by the "Post" for this offence. In the eating room there is a stove, but the sleeping rooms are not heated even during the worst frosts. The blocks are separated from each other by wire netting.

However, not all blocks are the same. In Gusen, for example, there is one large hall, which has to serve as a sleeping and eating room; in addition to this there is a so-called block-room or "Stube" room. The bathroom and lavatories are situated a distance away from the block, in a separate building. The sheds are made of wood and built very badly. They are held together with staves and bricks. They are all hopelessly overcrowded. Some prisoners have beds, but many have to sleep on the floor.

The overcrowding is even worse in Oswiecim. Here the camp has been set up in totally unsuitable buildings - in former Austrian barracks at present consisting of twenty odd brick buildings. Each floor is called "a block" by the Germans. In most of the camps the prisoners are made to sleep on the floor only during their first two weeks in the camp - the so-called quarantine period - after which they are transferred to another block where they are given a bed.

In Oswiecim the prisoners are forced to sleep on the floor all the time. Owing to overcrowded conditions two prisoners are made to share one mattress. When the number of prisoners increases, conditions become even worse and prisoners are compelled to sleep lying on one side so as to save space. Owing to the excessive quantity of liquids given to the prisoners in their food, together with certain herbs - the latter given as a substitute for tea - they are forced to get up several times during the night. Older people suffer even more than younger ones. The administrative officers and the guards are all S.S. men of whom there are 600 in Oswiecim. The average age of these men is from 18 to 24.

The men put in charge of the prisoners are specially chosen from among German criminals who were serving their sentences in these camps, but sometimes political prisoners

(Communists) are also kept there as guards. The direct chief in the "Lageraltester", one of the earliest prisoners of a character that makes him suitable in the eyes of the S.S. for this job. He is assisted by block-chiefs (Blockaltester) and room-chiefs (Stubenaltester), block-clerks (Schreiber) and block-hairdresser.

At their work the prisoners are supervised by Germans, but very often also by fellow prisoners (criminal and political) who have some particular knowledge of the job to be done. Every work supervisor ("Capo") has 100 prisoners assigned to him. The supervisors and the "Capo" enjoy some privileges: they do not work personally, they have enough to eat, and, although they are beaten by the camp sentries just as other prisoners are, they have unlimited power to beat and maltreat those prisoners under them. In order to keep their privileged position they use their power to the fullest measure.

The "Capo" first used simple sticks but these have been replaced by rubber sticks because the former caused the flesh to fall off the bones.

The internees belong to different nationalities and different social classes. There are intellectuals professing all kinds of principles, there are peasants, trades men and factory workers. The average age is between 25 and 45 years but there are old men over 60 and hundreds of boys under 18 and even boys of 12.

The official name of an internee is: Schutzhaftling. It designates a man deprived of liberty so that he commits no more crimes; in other words the concentration camp is principally a preventive prison. Poles, whose offences have not been proved or not even attempted to be proved, were sent to those camps. Most of them have been sent there either from a prison, without any trial, or examination, or even directly after having been caught in a police raid. Poles are usually treated as political prisoners; they are forced to wear a badge sewn on their left breast and formed by a triangle of red cloth.

Prisoners are brought to the camp in railway trucks; the journey often taken two days during which they get nothing to eat.

Upon arrival at their destination the prisoners are taken over by the camp guards. The ceremony of taking them into custody is deliberately staged so as to be most terrifying; shots are fired at the trucks; the prisoners are put out or rather thrown out violently; and they are beaten and kicked. At night a wild inhuman howling can be heard, and dazzling beams of searchlights are suddenly flashed onto the faces of the prisoners.

Elderly and weak prisoners who are late because they were unable to get out as quickly as the others, have to run to

catch up with the transport; especially trained dogs are used to hurry them on. Very often, in _____ all prisoners were ordered to run from the station to the camp. Those who fell down from exhaustion were killed on the spot. After arriving at the camp, prisoners are made to attend a roll call lasting for several hours, out-of-doors, while the guards jeer, torment and beat the prisoners, at the same time firing their revolvers into the air. The Commander of the camp takes this opportunity of addressing the prisoners in a bullying and hectoring manner.

The prisoners are then registered. Their clothes, money and all articles of value are taken from them; they are put under a shower and the hair removed from their heads and other parts of the body. They are made to put on prisoner's dress. In some camps they are photographed.

From 4 to 6 weeks after arrival at the camp the prisoners are kept in a separate block as a sort of quarantine. This period is said to be worst of all. It is true that prisoners are not made to work during this time but the camp guards and overseers consider it their duty to get prisoners into training for what they can expect later on in the camp. They are made to do difficult exercises for hours on end.

Upon arrival the prisoners receive old Austrian or German uniforms which often do not fit them at all. These uniforms have stripes painted on them. With the uniforms prison caps are worn. After a certain time they are given the camp

uniform consisting of a sort of pyjama jacket and trousers in striped material.

Summer clothing is made of thick cloth and their winter clothes are made of an ersatz material of nettles and a little wool. In addition to this prisoners are given gloves with only the thumb separate, and for going out of the camp a coat of the same material as their clothing. In Oswiecim coats were only issued after December 1, 1940. Clothes are usually passed on from one prisoner to another. They are torn and patched and the same applies to shoes and slippers. Some of the prisoners wear Army slippers, but the majority, however, are forced to go about in wooden clogs or in sandals with wooden soles, which are exceedingly uncomfortable. In theory the prisoners' clothing should be changed once a fortnight, but in practice it is only changed once a month or even once every two months. In the summer all the prisoners at Oswiecim were forced to walk barefoot in the camp yard, which was covered with hard gravel. As a result the majority of them suffered from poisoned feet.

...The food varies - sometimes it is good and sometimes it is bad. In the summer of 1940 it was extremely bad. In the autumn it improved, while in the winter it got worse again. For example, the soup was entirely without fat. In January, 1941 it was again a little better. In the summer

conditions were so bad that prisoners were reduced to searching rubbish bins for food. In winter they had to eat potato peelings mixed with the water previously used for washing up the dishes. On the whole the soups were quite eatable; they sometimes had pieces of meat in them.

On Sunday the prisoners received soup with noodles. Those doing heavy work receive 1 kilogram of bread three times a week. In the spring of 1941 the portion of bread was increased to 500 grams a day and for breakfast they were given the same additions as for supper. The food was not sufficient for those doing not too heavy work but quite insufficient for those doing heavy work in concentration camps. Undernourishment is causing a terrible exhaustion and anemia; lack of vitamins causing scurvy; wounds are full of pus and do not heal for months.

Prisoners get up between 4 - 6 a.m. according to the season of the year. After this there is bed-making, washing, dressing, breakfast, rally in front of the block, parade for a half hour - this is compulsory for all prisoners (even those dying are brought to the place); during parade all have to keep their heads uncovered; then the marching column of fives is formed, and under the command of a "Capo" all march to work. Working hours are from 7 till 6 p.m. (in winter from 8 to 5 p.m.) with a break for lunch, so that the working day comprises 9 to 10 hours and in winter 8 hours. On Sundays

work is done only in the forenoon. Prisoners under 17 work only in the forenoon with no work on Sundays.

Before lunch there is a half-hour's parade; the same before dinner. For the rest of the day the prisoners are, in principle, free. In summer all must be in their beds at 8:30 p.m., in winter at 7:45 p.m.

The hygienic conditions vary; in general, they are very bad. Where water pipes and sanitary arrangements exist cleanliness can be kept rather more easily; but where the water supply is insufficient (in Oswiecim there were two wells for the whole camp) conditions are much worse. The dishes have to be washed even with filthy water or else a terrible beating awaits the culprit. It often happens that the same water is used for washing by several prisoners even if they are affected by contagious skin diseases. That is why many prisoners only pretend to have a wash because they are afraid of catching some disease. Theoretically every prisoner is entitled to a warm shower once a week but in practice this is possible only once a month. Soap is nonexistent in all camps. It is, therefore, rather easy to catch a disease or lice or other vermin. There was a time in Gusen when 80% of the inmates were suffering from scabies but nothing was done against it. There was a lack of medicines. In Oswiecim conditions were not better.

We have already spoken about the results of bad food. Most common of all are cases of boils due to great exhaustion of the body and infection of even smallest wounds. Attempts to cure wounds oneself are regarded as sabotage. The most popular method is cutting without the application of anesthetics, which is often unnecessary. Wound dressings are against all the rules of hygiene, without any disinfection of instruments, hands, and even of the wounds. Three or four of the medical personnel, during the course of one or two hours, attend to sometimes as many as 500 cases, treating them like cattle. Paper bandages are completely useless, being torn in three or four minutes. Medicines, except aspirin and dressing materials, are completely lacking. A prisoner is only allowed to go to the doctor when his temperature is not less than 101 degrees. Fainting during the roll-call, physical exercise, or labor is not sufficient cause to receive medical attention. By the way it is very difficult to receive medical attention. The most common cases are of diarrhoea with internal bleeding, mostly during the summer being the cause of foul drinking water (Oswiecim) and eating raw turnips and potato peelings. The only cure for this disease is to abstain from food and drink for two days which requires a great strength of will. Further there arises a peculiar sort of diarrhoea, forms of which are so severe that the stomach

refuses to retain food for more than a quarter of an hour. Also severe diseases are caused by standing in bitter cold during the roll-calls, and washing completely undressed in the open air, and also during labor.

The extremely plain food, lacking in fats, offers no protection against cold, neither does the insufficient clothing. Tuberculosis and exanthematic typhus are spreading rapidly. Frostbite, during the winter, is extremely common, and also sores from the constant beating. The beating is so severe and constant that it causes the flesh to peel from the bones, and sets up internal boils. From lack of head-dress the prisoners suffer from boils on their heads.

The work at the camps is of various kinds. In Mathäusen most of the prisoners work in the quarries which are owned by private firms, who have agreements with the S.S. as to the supply of these white slaves. The work here is always monotonous, terribly hard and exhausting. Both young and old (from 18 to 60 years) work just the same for the same amount of work is expected from all. Those who are surly are beaten by their taskmasters, who beat them with spanners four centimeters thick. The weaker prisoners died after a few days. In Os~~w~~iecim, however, and at other camps the work is more varied; road building and house building, actually demolition

of the possessions of the evacuated civilian population in a radius of three kilometres, agricultural work, and loading of railway trucks. The most usual form of work is leveling the camp yard by means of a heavy concrete roller, the yard is covered with gravel. This type of work is chiefly done by priests and Jews. Until June, 1941, work at Oswiecim such as carting soil in wheelbarrows, had to be done on the run. In every camp there are a number of so-called trades: Fitters, tailors, shoemakers, hairdressers, medical personnel, underwear storekeepers, servants, kitchen stewards, potato peelers, etc.

In Gusen one of the hardest trades is that of the stone-carriers (Steinträger); these men carry the stones for house-building and the laying of pavements in the camp area. The most tiring is the pointless work sometimes forced on the prisoners of gathering up the mud in the drains and throwing it back again, carting heavy loads and bringing them back next day. As a general rule the work goes on regardless of weather - snowstorms, rain, frost or intense heat. The prisoners work in torn, worn out clothes and shoes. They have no means of shielding themselves, and no possibility of rest. They are often wet through and chilled to the marrow. Only the doctor's decision can exempt them from work.

In Oswiecim there is lack of proper work, but as the

time of the prisoners must be employed the Commandants order marching in circles in the camp yard, which lasts for hours causing giddiness and fainting, they organize physical exercises or teach them German songs which must be sung by the prisoners while they march.

It is permitted to write letters in German home twice a month. Prisoners are allowed to receive up to 50 RM a month. In the camps there are canteens which sell writing-paper, handcream, talc powder, Eau-de-Cologne, and other small things, sometimes even camp soup and vegetable salads. It is allowed to subscribe for daily German newspapers.

Camp regulations are very severe. The Commandants are allowed to ridicule the prisoners. In Ravensbruck the women prisoners are treated a little less familiarly - they may even call them "Madam". Prisoners are treated as soldiers, therefore standing to attention during the roll-call, precision in physical exercises as well as in the making of beds, etc., is required. There must be complete obedience to the Commandant. When meeting an S.S. man the prisoner must take off his cap. They are not allowed to ask anything - but only to answer questions. Conversations with "Capo" are forbidden. They are not allowed to change their work. The prisoners have to shave their heads once a week, to shave their faces every day, and in the evenings they have to grease their boots. Smoking in

barracks and during work is prohibited. The following punishments are in force:-

1. Disciplinary punishments: forbidding dinner, taking off the coat, shirt and earcaps in the frost, standing to attention for several hours, beating by the guards, Capo and S.S. men; confined to barracks. The guards beat often and willingly but clumsily, but S.S. men do it as experts including the face (often with spanners), they also kick with boots on the prisoners' stomach and kidneys, hands and legs, which often is the cause of broken arms and legs. Blows with clenched fists on the breasts causes the heart to stop, and sometimes the prisoners only feel pain a week afterwards. In some cases one blow was sufficient to cause death. The smallest deviation from orders and regulations, such as a badly-made bed, not well-cleaned and greased boots, prisoners are exhausted by physical exercises - making them crawl and leap with their hands raised for hours, run by command. If the physical jerks are carried out inexactly this is considered as resistance or slackness, without any regard for age, infirmity or lack of strength, and is punished by the whip or the stick. Responsibility is collective - all are responsible for every one - and so these physical jerks are mostly carried out in groups.

2. Group penalties: standing to attention during roll-call, which may last several hours, penal gymnastics and

deprivation of meals.

3. Severer penalties may be imposed only by the Commander of the camp on prisoners who are reported to him by the S.S. men: (a) The pillory; (b) Flogging; (c) Dark cells; and (d) Sunday work.

The pillory consists in handing the offender by his arms, which are bound behind his back, and in such a way that he can stand only on tiptoe. The pillory is applied in terms varying from 15 minutes to one hour. After an hour, the hands of the delinquents become purple and their armpits are almost cut to the bone. The highest penalty is three hours, one hour every day. The penalty of the pillory is imposed for every trifling offence, such as smoking during work, and bringing fag-ends of cigarettes from the camp.

Flogging consists of from 5 to 25 strokes on any one occasion. It is usually performed in public. The delinquent is held over a special stool, with a concave seat. At first the victims were beaten with rods cut from bushes nearby, later these were replaced by sticks or the cat. The beating is done by two men alternately. The strokes are administered with full strength. The prisoner must be fully conscious while he is being punished. He must count the strokes himself. When he begins to faint, he is revived and beaten again.

The penalty of a dark cell consists in being confined in a very small, empty cell, with only water and a small hunk of bread for food, hot food is given only once every two days.

This penalty may be imposed concurrently with others.

There is also a penalty which consists in spraying the prisoner when he is fully dressed with water from a rubber hose, for a period varying from 15 minutes to one and a half hours, irrespective of the season. This penalty usually ends in pneumonia. Spraying with water from a hydrant at a close range may stop the heart beating and cause death, while if the face is thus sprayed, the eyeballs may be destroyed.

Any attempt to escape is punished very severely. Those who are caught are led through the camp in a fool's cap and with a sign on their breasts saying "Ich bin wieder dar". They are ordered to beat a big drum while parading; afterward they receive a hundred strokes of the cat at 25 per diem. No one can stand so much. In the event of a successful escape ten prisoners of the company to which the escaping man belonged are shot; and in event of escape from penal gang, 20 fellow-prisoners are shot.

In every camp there is a special penal gang, which is billeted separately, and completely isolated. No one is allowed to approach the prisoners of such a penal gang, under pain of being transferred to it oneself. This gang is made up of prisoners, who were sent to the camp directly to it, and are therefore destined to extermination (as a rule all the priests and Jews are sent to such penal gangs), or of prisoners who have been thrice punished. Those who belong to such a gang

must carry out every task on the run, even when carrying loads or pushing barrows with heavy loads. They have no time off even on Sunday afternoon.

Whenever a prisoner is sent to a camp for the second time he is always directed to the penal gang. Inclusion in this company is indicated by a black ring around the number which the prisoner wears on his blouse and on his trousers. A red ring indicates a prisoner who has attempted to escape or talked to a man who escaped. All these prisoners belong to penal gangs. The supervisors in these gangs are other prisoners who have passed through a special course in tortures.

Here are a few figures showing the results of the methods applied in the penal gangs: in September, 1940 more than 40 priests were in Oswiecim; after prolonged efforts the survivors, 16 in all, were transferred to Dachau in February, 1941, the others having died in the meantime. Of the 120 Jews who were there in September, 1940, only 2 survived until March, 1941.

Here are the main reasons for the extraordinarily high death-rate in the camp: lack of clothing, lack of protection, against the cold, very poor food and lack of fats, which facilitate the catching of colds on every occasion, over-strenuous work, especially in quarries, appalling hygienic conditions, epidemics, physical punishment, beatings, and humiliation.

The longer a prisoner remains in a camp, the more his physical and spiritual resistance is weakened. Prisoners lose

every hope of ever being set free again, and become completely downhearted. For this reason the progress of every illness is astounding. All those who have been freed from the camps are of the opinion that spiritual resistance determines the possibility of endurance and that spiritual breakdown is the main cause of death.

There are cases when prisoners are so to speak made ripe for death without any actual sign of disease. Such a prisoner may tell his fellow-prisoners that he will die shortly. He is sent to the sick-bay and there he dies, usually within two days. The death-rate is highest among those under age and older people. The death-rate is higher among manual workers, who are usually less resistant spiritually.

The bodies of the dead are cremated in the camps. The ashes of the prisoners are placed in urns, which the family may take away on payment of a small sum. In western Poland the priests must sign an undertaking that these urns will not be opened. In the General Government it was at first permitted to mention in obituary notices the place of death, and to use the expression "ashes" instead of "body", but later this too was forbidden.

There are also mass-deaths, as a result of roll-calls, etc.: In Oswiecim, on October 28, 1940, there was about 6 degrees of frost and an icy wind. The prisoners were still in their light summer clothing and had no coats. After an

inspection of the clothing and underwear of the prisoners, which was held in the courtyard, and lasted over an hour, a roll-call was held, because one of the prisoners was not to be found, and it lasted until 12.30 p.m.; afterward, the prisoners marched to work without dinner. They were so frozen that next day 84 of them died. In Oranienburg on January 16, 1940, the prisoners were kept in the barrack-square for 2 hours in a temperature of 30 degrees of frost. Several scores of them fainted or froze to death. Sixty prisoners died in the camp hospital that week.

Of course, bullets are most effective in terminating the lives of the prisoners. For some time, death-sentences have been carried out on prisoners in camps, sentences imposed only after their confinement in these camps.

The rumors concerning mass-suicides carried out in the camps by jumping onto high-tension wires are exaggerated. Such suicides are frequent in Dachau and Oranienburg among Germans and Czechs. They are rare among Poles. The latter occasionally commit suicide in Oswiecim by throwing themselves against the barbed wire which surrounds the camp. This looks like escape and causes the guards to shoot them.

Here is the rough estimate of the death-rate in the camps. In Warsaw, in several large blocks of flats 88 men were seized on September 19, 1940, and were sent to Oswiecim; of these 11 were set free. Of the remaining 77, 44% had died before

April 1, 1941. In July, 1940, 40 men were sent from Milan-
owek: 3 returned home; 2 remained in the camp; and 35 died.
Of 700 men sent to Gusen in June, 1940, about 100 were living
in April, 1941; as very few are set free as a rule, this
means that almost all the rest died. Up to March 1, 1942
more than 26,000 prisoners have been confined in Oswiecim,
of which about 22,000 were Poles. On this latter date, there
were 10,000 prisoners in this camp, of whom 8,000 were Poles.
This shows that at various periods some 14,000 Poles dis-
appeared from this camp. The number of those freed was very
small, and it could not be estimated at more than 1,000, the
number of those who were transferred to other camps may be
estimated at some 3,000, all in all no more than 4,000 Poles,
the remainder - 10,000 - died. This amounts to almost half
of those imprisoned. These figures are confirmed by the re-
turning prisoners.

It is only fair to add that in 1941 conditions in
Oswiecim improved. There are three-storied bunks and bed-
linen there now and in other camps, there is running water
in the buildings and, in general, more cleanliness and hygiene.
The pillory has been done away with, and prisoners are treated
less barbarously. The food, however, has deteriorated. Another
change for the worse is^s that the break for dinner has been
abolished. The prisoners now work in one stretch, instead of

dinner receiving only coffee, and have their meal in the evening after returning from work.

One can be freed from the camp by favoritism or by bribery. Otherwise only those prisoners who are on the brink of the grave, or those who have collapsed completely in spirit, are freed. In principle only those who are healthy can be freed; those who want to be freed must claim that there is nothing wrong with them. Fortunately the Medical Board before which one must appear before being released is just a parody; it refuses to release only such prisoners as have wounds which cannot be concealed on the hands, the neck or the face. Before being released, the prisoner must listen to a speech by the Commander of the camp, and sign a declaration consisting of several paragraphs, in which he pledges himself not to tell anyone of the conditions in the camp, after his return home, to say that he is healthy, not to oppose the Reich, and to report to the German authorities every conspiracy which may come to his knowledge.

The prisoner receives his own underwear and clothes, his money and other objects. For his journey he is given a large parcel carefully wrapped in good paper, containing bread, butter and ham. The returned prisoner is usually a ruin, his nerves are shattered, he has T.B., his heart is weak, he is damaged internally, he has abscesses and scars. After his return he must report to the Gestapo. The majority are so ill-treated that they have not the courage to talk about the camp. Only

those whose days are numbered are an exception.

The number of Poles confined at any one time in concentration camps can be estimated only roughly at 20,000 - 25,000.

Conditions in concentration camps and their high death-rate show that their purpose is not only to isolate political suspects and to terrorise the people, but that they are an appropriate means of putting to death thousands of Poles and that thus they replace the old mass-executions.

July 10, 1942

Section No. 3

REPORT ON THE EXECUTION OF JEWS AT BELZEC

According to information received from a German employed at the place of execution, this place is situated at Belzec close to the railway station. It is fenced off with barbed wire. Inside and outside the fence Ukrainian sentries are posted. Executions are carried out in the following manner: a train carrying Jews, arrives at the station and is moved up to the wire fence where the guards are changed. Now the train is brought to the unloading place by German personnel. The men are taken into barracks on the left, where they have to take their clothes off, ostensibly for a bath. Then both groups are driven to a third barrack with an electric floor where the execution is carried out. The bodies are taken out of the camp by railway and unloaded into a 30 m. deep ditch. This has been dug by Jews who, after they have finished the job, are executed. The Ukrainian sentries, too, are to be executed, when the work has been finished. For the present, however, they live luxuriously and are lavishly provided with money and jewels. For example, they pay 400 zlotys (about \$75.) for one liter of vodka and 2000 zlotys and jewelry for a woman.

July 10, 1942

Section No. 4

PROTEST OF CATHOLIC ORGANIZATIONS

Walled off from the outside world, several hundred thousand people of the Warsaw Ghetto are facing death. There is no hope for them, no help from anywhere. Their oppressors are patrolling the Ghetto streets, firing at whoever dares to venture out into them. Anybody standing near a window is liable to be fired at. Unburied corpses are left lying about in the streets.

The number of victims in one day reaches some 8,000 - 10,000. The Jewish Police are obliged to deliver them over to their German executioners. If they refuse they are themselves put to death. Children unable to walk are loaded onto lorries. This is done so brutally that very few reach the railway station alive. Mothers who witness such scenes go mad. The number of persons driven mad by despair and horror is equal to the number of those executed.

On arriving at the railway station the victims are transferred to trucks, 150 of them to one truck. The floors are strewn with a thick layer of calcium chloride sprinkled with water. The doors are then sealed. Sometimes the train departs immediately after loading but sometimes it is left on a side track for a day or two... It does not make any difference however. Not one of these people, squeezed into

the truck so tightly that the dead do not drop to the floor but stand upright among those alive, choked by the fumes of calcium chloride and by bad air, tormented by hunger and thirst - will survive, anyway. It is immaterial when or where these trains arrive - they are bound to contain only corpses.

A quick death would be regarded as a blessing as it would mean delivery from pain. But this has been foreseen and forestalled by the executioners. All chemists' shops in the Ghetto are closed so that people cannot buy poisons. Firearms are not available. The only way which remains is to jump to death from a window. In fact, a good many choose this way in order to escape their oppressors.

The same has been happening for the last six months in hundreds of Polish towns. The total number of Jewish victims now exceeds one million and is constantly increasing. All fall victims - rich and poor, old men, young men and children, even babies, men and women alike - Jews who have become Christians long ago together with those who have kept to their old faith. Their only offence is that they belong by birth to the Jewish nation, condemned by Hitler to annihilation.

The world regards all these crimes, which are more terrible than anything that has ever happened in the history

of mankind, with a calm eye. Millions of helpless people are being massacred and sinister silence is maintained. The executioners are silent, they do not boast of their deeds.

This silence cannot be tolerated any more. Whatever the motives - it is wrong to look passively at crimes.

That's why we, Polish Catholics, are raising our voices.

... " We do not want to be Pilates. We are not in a position to react actively against the German murderers, we cannot help to save anybody, but we protest from the depth of our hearts. We are filled with sympathy indignation and horror. God who does not permit murder bids us to protest. Our Christian conscience bids us to protest.

Any creature rejoicing in the name of man has a right to appeal for love and sympathy. The blood of the defenseless is crying out to heaven for vengeance. Whoever does not join in this our protest - is not a Catholic.

We protest also as Poles. We do not believe that Poland could profit by German atrocities. On the contrary, in view of the stubborn silence of the international Jewry, in view of the busy activities of the German propaganda which seeks to blame us and the Lithuanians for the massacre of the Jews, we can see the careful plan of our enemies. We also know that crime sows poisonous seeds. The compulsory participation of the Polish Nation in this bloody show enacted upon

Polish soil, may also breed a callous indifference to all injustice and cruelty, and, above all, it may develop a conviction that our fellow-men can be murdered freely without fear of punishment.

Whoever does not understand this, whoever dares to soil our future liberty by mean rejoicing over the misery of our fellow-men, is, therefore, neither a Catholic nor a Pole.

July 22, 1942

Section No. 5

THE JEWISH COUNCIL IN WARSAW

N O T I C E

1. In accordance with the orders of the German authorities, all the Jews inhabiting Warsaw, irrespective of their sex or age, will be deported to the East.
2. The following classes are exempt from deportation:
 - (a) All Jews employed by German authorities or in business who are able to prove this fact by documents.
 - (b) All Jews who are members or employees of the Jewish Council on the date of the promulgation of this Official notice.
 - (c) All Jews who can prove that they are employed in business firms having their legal seats in the Reich.
 - (d) All Jews able to work, but not employed. (These should be sent to barracks in the Jewish Quarter).
 - (e) All Jews belonging to the Jewish force to maintain order.
 - (f) All Jews belonging to the personnel of Jewish hospitals, and Jewish decontamination squads.

- (g) All Jews belonging to the immediate families of the persons enumerated in (a - f). Only wives and children are considered in this category.
 - (h) All Jews who, on the first day of deportation, are in one of the Jewish hospitals and cannot be sent home at once. The fact that they cannot be released from hospitals must be confirmed by a doctor appointed by the Jewish Council.
3. Every Jewish deportee is entitled to take 15 kg. of personal effects as traveling luggage. Luggage weighing more than 15 kg. will be confiscated. All valuables such as money, jewellery, gold, etc., can be taken away. The deportees should carry food for three days.
4. The beginning of the deportation is fixed for July 22, 1942, at 11 a.m.
5. Penalties:
- (a) Every Jew not belonging to the categories enumerated in paragraph 2, a and c, and not entitled to belong to them who leaves the Jewish Quarter after the beginning of the deportation will be shot.
 - (b) Every Jew who acts so as to evade or impede the execution of the orders concerning deportation

will be shot.

- (c) Every Jew who abets acts which may lead to the evasion or impeding of the execution of the deportation will be shot.
- (d) Every Jew who is seen in Warsaw after the conclusion of the deportation order, and who does not belong to the categories enumerated in paragraph 2 (a - h) will be shot.

THE JEWISH COUNCIL IN WARSAW

August 11, 1942

Section No. 6
POLICEMAN'S REPORT ON WARSAW GHETTO

The monstrous liquidation of the Warsaw Ghetto is progressing quickly. Out of the 400,000 Jews about 180,000 have been deported up to August 11, 1942. On August 10 the Jewish community gave officially the number of those deported as 160,000. Generally published figure of 500,000 people in the Ghetto is fictitious and we received it because the Jewish community always gave out that Ghetto was populated by more people in order to receive more ration cards; it is supposed that there were about 150,000 - 200,000 supernumerary ration cards in circulation.

At first those Jews who worked in factories inside the Ghetto and those who lived with their families inside the walls surrounding factory buildings were not deported. But now from one such "Ghetto factory" half of the Jews have already been taken. Even the authorities of the Jewish Community have been informed that they possess too many clerks and that half of them are to report for "deportation".

The so-called "small Ghetto" inhabited by about 40,000 Jews was completely liquidated by 8 p.m. on August 10.

Recently from 8,000 - 10,000 Jews have been deported daily from the Ghetto. Even children from the institutions are deported; often they are not strong enough to walk, in

which case they are put on carts. The conditions are so bad that a great number of these children die before reaching the carriages. "Hunting" in the streets contributes to the speed with which the "Jews are being liquidated". Gestapo agents and "White Guards" (i.e. Soviet prisoners who have entered German service) ride along the streets, using among other vehicles droszkies drawn by Jews and they shoot from Tommy-guns whenever they see a group of people. Sometimes in one street there are as many as 30 - 40 Jewish corpses lying around.

The Jewish Community have to say who is to be deported, and the Jewish Police are to carry out the order of giving the Germans the "contingent". The Jewish Police have no other weapons but a rubber truncheon.

The activities of the Jewish Police are controlled by the ten Gestapo agents in the Ghetto and the fifty "White Guards". The Ghetto walls are guarded by Latvians, Estonians and Lithuanians, who shoot at the windows of Jewish houses whenever they see anyone there. They must not enter the Ghetto under penalty of death. In the Ghetto there is also a Polish Police Station, but the Polish Policemen have had nothing to do with the liquidation of the Ghetto. The fact that the Polish Police are not used by the invader for this purpose is certainly a proof that they have no confidence in

the Polish Police, and this lack of confidence is the outcome of the attitude of the whole Polish community. It is striking in fact how all the Jews are completely, almost pathologically passive, there is a lack of any - even desperate - action. The moral breakdown is so great that while at the beginning many Jews were in hiding, now a great number applied voluntarily for deportation because they want to die as soon as possible. No Jew doubts for a moment but that he is being deported to be killed. Cases of suicide are numerous among the Jews. For example, in one "vacated" house the door of one of the flats was locked and one could smell the escaping gas. Inside were the corpses of those who committed suicide. In one of the flats on the bed was a dead Jewess, and beside her a packet of veronal.

Many Jews have gone mad. Thus, one Jewess goes about day and night, without any pass, looking for her child, swearing aloud at the Germans. The Germans "magnanimously" - for derision - did not shoot this Jewess. In the Ghetto hunger now rules. It is quite impossible now to trade illegally. The price of one kilo of bread is about 70 zlotys but people offer a watch for one loaf of bread and for two a valuable gold watch. On the other hand - in the houses of those rich Jews already deported one finds butter and sausages in the pantry; the cupboards are full of expensive linen and clothes. They have had to leave everything.

September 7, 1942

Section No. 7

LIQUIDATION OF THE WARSAW GHETTO

During more than one month the liquidation of the Warsaw Ghetto has been continuing. It is now approaching its end. The number of victims and the cruelty make it one of the most tragic pages in history.

Before a full and detailed description can be given we are giving here an objective résumé of authentic material collected from Ghetto refugees. These accounts come from people we know personally. In them there are items which have been verified several times by other accounts and news received from the Ghetto. The picture presented by these materials has only one side.

The reports come only from one class of Ghetto inhabitants - from the assimilated intelligentsia. Enclosure No. 3 comes from a Catholic. Others come from people who have lost their next-of-kin, who have escaped death by chance and write, full of depression, not knowing their future. These people did not travel in the "deportation carriage"; in the reports the last and worst act is missing, the one the authors managed to escape.

The relations of the refugees are completed by the reports of the Secret Service from Belzec, by the texts of the Proclamation of the Jewish Council of July 22, 1942, and by excerpts from the Report (No. 6) of the policeman who could enter the

Ghetto on duty. We know his rank, function and name - but we cannot publish them for obvious reasons.

1. The Germans set up the Warsaw Ghetto in October, 1940. All the Jews had to move to the district set apart for them and all Aryans had to leave it by November 1, 1940. The Jews were allowed to take only things for their personal use, they were forbidden to take furniture. In reality, however, it was not so strict.

All Jewish trade and industrial businesses in the Catholic district were closed and sealed. The initial date for the Jewish deportation was shifted to November 15, 1940. From that day the Jews were forbidden to leave the Ghetto, but the Aryans were allowed to enter it without a pass up to November 25, 1940. From that time on the Ghetto was closed.

Only those, who had passes from the German authorities, had the right to enter and to leave Ghetto. The whole district was surrounded by a wall. Leaving the Ghetto without a pass was forbidden under penalty of death. In many cases the German courts punished people in this way. Although the Ghetto was closed, many Aryan trade and industrial businesses still remained. Aryan trade businesses were transferred from the Ghetto by the spring of 1941, but industrial premises still remained and employed both Aryans and Jews.

After shutting off the Ghetto all official transactions with the Aryan district had to pass through a special German office - the Transferstelle. In the spring of 1942, when normal conditions already prevailed between the districts, the official turnover was 13 groszy daily per head, while the price of one kilo of bread was more than 10 zlotys and that of potatoes about 5 zlotys.

From the very first moment all trade with the Ghetto was based on smuggling on a large scale. The Germans took part in it and had a colossal income in profits and bribes. Economically trade was based on selling Jewish possessions and buying food. The getting of food into Ghetto was based on smuggling because the rations allowed were much smaller even than those allowed to the Poles. For example, about half a kilo of bread weekly per person and hardly anything more was allowed.

Slowly in the Ghetto handicraft and trade were reconstructed for the use of the Polish population outside and big workshops were set up for the use of the Germans. But the main form of trade was smuggling, and when it was stopped the difference between the prices in the Jewish districts and outside the Ghetto was as follows: bread from 60 zlotys - 85 zlotys in the Ghetto and 8 - 12 zlotys outside; sugar 400 - 450 in the Ghetto and 35 - 70 zlotys outside; potatoes 16 - 30 zlotys in the Ghetto and 3.50 zlotys outside.

Since the shutting off of the Ghetto the death-rate has increased daily, the causes being the general misery, the winters of 1940-41 and 1941-42, and the epidemics of typhoid fever and tuberculosis. Sometimes scores of corpses were to be seen in the streets daily. The death-rate in 1941 was about 13%, and in the first four months of 1942 it was more than 15%. The birth-rate fell almost to zero.

In spite of this the number of inhabitants of the Warsaw Ghetto was kept more or less on the same level (officially about 433.000, although in reality it fell to 370.000) owing to the fact that new Jews were brought over from Germany, Holland and from districts near and far from Warsaw, to keep up and even increase the rate of mortality.

All the time the invader used increasing terror. Scores, several or only a few victims perished daily in the Ghetto, not counting those who were shot daily by its gates. Germans in uniform entered homes, dragged out their victims and killed them in the streets. Jews, who met outside the Ghetto walls, were shot dead on the spot and Jewish children were drowned in clay pits or thrown into sewers.

II. Since the autumn of 1941 news has been coming through from the district beyond the Bug of the mass shooting of Jews by machine guns in eastern towns and villages. This news, at first received with fear and incredulity, has been confirmed

by eye-witnesses many times. In the winter and at the beginning of spring the murder of scores of thousands of Jews became a more and more regular occurrence.

In the whole Vilna district only one Jewish Ghetto remained, the one in Vilna itself, with a population of 12,000 people. In Vilna more than 60,000 Jews were murdered, in Rowne 14,000, in Lwow 50% and Kowel 10,000. Later similar news came through from Stanislawow, Tarnopol, Stryj and scores of other places. The wave of terror seemed to move westward.

In the west the Jews were exterminated completely, and only specialists and artisans were left in barracks to work for the German Army. Recently new methods have been applied. The Germans have tried to kill Jews by using gas, as for example at Chelm in the Kujawy district where 10,000 people were killed in this way.

A camp in Belzec has also been set up for electrocuting them (See No. 1). In March and April, 1942, 80,000 Jews from the Lubelskie, Lwow and part of Kieleckie districts were electrocuted. In Lublin out of 30,000 Jews, 2,500 remained, including 70 women. Before deportation many Jews were moved from small communities to larger ones and about 10% were murdered during the process.

In March of this year after Himmler's visit to the General Government and after the publication of his order that 50% of the Jewish population has to disappear by the end of 1942.

Everybody hoped that something would happen to prevent this mass murder.

In spring the news came through that a new camp of tortures had been set up in Sobibor in the Wlodawski district. The winding up of the Ghetto was expected already by the middle of April, and then, later, by the end of May. In June the rumor spread that it had been put off for some time. However, the visit of Himmler to the General Government in the middle of July this year hastened the execution of the plan and his former orders were even made stricter.

III. The winding up of the Warsaw Ghetto was preceded by action which was intended to remove foreign Jews from the Ghetto in order not to offend foreign powers. Therefore, on July 17, 1942 they were registered and interned in the Pawiak prison.

On and from Monday July 20, 1942 the Ghetto frontiers were guarded by lines of "junaks", i.e. Security Detachments composed of Lithuanians, Latvians and Ukrainians and Russian prisoners. From that time on the "navy-blue" Police were only an auxiliary force at the exit gates. At this time the "smuggling" of things into the Ghetto was stopped and the number of people shot inside went up at a disastrous rate. The "junaks" started shooting at the windows of houses just inside the Ghetto walls. At the exit gates the German Police Posts were largely reinforced, armed with machine guns, and

one S.S. man was put at every exit. Patrols of German Police on bicycles drove incessantly day and night round the Ghetto bounds. When the Ghetto population saw these preparations they were filled with fear and awe.

On June 21, 1942 at 11 o'clock police cars drove in front of the building of the Jewish Community in Grzybowska Street. S.S. men ordered the chairman of the Jewish Council Mr. Czerniakow, to call the members of the Council; when all arrived they were arrested and taken by police cars to Pawiak Prison. The majority were released after a short time. More or less at the same time police cars appeared in the Ghetto streets.

Germans in uniform entered houses, looking chiefly for the Jewish intelligentsia, whom they killed on the spot, without making sure of their identify. By an unhappy chance Professor Raszeja of Poznan University, the well-known Polish doctor, was among those killed. He had entered the Ghetto with a pass to fulfill his medical duties.

On the same day people were seized in the streets. It was characteristic, that only well-dressed people were detained. It was discovered later that some of the detained members of the Jewish Council as well as accidentally stopped passers-by were to be hostages.

So the day of July 21 passed, and neither Dr. Czernia-

know nor anybody else from the Jewish Council was given the reason for the arrests.

On July 22, 1942 at 10 o'clock police cars drove up in front of the Jewish Council building and the remaining free members of the Jewish Council were called and a detailed program of the "deportation" of the Jewish population from Warsaw was read out to them. The most important part of this the notice - (No. 2) - was posted up on the walls. The other parts dealt with technical details:

(a) Establishing the number of people to be deported daily to 6,000.

(b) People had to be assembled in the building of the hospital at "Stawki", which was immediately closed down; these people had to be sent to the freight yards at Stawki where there are railway sidings for the transport of goods to and from the Ghetto.

(c) People to be deported were to be brought daily at 4 p.m. by Jewish Militia, and the first transport had to be there that same day July 22, 1942. Members of the Jewish Council and the hostages were responsible with their lives for the execution of orders. According to explicit German orders the first people to be deported were those in the Jewish prison and various Institutions.

On July 23, 1942 about 7 p.m. two Germans in uniforms, appeared in the Council building. They demanded to see

Czerniakow, who committed suicide soon after they left the room. What they spoke of nobody knows. Czerniakow did not reveal anything before his death; but from a letter to his wife it was clear that he was ordered to bring 10,000 people instead of 6,000 for deportation, and 7,000 people every day after. After the death of Czerniakow, Dr. Lichtenbaum became the Chairman to the Jewish Council.

The next day 10,000 people were brought to the freight yard, and on the following days 7,000. This contingent was reached by seizing people from their houses, and detaining them in the streets. The Germans, to encourage the Jewish Policemen in their zeal, gave them special passes with the stamp of the German Police exempting them and their families from deportation.

As this order of July 22, 1942 exempted from deportation those families working in big German businesses, everyone in the Ghetto wanted to get work in those places, or rather to get a certificate that they worked there. German businessmen were paid high prices for such certificates. As it was proved later however the certificates stating that the recipients were working in German workshops were all useless. The Germans did not respect them, and against their own orders took all the people.

The action of deportation was getting more brutal daily and after a few days the Germans themselves helped by the

Junaks, (independent of the action of Jewish Police) started on the job. The Germans roped off blocks of houses, entered the yards and started shooting. This was supposed to be the sign for people to leave the flats and come out into the yards; those who did not manage to come out quickly enough or wanted to hide were killed on the spot. Old people, unfit people, or cripples were killed in the flats. Wives were separated from husbands, children and even tiny ones were separated from parents. In the freight yards amidst incessant shooting the Germans picked out the aged and the cripples and took them straight to the Jewish cemetery and killed them. (60 - 100 people daily) The rest were put into trucks; 120 were put into a truck for 40. The trucks were sealed and the train started on its way. Quicklime was scattered in them. Bodies marked the tracks of this train. People were sent to the three penal camps, Treblinka, Belzec and Sobibor. The transports were then unloaded, the victims undressed completely and killed, possibly by gas. Out of 250,000 deported only two small transports, amounting to 4,000 were directed to War work near Brzesc and Malachowicze.

As a rule they do not kill people who are young and fit, valuable man power - but mainly the old people, the unfit and the children. All children from nurseries and Institutions were deported. Among others children from an Orphanage, directed by Janusz Korczak, who did not leave the children under his care although he had the opportunity. He went with

the children to the place of execution together with the manageress of the Home.

This action has been continued since July 22, 1942 and 3,000 - 10,000 people are being deported daily. Those left for more than a month live in the hope that they may escape.

Up to November 1, 1942 about 250,000 have already been "deported". In September 120,000 ration cards were printed, in October only 40,000. At the same time the German authorities started murdering the Jews near Warsaw. The shocked Poles were witnesses of these murders. Masses of Poles have seen the shooting of children, killing of expectant mothers and the hunting of refugees. They have seen hundreds of bodies lying in the streets, along the roads and the railway lines.

The liquidation of ghettos in Falenica, Rembertow, Nowy Dwor, Kaluszyn and Minsk Mazowiecki is linked with the cessation of deportation in the Warsaw Ghetto during August 20 - 24. On August 25 deportation was started again.

According to Arbeitsamt reports, which are confirmed by the number of ration cards prepared for October, the Ghetto is to be populated only by 40,000 skilled workmen, living in barracks and fit to work for the German war machine.

Those who are still left in the Ghetto amount to about 140,000 people.

IV. It is impossible to finish this short review of conditions in the Warsaw Ghetto, without attempting to show people who are not living under German oppression the scale of wholesale murder committed there until September 1, 1942 on about 250,000 Jews and which in part is still continuing.

The attempt to make people understand this hitherto unheard of wholesale murder should be started by an appeal to everyone in England and America: You Poles in England must be made to believe things it is apparently impossible to believe and you must try to make the English and Americans believe it. You must believe that what we tell you is the truth and nothing but the truth - these things form the pattern of our everyday existence. These facts are neither chosen nor specially prepared, they are everyday happenings. These are not all the facts, neither are they outstanding. Everyone of them happens scores and hundreds of times a day. We people of Poland inform you that since July 22, 1942 scores and hundreds of Jews are shot daily in the streets and houses of Warsaw. Those murders are committed every day in the process of catching people for execution. Among those caught in the daily deportation contingents (6,000 - 10,000) 50 - 100 old people, cripples and unfit are taken to the cemetery, shot and buried.

The majority of the railway transports of the deported are sent to the camp in Treblinka, 4 km. from Malkinia, where the people are executed and buried daily by thousands. Special machines were brought over to Treblinka to bury bodies of the

dead Jews. These machines work incessantly. The smell of the decaying bodies is so strong that it makes the peasants ill. Those within 5 km. of Treblinka cannot stand the smell and run away. Besides Treblinka there are similar camps in Belzec and Sobibor. We were unable to find out whether any of those deported were still alive. We could only confirm the innumerable deaths.

If anybody doubts the possibility of killing 5,000, 6,000 or even 10,000 men during the course of one day the witnesses of Otwock, Rembertow, Siedlce, Minsk and Masow, Lomaz and many other places can testify to it. Before the eyes of these people on many occasions during a few hours 2,000 - 10,000 Jews were murdered.

The vastness of the scale of the atrocities is equal to the extent of the cruelty in which murders were carried out. These people, before being led to death, were forced to endure the maximum of suffering. For instance not less than 100 people were loaded into trucks intended for 40. The doors were sealed, and the floors thickly covered with lime. To make the Jews feel the corrosive effects of the lime the Germans ordered them to take off their shoes.

To give mothers mental torture their little ones are taken from them. Whole orphanages were sometimes deported. The personnel do not leave the children until the children are finally loaded into trains. Children are loaded separately

and the personnel travel by other transport.

To shoot someone instantly would be a human action, by comparison with the cruelties practised everyday on Polish Jews. If the executioner throws a mother and her child to the ground together he apparently has a kind heart. Scores of such cases are noted every day.

There are facts of extreme cruelty. An expectant Jewish mother escaped from the Ghetto. She took shelter in a house in Grochow, a Warsaw suburb. She was befriended by some Poles and her child was born, but a German policeman found her, shot her instantly and trampled on the new-born baby with his boots.

We feel that we cannot write more about these horrible things. May the example we have given you serve to illustrate the measure of German cruelty. The measure of the grief and resignation of the people may be judged by the number of suicides. Whole families, as well as individuals, commit suicide; they use gas or prussic acid. Every day someone poisons himself, sometimes even several persons commit suicide in one house. To stop suicides by poison all the chemists' shops in the Ghetto are shut. There are hundreds of cases of insanity. Some ask the "junaks" to kill them. However, nothing is done without money. The "junaks" demand to be paid 100 zlotys for shooting one person.

It is difficult to end, and yet difficult to go on writing, but this may be sufficient to illustrate the scale of suffering which is occurring every day here in Poland.

July 29, 1942

THE INCIDENTS AT SWIECIANY AND OLKIENIKI

On May 19, 1942, between 9 and 10 a.m., on the road between Stare Swieciany and Zymlupy, in the vicinity of Wygoda, a number of persons, whose identity had never been ascertained, intercepted a German motor vehicle, and killed one District Commander (Lieutenant Beck) and two Deputy Commanders (Sonderfuehrer), who also were Germans. A Polish woman-interpreter, who was another passenger, was permitted to go unharmed, with the words "Run, lady" ("Barishnia udiraj"); during the exchange of shots, however, the woman in question suffered a wound in one of her hands. Several hours later, Lithuanian troops ("Absangos Burai") and Gestapo units began a massacre of Poles at Stare Swieciany. At the very outset, two hundred people, mostly of the Polish middle class (in their number two clergymen), were killed in their homes and in the streets. At the same time a telephonic order was given to the Lithuanian military posts in a number of surrounding localities to arrest forthwith about 1,000 people, mostly Poles, selected from lists, probably drawn up beforehand. Arrests were made even in localities within a radius of from 50 to 60 kilometers from the scene of the incident (for instance Kimieliszki, Twerecz, Widze). Those arrested were brought in from Stare Lyntupy and Nowe Swieciany, where the mass execution was carried out. The executions were performed

in every instance by the Lithuanians (police, soldiers and forest guards). This mass execution took place on May 21 and 22. In the village of Kapturuny all men, mostly Poles, were killed off. It is difficult at the present moment to ascertain the total number of victims, due to the fact that Lithuanian patrols had murdered a number of people on lonely byways and in the dense woods throughout the countryside. In any event the total of victims runs to about 1,000.

The official statement, as carried by the press, estimated the number of killed at 400, which does not conform to the truth.

The Germans are purported to have cut short the executions, but the Lithuanians continue to apply terroristic measures and to kill people off individually.

The population is desperate and awe-stricken.

We do not know what turn the events will take in the future. A detailed report on the incident will be prepared after the list of victims had been drawn up.

The killing of the Germans was probably done by Soviet guerillas or even by the Lithuanians themselves, who wanted to create a pretext for settling accounts with the Poles.

On May 25 and 26 an analogous incident occurred at Olkieni, though on a smaller scale. Twenty-one Poles were executed in one batch. Here too the murders were done by

Lithuanians. For the moment, the causes of the execution have not, as yet, been ascertained.

● PSF; Subject File

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CONTINUED

quisitions by the Gestapo, or else directly from bullets of the soldiers on the streets and highways of Polish towns and villages. And just as any of these victims, generates in our people a more powerful desire to fight and stiffens the spirit of resistance, these latest victims of the foul hecatomb will sink into the souls of the Polish nation as a call for revenge, will intensify the grief which had been our lot ever since September, 1939, and will make us forever cherish the memory of the murdered, a memory which we shall pass on to the coming generations.

ANOTHER SAMPLE OF BRUTALITY

One of our friends related to us the following: Last week I was driving along the highway leading from Radzymin towards Wyszok. When several kilometers out of Radzymin, I heard shots on the highway and saw some tightly massed crowds coming up towards me. Within a few minutes I was able to get a clear vision. There were several score of peasant's carts filled with women, infants and little children. Following the carts came a tightly compact crowd, which presented a ghastly sight. Just like a bunch of sheep circled by dogs, to be turned about, so did these people wall up, fall over each other, their mouths frothing with dried saliva. And just like sheep dogs, a number of mounted Germans in uniform, with

whips in their hands, were rushing at them. There was also a uniformed soldier on a motorcycle with a civilian, armed with a revolver, riding in the sidecar. I saw then that these were Jews from one of the nearby towns, who were being driven. All of a sudden I heard shots, followed by a heart rending moan coming out of the crowd, a sharp yell of pain, a pre-mortal groan and a brutal curse uttered by one of the soldiers. I was urging my driver to speed up, so as to pass this caravan of death as quickly as possible, averting my eyes, for shame at having had to witness such inhuman scenes. At last I came abreast of the tail end of the caravan. "There he is", my driver pointed out. Out of the ditch by the roadside protruded a red leg, covered with scratches, while the rest of the body rested head down in the bottom of the ditch. On the surface of the road was a pool of blood. We drove on at a rather fast gait. "Here's another dead body", said my driver in a rather awed voice. Right by was another group of corpses. A macabre sight I could not endure. The driver estimated the number of corpses at about twenty. How terrible! I have been encountering corpses until I reached a crossroad leading off to the right. At the bend in the road a heap of tattered garments in the ditch and another two corpses. That is how the eyewitness saw the road over which were driven the Jews evicted from the ghetto at Tluszcz.

Before leaving the latter locality several Jews were killed in the town proper. About six hundred were taken out and, according to rumors, a little over two hundred reached Radzymin.

We are not acquainted with the subsequent fate of this caravan of death.

July 29, 1942

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LITHUANIAN ATROCITIES

Ever since the Lithuanians occupied Wilno, on October 23, 1939, they began to harass and oppress the Polish population. The Lithuanian bureaucratic and police machinery, imported at the very beginning of Lithuanian occupation, remained even after the Lithuanian Soviet Republic was incorporated into the U.S.S.R. (June 12, 1940) and after the invasion by the Germans.

By rendering services to every occupant in turn, the Lithuanians systematically and ruthlessly exterminate the other nationalities.

The Jewish problem was the one to be solved the quickest by the Lithuanians, who took advantage of the hostility of Hitlerism to the Jews. Directly upon the German invasion, the Lithuanians, under the pretext of the Jews cooperating with the Bolshevists, proceeded to exterminate the Jews thoroughly, and in a bestial manner. By autumn, 1941, all Jews in the provincial centers have been murdered, the Ghetto of Wilno was reduced by November 1, 1941, from 80,000 to 30,000 people. At present there are 12,000 Jews in the Wilno Ghetto. Insofar as the territory of the General Kommando Lithuania is concerned, there is only a remnant of the Ghetto at Kovno.

Germans use the Lithuanians, who gained experience in massacring the Jews, for analogous tasks, wherever no willing local element is to be found, for instance in Latvia, White Russia and Warsaw.

Under the pretext of Lithuanian claims to territories inhabited by White Russians, the Lithuanians oppress the latter with ever-increasing ruthlessness. The object, however, of the most systematic and consistent exterminatory policy of the Lithuanians, is the Polish population, because it is being considered as the most dangerous and difficult to combat. For this reason, the Lithuanians had to devote a many-sided action, which - of late - after the Jewish problem no longer exists, is steadily gaining in intensity.

The action in question is intended to run along the following lines:

1. Economic ruin by confiscation of private enterprises and reduction of the number of employees of any and all municipal social institutions. Poles may engage only in heavy manual labor and are being molested and discriminated against in connection with the distribution of foodstuffs.

2. Destruction of the cultural life, by steadily progressing reductions, complete abolition of instruction in the Polish language, by which measures the sum total of achievement in education and civilization is being destroyed.

3. Oppression of the Catholic clergy, as the mainstay of Poland. In this field the Lithuanian clergy plays the leading part.

4. Physical destruction of the Polish people on Lithuanian territory through:

(a) Provocation of conflicts and murdering Poles on any pretext whatever, or without any pretext at all.

(b) Systematic and false denunciations of Poles to the Germans, the main pretexts being accusations of cooperation with the Bolshevists and the danger of pro-independence underground work.

(c) Shifting onto the Poles of the burden of furnishing the quota of laborers exported to the Reich and to the east, for construction work near the front, by reduction of employment opportunities and by application of the principle evolved by Counselor General Pankszis to the effect that subject to the draft are all those who in the years 1939/1940 have been refused Lithuanian citizenship, which primarily affects those Poles who settled in the Wilno region after 1918.

Hereinafter follows a list of salient incidents of Lithuanian atrocities committed against the Poles:

1. September, 1941-. Meeting of 500 dismissed Polish functionaries called and all participants surrendered to the Germans, as alleged Communists.

2. September 29, 1941-. 320 Poles taken from Lukiszki prison and shot.

3. Up to the end of 1941-. Anti-Polish excesses in Wilno, Treki, Landwarowo, Jaszuny, Turgiele, Swiscany, Turmont and other localities;

4. March 3, 1942-. Imprisonment in Wilno of 30 Polish priests, among them all (15) professors of the Diocesan Seminary and 6 friars, of all the clerics, deportation to Mariampol of the metropolitan Bishop, Jabtraycki, and of the Diocesan Chancellor, Rev. Adam, Sawicki. Imprisonment of Polish friars and nuns.

5. March 25, 1942-. Great Soviet air raid on Wilno. Polish population denounced to the Germans, as having cooperated with the air raid.

6. May 4 and 5, 1942-. All clerics deported from prison to labor camps in Germany. On May 5, 1942, fifty prisoners from Lukiszki prison shot in Ponary.

7. May 6, 1942-. Approximately 300 prisoners, almost exclusively Poles, shot, among them 80 boy students and 5 girl students of the Adam Mickiewicz highschool. Deported for work in the Reich were all prisoners, even those falsely accused of membership in Bolshevist organizations during the Soviet occupation.

8. May 19, 1942-. Guerillas near Swieciany killed 3 Germans. The Lithuanians accused the Poles of being the perpetrators. As the result thereof, Lithuanian auxiliary battalions were used for repressions, during which 1,200 Poles were butchered in Swieciany, Lyntupy and neighboring localities. Women had their ears and breasts cut off; pregnant women were kicked to death. Had not the Germans interfered, the executions would have continued.

In connection with the affair at Swieciany, 150 Polish prisoners were shot in Wilno. The Polish nuns were released from prison without being permitted to return to their convents. On June 4, 1942, all the nuns were registered in the Labor Bureau (Arbeitsamt) for work. The Jesuits continue to linger in prison.

The terrorism is not only abating, but increases insofar as its territorial purview is concerned, proportionately to the enlargement of the area of the General Kommando Lithuania at the expense of the territory of White Russia.

When in April, 1942, the purely Polish county of Oszmiana was being taken over, the Polish auxiliary police offered resistance, whereupon the Lithuanians shot 16 Polish policemen as "terrorists".

CAPTIONS OF PHOTOGRAPHS FROM POLAND

- I. Polish peasants fighting against the Germans refuse to supply them with agricultural products. This opposition is being suppressed by the Germans with mass arrests and murder. This photograph shows a group of Polish peasants arrested by the Germans.
- II. Three Polish peasants just before being shot. Their wives and children are forced to witness the execution.
- III. Two victims of these mass murders. The execution in this case was done with machine-guns and the thighs of the dead are ripped apart by the bullets.
- IIIA. Polish victims of German atrocities in the district of Lublin, Poland.
- IV. The Germans are endeavoring to exterminate the whole Jewish population in Poland. The latest methods used by them are: (1) special trucks filled with deadly gas into which the victims are forced to enter; (2) bath-houses with showers and a metal floor into which the victims are led, while the water is running the electric current is passed through the floor electrocuting the occupants. This photograph shows bodies of electrocuted victims piled on a truck, which is going to a factory where the bodies will be used for making oil and soap.
- V. Bodies of Jews who died in the Ghetto in Warsaw are being carted out. This task is performed by Russian prisoners.
- VI. A bond has been formed between the Poles and Jews due to the common hardships and oppression. In spite of the constant threat to their own lives, the Polish people steadily smuggle food through the walls of the Ghetto to feed the starving Jews. At the same time, in the rural sections of the country the Poles conceal the Jews to prevent them from being sent to the Ghetto. The Germans, fighting against this growing solidarization between the Poles and Jews, began an intensive propaganda among the Poles against the Jews. This photograph shows a placard posted on the streets of Warsaw by the Germans trying to prove that a Jew is an enemy of the Polish people.
- VII. The oppression of the Poles is just as severe as that of the Jews. The Polish population especially in the cities, is practically deprived of food. Here we see a Polish family, composed of a father, mother and child, dead from starvation.

- VIII. The hardships of the Polish people are very great, especially of those who were expelled from Posen and Pomorze and sent to the General Government. This photograph shows a Polish peasant family before their dug-out.
- IX. Photo No. IX shows a dug-out inhabited by a Polish peasant family expelled from the western part of Poland by the Germans.
- X. Polish peasant family with small children living in a dug-out under inconceivable sanitary conditions, which will have their effect on the health of future Polish generations.
- XI. Inside a dug-out with a few months-old child of a family expelled from western Poland. It should be noted that the child is sucking on a rubber nipple to alleviate its hunger.
- XII. Young boy caught by the Germans on the streets of Warsaw in order to be sent to Germany for forced labor.
- XIII. One group of many homeless Polish children wandering among the streets of Polish cities.
- XIV. A group of Polish prisoners with legs swollen from starvation in one of many concentration camps in Poland.
- XV. Not only starvation is taking toll of the Polish people. Mass executions are a daily occurrence. This photograph shows such executions a few months ago in Lwow. The people passing by are searching for relatives.
- XVI. Same as XV.
- XVII. Poles murdered by Germans in Lwow.
- XVIII. Same as XVII.
- XIX. Tragic scene from a round-up of Poles by the Germans in Warsaw.
- XX. Home of a Polish family stripped bare of its furnishings by the Germans.

"I AM HERE - PEOPLE OF WARSAW"

Because of the irreconcilable attitude on the part of the Polish public in town and country and because of the unabating and unyielding battle of morale, which the Poles are fighting against the invaders, the Germans have again resorted to the weapon of wholesale terrorism.

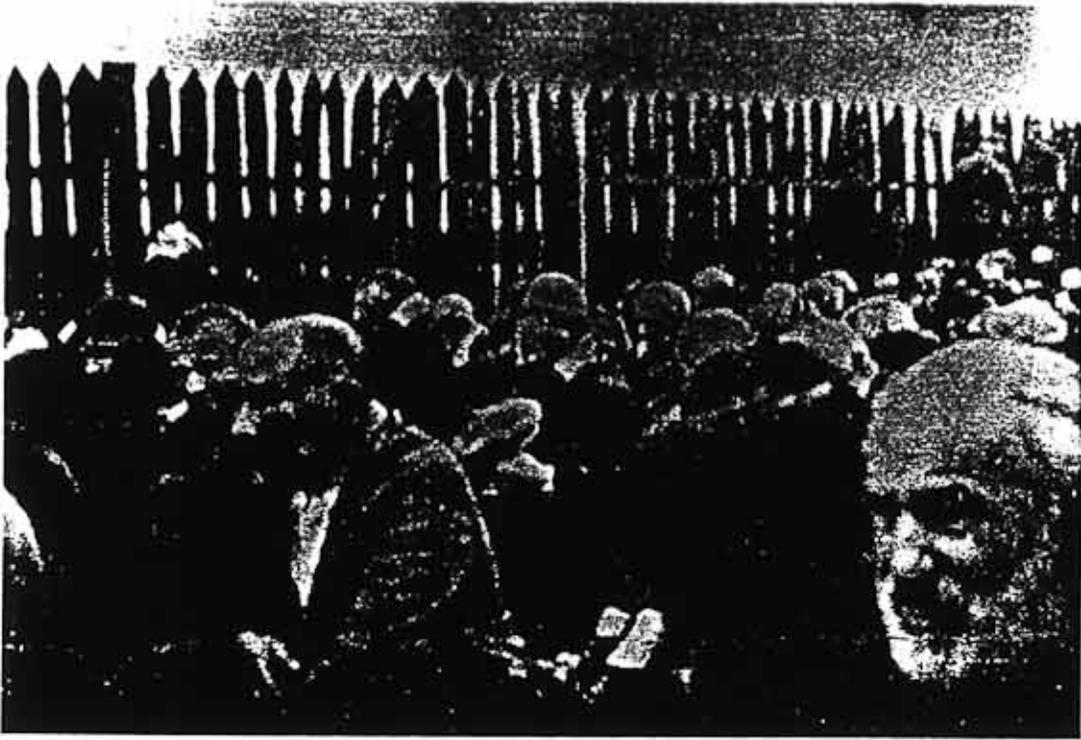
In retaliation for the removal of the inscription plate on the monument of Copernicus in Warsaw, Governor Fischer ordered the removal of the monument to Kilinski, the leader of Warsaw's revolt at the time of the Kosciuszko insurrection (see "Collective Responsibility of Monuments" in issue No. 12 of "Poland Fights" - Polish edition). Kilinski's monument was not torn down, but with the greatest of secrecy transferred from the Krasinski Square to the courtyard of the National Museum. On the following morning there was to be seen on the wall of the Museum building the following inscription in bold letters:

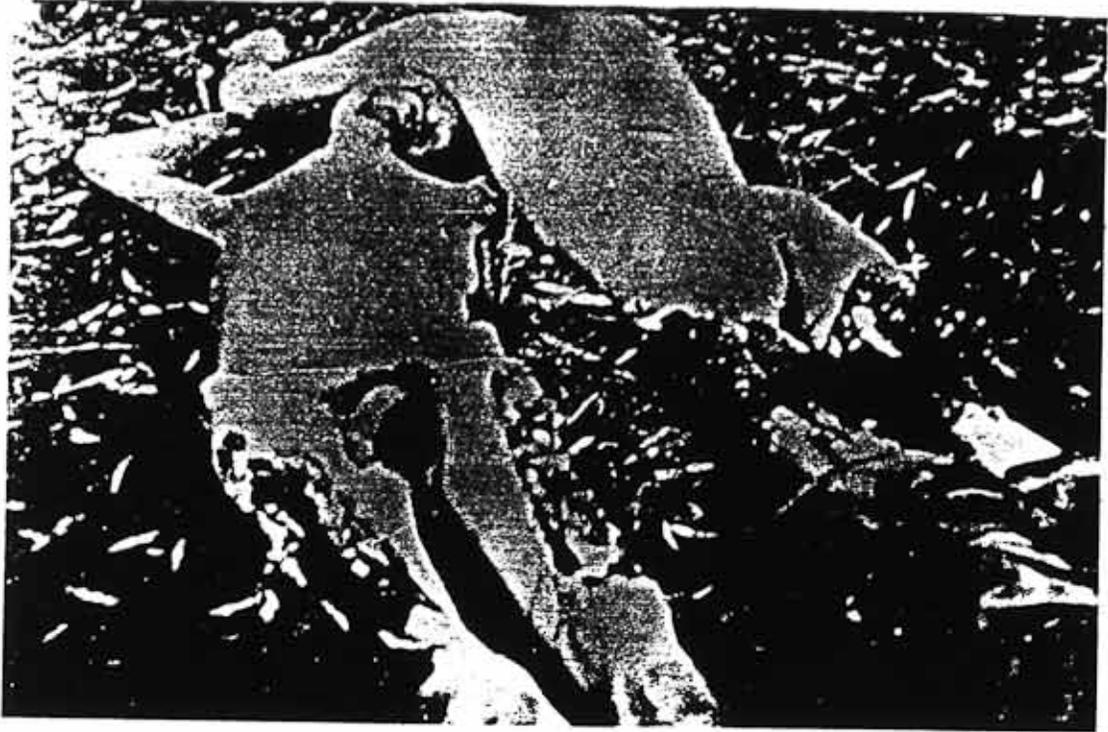
"I am here - People of Warsaw".

Thus a retaliatory measure taken against a monument, was changed into a political manifestation, which revived in the Warsaw public's mind the memory of their hero of revolutionary fame.

Thereupon, the fury of the invaders was turned loose on the population. A new wave of terrorism was added to the normal quota of arrests and deportations to Oswiecim and Tremblinka. Over 100 prisoners were shot in Palmyry.

- XXI. In spite of these repressions the Poles do not lose heart but keep on fighting the oppressor. This photograph shows a sign made on the wall of a house by members of strong secret underground organizations, "Deutschland Caput" meaning "Germany is finished". These words were painted on with special paint that could only be scratched off, leaving the words legible.
- XXII. Germans breaking iron shutters on a German-owned store. During the night Polish saboteurs cemented all the locks on the windows and doors preventing the owner a German, Julius Meinel, from opening his store in the morning.
- XXIII. Tearing down a statue of Polish patriot Jan Kilinski by the Germans.
- XXIV. The next day, on the base of the statue, there appeared an inscription "Jam tu ludu W-wy", Jan Kilinski" meaning "People of Warsaw, I am here, Jan Kilinski.
- XXV. Propaganda poster with the inscription "MOSKAU, gniazdo bolsze wizmu w niemieckish rekach" meaning "Moscow, nest of Bolshevism is in German hands. Was posted "a little too soon" on the streets of Warsaw!"





III a.





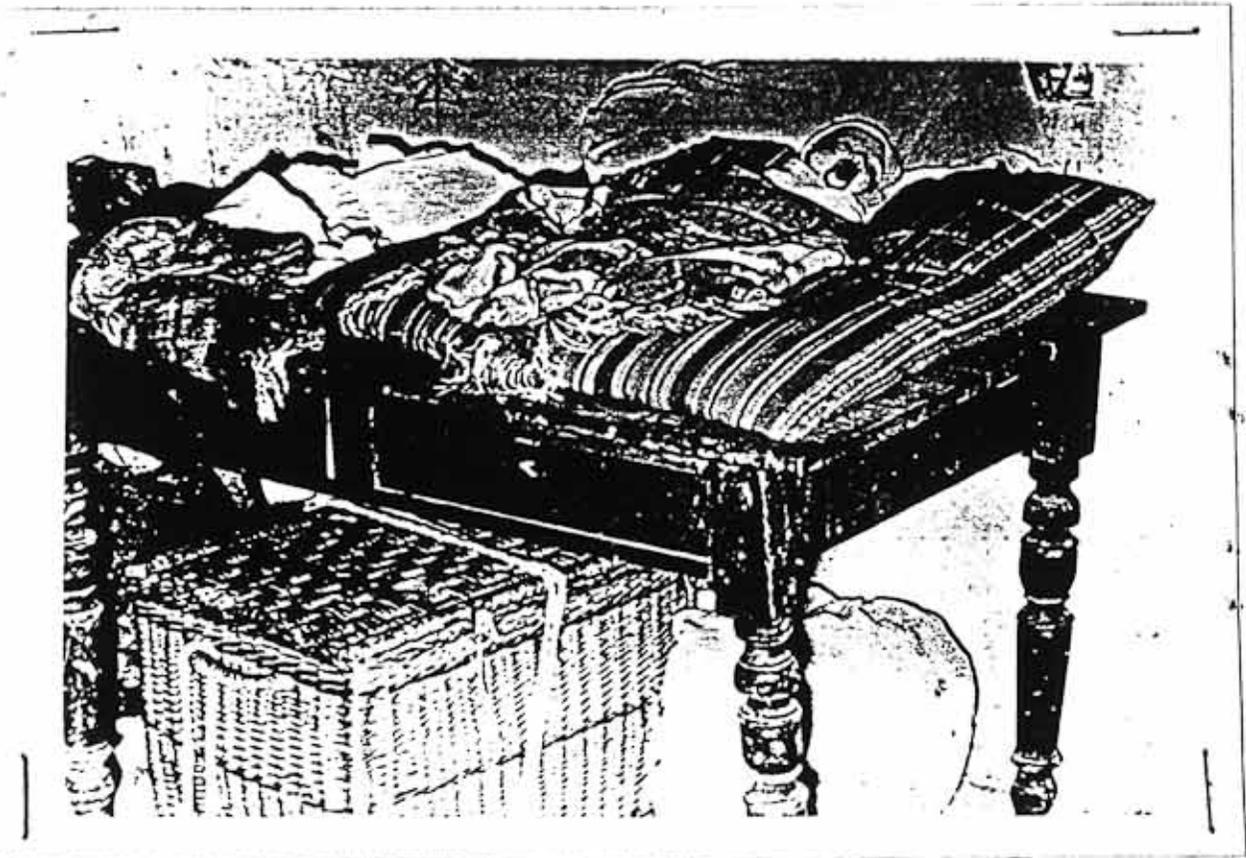






X







Hitler's governor, Fischer, explained this crime in the public notices he caused to be issued, as a retaliatory measure for an alleged killing and wounding by shots of several German policemen.

The wave of terrorism struck the countryside, as well. It accompanied an intensified drive for collecting quota of agricultural products and translated itself into beatings and deportations to labor camps, which constitute regular torture chambers.

In their quest for labor, the invaders deported into the Reich the entire personnel of industrial plants and forcibly transplanted to the east Dutch farmers, settling them on lands from which Polish peasants have been driven out.







XVZ



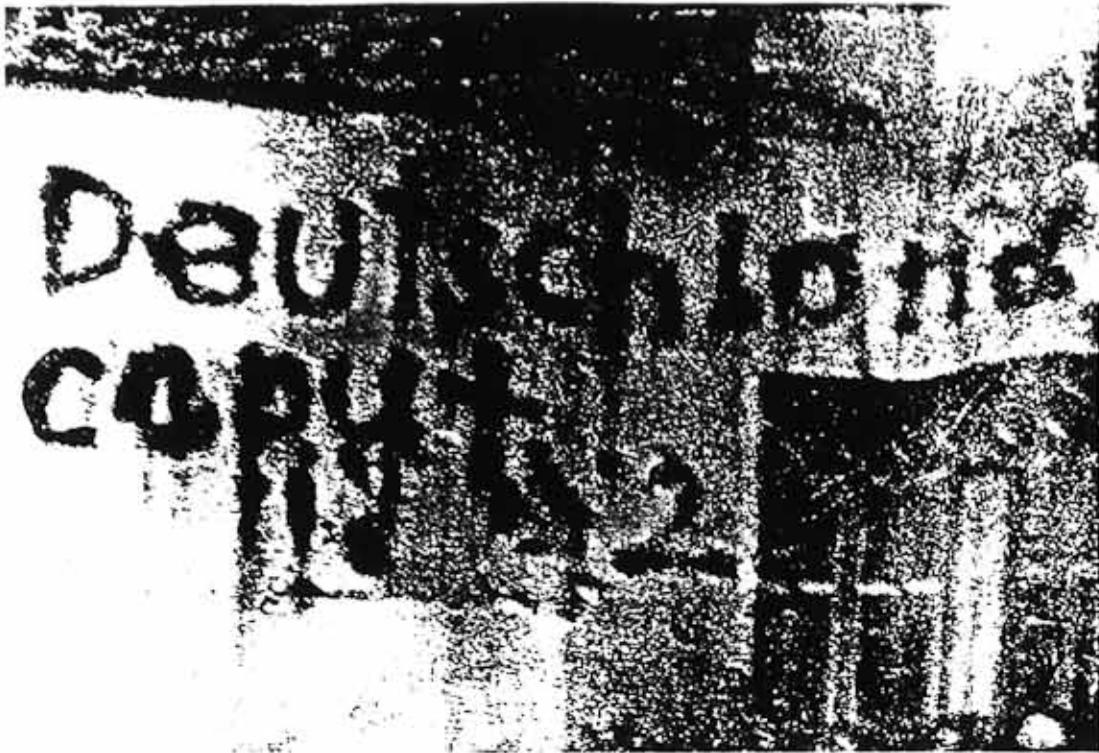


XVIII





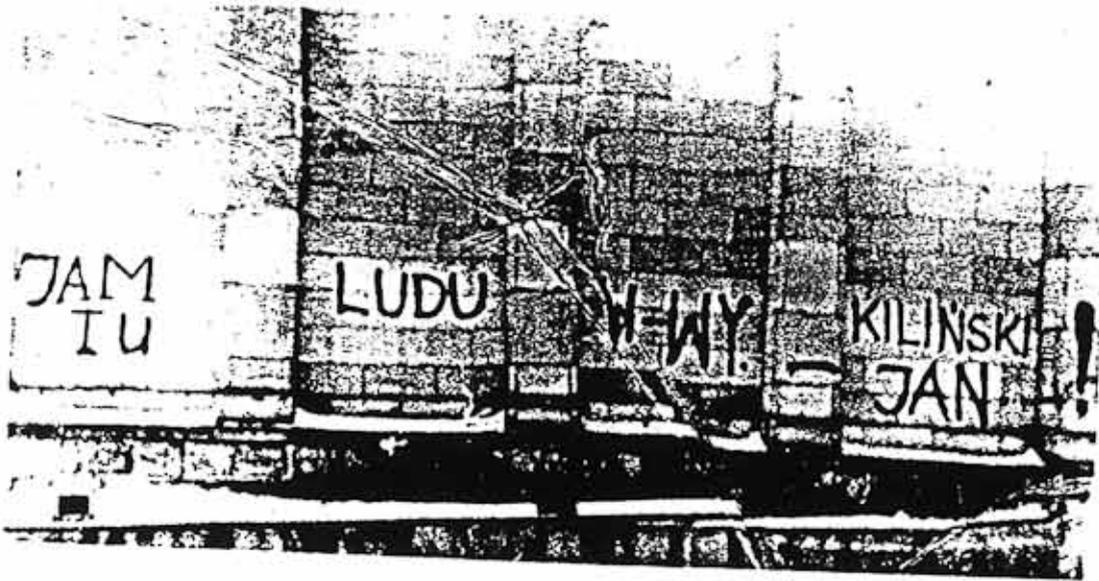




XXII







TEXT OF A RADIO BROADCAST SENT OUT FROM AN
UNDERGROUND RADIO STATION IN POLAND

This broadcast is coming to you from an underground radio station, located in the undaunted Polish capital of the independent and still fighting Republic of Poland.

In this first month of the War's fourth year, we are addressing you, dear fellow countrymen, from yours and our beloved city of Warsaw, now ruined, scarred, poverty-stricken, dark and famished, but still the same city of Warsaw, which not even for a single moment gave in to the enemy and fights him day and night on every sector. We are broadcasting from the City of Warsaw of which you may, and justly so, be proud and which proved in defeat, just as it did on several occasions in the past, that it was worthy of being the Capital of a great nation.

Here from Warsaw we send you greetings, beloved brethren of ours in England, Russia, France and wherever the vicissitudes of War may have taken you to. We are also sending greetings to our fellow countrymen, now citizens of the sundry American Republics. And in particular, as well as most cordially, we greet our Army, especially our fliers and sailors, who rendered such signal services.

You would hardly believe it, you brothers of ours, wearing a uniform for the sight of which we are yearning, how



MOSKAU
GNIAZDO BOLSZEWIZMU W NIEMIECKICH REKACH

proud we are of the fact that after the September debacle you have shifted the war against the enemy to other fronts and that primarily thanks to you, the Polish-German war continues without cessation. You do not realize how we rejoice over the esteem in which you are being held by our allies and how we dream of the moment when you shall be united with us again, that moment, which for all time to come shall decide our age-old struggle with the German barbarians.

Dear brethren of ours, the conditions under which our broadcast is being made, do not permit of it lasting any length of time and, accordingly, we refrain from giving you an account of the unending chain of monstrous murders and crimes perpetrated by the Germans in Poland. We are taking consolation in the fact that while you know of them in a general way, still some of you might feel distressed over the fact that, being so far away, one finds it hard to believe the reports.

Today we wish only to convey our thanks to the President of the Republic, to the Commander-in-Chief and to you one and all, as well as to the statesmen and peoples of the Anglo-Saxon countries for the cordial third anniversary of the attack on Poland.

Today we wish to say to you, Fellow-countrymen, that as we see it, the struggle with the Germans is a life and death

struggle, a struggle for the existence of free peoples, a struggle in which a compromise is utterly out of the question. It is either them or us. We have a choice between either becoming slaves with the prospect of ultimately being wiped out completely and between fighting and dying as free men. Poland has chosen the latter course. There is no responsible person in all of Poland, who would think of any compromise whatever with the Germans. It shall be a matter of historical record that in a nation of many millions, among which fainthearted individuals are also to be encountered, there had not been ~~not~~ one person who would have yielded to the enemy's pressure and become a tool in his hands. Remember that we are determined to fight to the finish and to win. Death would be preferable to bondage.

But we demand from you to do everything in your power to have right now retributory measures applied to the Germans, lest it should happen that all those who present any kind of a value for Poland be exterminated by the Germans to the last man.

At this moment we are certain of victory together with the Allies. Japan's entering the war is unable to counterbalance the striking power of the United States or of the latest ally, Brazil, nor the unexpectedly powerful and prolonged resistance of Russia. Rumors reaching us from authoritative German quarters, no longer speak of victory and all of their

calculations are based on defeating Russia before a second front had been established and on shifting all of their forces to the West, which - according to German military plans - would render impossible an invasion of the European continent by Allied forces, thus bringing about eventually, after a few futile attempts at landing, an ardently desired peace by compromise. Should these hopes fail to materialize, the Germans are prepared for an unavoidable defeat, for which the appalling results of Allied air raids on the Reich, striking terror into the hearts of the Germans, are already a prelude.

And there is further the ever-deepening chasm between the (Nazi) Party, the members of which are amassing riches behind the front and the army, which fights in Russia, enduring great hardships. A chaos in the organization machinery, contradictory regulations, deterioration of the railway system, lack of coal and electric power, decline of production, are all symptoms of a slowly approaching collapse. German propaganda, with conditions as indicated for a background, no longer finds any credence.

Beloved Brethren, citizens of the Polish Republic, you have the honor of representing our homeland in Allied countries and on your demeanor, your efforts, your spirit of sacrifice and your valor depends, to a large extent, the future of us all. We are counting and setting great hopes on you. We

are confident that all of you, to a man, are working to the best of your ability and that you shall continue to work for our main goal and for the regaining of our independence.

Fellow Poles in America, the country from which you or your parents hail, needs you. Follow the call of your noble minded President Roosevelt, for whom we have a feeling of profound gratitude and admiration for his contribution to the victory of democracy and to the liberation of our country.

Poles, citizens of the Polish Republic, you who reside abroad and we who live in Poland, all rallied around our President, around our Commander-in-Chief, General Sikorski, and his Government, they being our only constitutional representatives in whom all of Poland puts the fullest measure of confidence, shall keep on fighting till victory is won.

Long live Poland, Great Britain, the United States and all the Allied nations.

UNDERGROUND POLISH PRESS
WRN - Issue No. 10 (92) Vol. IV of June 8, 1942
THE MURDERERS OF PRISONERS

Acting under orders from Berlin, the Germans shot 228 prisoners confined in the Pawiak prison, to avenge the assassination of Heydrich, chief of the Gestapo executioners. Among the executed were 22 women. After the mass executions staged a month ago in Warsaw and in Zgierz, the second part of the monstrous slaughter of helpless prisoners was enacted.

The infamy of bloody bestiality on the part of these butchers exceeds any and all limits. At the same time they display a feeling of fear thus far unnoticed in the leaders of the Hitler gang. By a river of blood of innocently butchered victims, they attempt to protect themselves against any acts of justified revenge and safeguard their miserable lives, as well as their chance to mistreat entire peoples with impunity. In retaliation for the killing of one of Hitler's murderous rogues, scores of Czechs, Frenchmen, Norwegians and hundreds of Poles are being butchered. On us falls the most savage form of vengeance because in us Hitler and his gang see the chief force of resistance in conquered Europe; the greatest reservoir of hatred for the despoilers, the highest potential of determination to rise in armed insurrection.

Two hundred and twenty-eight victims of a wholesale murder were added to the scores of unfortunates perishing day in and day out in the concentration camps, from tortures during in-