

FROM THE EVALUATION AND RESEARCH SECTION

NOVEMBER 8 1956

(4)-(5) - REACTION (P)
POLISH REACTION TU HUNGARY

/To 1400 hrs. November 8/

D-42

280

Official Reaction.

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"The bloody merry-go-round in Hungary goes on," was the title of a Radio WROCLAW commentary by Kazimierz KOSZUTSKI on November 7. While summing up Poland's feelings about the situation in Hungary, KOSZUTSKI appealed for sober judgment of events. "In Hungary the enemies of Socialism and the enemies of the Hungarian people succeeded in attempts which, a few days earlier, were brought to naught by a united working class and youth in Poland." /Compare CNR Item B-78,79, No.8./

Radio "Kraj" /WARSAW for Polish emigration/ broadcast on November 7 a commentary by Andrej MAKOWSKI condemning the intervention of foreign guns and bayonets in Hungary. After a review of the events from the appointment of NAGY through chaos and anarchy to the Soviet intervention, MAKOWSKI said: "We do not look for the circumstances which would justify the intervention of Soviet troops. Our attitude to this sort of means was clearly defined during the eighth plenary session, and nothing can change this attitude. We feel that Socialism needs no support from foreign guns and bayonets."

Radio WARSAW news coverage is scant. "News from Hungary continues to be scarce. TASS and Radio BUDAPEST report that order has been restored /in a number of towns/. At the same time AFP quotes a Hungarian Government spokesman describing the situation as serious." /Nov. 8, 0600 hrs./

At noon Nov. 8 Radio WARSAW reported fights in some districts of BUDAPEST and quoted KADAR's stop-debate message to UN.

Popular Reaction.

Situation in Poland is explosively tense. For the first time in history of Communist Poland Radio WARSAW /through "Kraj"/ appealed to the emigration for political realism, for calm and composure. "Every word may become a spark on a powder keg," said Janusz MAKARCZYK, commenting on tension in Poland and on foreign broadcasts in Polish /B-78,79, Nov.7-8./

The CRACOW university youth November 5 demonstrations, reported yesterday, continued in the afternoon as well, and chancellors had to call for calm. /Radio CRACOW Nov.6, C-180 Nov.7./

(H) - (6) - REACTION (P)

D-81

According to PAP dispatch of Nov. 8 /B-82/ three lorries of medical supplies left WARSAW for Hungary on November 7. Further contributions continue.

Soviet-Polish Relations.

"Large numbers of Soviet troops have massed along Poland's eastern border, according to reports reaching WARSAW today", reported F. LEWIS from WARSAW November 7 in "N.Y. Times" Nov. 8 "Several, if not all, of the normal frontier crossing points have been closed... Estimates of the size of the Soviet army concentration ran from twenty to forty divisions."

The LONDON "Daily Express" Nov 8 quoted "reliable reports" as saying that nine red divisions, including tanks, were concentrating at two crossings over the river Bug, which forms the eastern frontier with Russia. The newspaper said the new forces brought the total of Soviet troops surrounding Poland to an estimated 31 divisions, and asserted that eight Soviet divisions were already in Poland.

The Polish Communist Government did their best to appease the Russians by demonstrating Poland's friendship on the occasion of the 39th anniversary of the October Revolution. Speeches were devoted to a "true, deep and sincere" friendship, the graves of the Soviet soldiers were decorated with flowers and wreaths were placed at Soviet monuments.

To make less bitter the pill of the purge of Soviet officers from the Polish army, "Zolnierz Wolnosci" /Armed Forces paper/ of November 7 /CNR Item D-107/ praised the merits and military experience of the 32 Soviet officers who were leaving, and who "considered Poland as their second homeland." At the same time the paper stated that "a few Soviet commanders still remain, for not in all the services of our army have we enough of our own highly qualified commanders. We must still take advantage of the assistance rendered us by our Soviet friends."

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