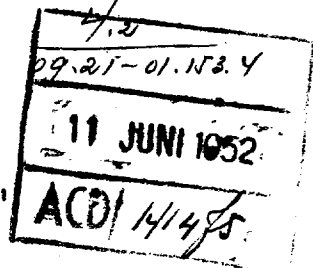


RAPPORT:
Van: KEB
Aan: H/BVD - H/KEW - H/KB - HB en HC.
No.: E/1782
Onderwerp: Rapporten betreffende Het
"Gesellschaft für Wehrkunde"
in W.Duitsland etc.



- ~~VERBODEN TOEGANG~~
1. Sardine deed ons toekomen om te behouden:
 - a een rapport betreffende het "Gesellschaft für Wehrkunde" in West Duitsland;
 - b een rapport bevattende enkele losse gegevens over het Verre Oosten;
 - c een rapport over de vergoddelijking van Stalin in Polen;
 - d een rapport over toestanden in Polen.
 2. De inhoud der rapporten is slechts bestemd voor eigen gebruik.
- Bijlagen: 4.
11.6.52.

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14/4/5

P O L A N D

Deification of Stalin.

The following information has been received from a source who has had recent experience of conditions in Poland:

1. Source has not come across any instances of direct deification of Stalin. The methods of putting him on a "divine pedestal" can be noticed quite often, but they are always applied indirectly. Propaganda is aware of the fact that the intellectual standard of the Polish people is higher than that of the Russians who, after years of socialist education", can be moulded at will, and upon whom any nonsense can be foisted.

2. In Poland official propaganda endeavours to extol Stalin by turning all his statements or even minor political utterances into irrefutable dogmas. Stalin's "Works" are raised to the level of Gospels. For instance, a mass or an educational meeting is held in a place of employment and a discussion (although very rare) follows the consideration of a problem. Should then a contrary opinion or even the smallest deviation be expressed, or should there be any difficulty in proving the factual logic of a given line of approach, then one quotation of Stalin on the subject "elucidates" the matter conclusively, ends discussion and stops all controversy. Anyone entering into a Colomic on the quotation would be immediately suspected of "unbelief" and would be condemned on the spot.

3. The same applies to universities, where, in a seminary or while studying marxism or leninism, or any other subject every discussion is always ended by the quotation of one of Stalin's dogmas. For instance, the latest pronouncement by Stalin on the subject of the Marxian approach to linguistics and the so-called "base and superstructure" has now been extended to the humanities: Polish philologists, reputable men of learning, are silenced during seminary discussion as soon as a ZMP student quotes Stalin's latest words. This is most noticeable when the dialectical methods is applied to all branches of learning which are moulded to fit Stalin's dogmas.

4. An other example, which is fairly insignificant - but is most characteristic of conditions prevalent in present day Poland, was the celebration of the feast of St, Nicholas in kindergartens and lowest school forms, organised throughout Poland by the regime. The intention at the back of it was, however, far from religious. ~~As~~ according to the propaganda of the regime there is no St. Nicholas, the figure is that of "Grandfather Frost" (Dziadek Mroz) who brings presents to children. Of course, he does not wear the bishop's mitre or any trace of a cross, but has a cap covered with snow. Children receive presents enthusiastically. During the celebration someone tells them that "Grandpa Frost" has received these presents for the children from Stalin. (There were occasions when Bierut was supposed to be the giver, but that was mere local nationalism.) The kids are, of course, enchanted and thus indirectly an admiration and almost God-like cult for Stalin is implanted in their minds. When they return home, the children tell their parents all about it and not all parents explain to them what is the real motive behind all this and that it is all a lie, as they fear that the child might so easily repeat this at school and attract attention to the "evil" influence of its particular home.

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5. These are unimportant details, but they are symptomatic. The "Grandfather Frost" incidents date from last year, but the current year is certainly no different, and one may be sure that similar incidents will recur with even greater force.

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6. Children are not told to pray direct to Stalin, but the very young ones - aware that presents come from Stalin - turn to him with requests for what they want to get most urgently. There have been cases of children writing letters to Statlin asking him for various things.

7. Stalin is thus being elevated to the role of a god in a round-about manner and the result is often better than by a direct approach.

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Conditions in Poland: opposition to the
Regime and to the Communist Party.

The following report, though on somewhat general lines, may be of interest. It comes from an informant inside Poland and is dated January last:

1. "Dead Meetings": A new form of resistance to official propaganda is being employed by heavy industry workers at compulsory mass meetings organised by the Communists. As it is known beforehand that all meetings always end in appeals for increased output and attempts at recruitment for "Peace Guards" and "Stalin Guards" (Warty pokoju - warty Stalinowskie), the workers make no response whatever to such appeals. The result is that sometimes the meetings are completely "dead" - with not a single worker uttering a word and greeting the anxious appeals of the political organisers with a grim and sombre silence. Information from all over the country indicates that this phenomenon is becoming increasingly frequent in many factories, mills and mines; the meetings take place without any motions or discussions, with no candidates or representatives being selected. The Party's political officers are well aware that these meetings harbour the seeds of a breach between the mass of workers and the Party, and that this is a novel form of political protest. To make matters worse, a section of the low-level communist executive apparatus has become infected by this state of mind. Party leaders are well aware that a clever handling of these manifestations might easily lead to the whole Polish nation joining them.

It would be easy for wireless propaganda from abroad to exploit these dangerous moods. At present the regime is sending its most efficient "activists" on voivodate level to try and prevent the present ominous situation from becoming really dangerous. The results of such a spontaneous, non-directed reaction, if it spread to thousands of production plants, might well prove fatal to the regime. The phenomenon of these "dead" meetings supplies evidence that the lowest ranks of the Party (doly partyjne) are increasingly losing touch with the top level of the Party, and this applies even more to the great number of "non-party" workers (masa bezpartyjnych). At present the last threads connecting the masses with Party leaders are breaking - since the masses have no illusions left as to the real aims pursued by the PZPR clique, forced as it was upon the country by the Kremlin, hostile to Poland's interests and wholly in the pay of Soviet Russia.

2. Conferences of PZPR Committees.

The truth emerging from discussions, "self-criticisms" and mutual recriminations which characterised recent voivodate Party committee conferences makes it evident that hundreds of production plants in Poland are behind schedule in the fulfilment of the Six-Year Plan targets and that they will not be able to complete the norms set for the second year of the Plan even during the course of January 1952. Only a very small number of heavy industry plants have carried out their plan mainly because local Party committees on the voivodate level, who were held responsible for their production, had concentrated their attention on them and their efficiency. Party committees blame this state of affairs on political considerations. In spite of the fact that Party machinery was working satisfactorily - as for instance in the voivodate of Lodz - seventy per cent of the factories there failed to complete their targets. Many of the heavy industry factories and foundries failed to achieve even fifty per cent of their targets. Such facts are carefully concealed by the regime.

Only five mines in Silesia managed to fulfil their production targets before the date set for completion, namely the Mortimer Plast-Ziemowit, Wanda, Lafiewniki and Jankowice mines. Reports show that the completion of targets depends to a large extent on the psychological attitude of the personnel. In addition to various objective difficulties, such as poor quality of raw materials, worn-out equipment and machinery, inadequate overhaul and repair work, the present unsatisfactory state of affairs is due to loss of faith on the part of the workers in promises made by the regime. At first the authorities were successful in exploiting the tremendous enthusiasm of the people for the rebuilding of their

rebuilding of their country; this has now given place to quiet resignation or to a concealed but bitter struggle against the regime carried on in all ways accessible to the workers in the economic field. The fact that the regime is being defeated in this sector is bound to bring about far-reaching changes in the Ministry of Heavy Industry. It is possible that H. Mine will resign in favour of S. Jedrychowski, whose position is becoming stronger all the time. Many of the imposing achievements of the regime in the reconstruction of the country have been won at the cost of criminal neglect of other aspects of national economy, and this has in turn adversely affected the general economy of the country.

3. Failure of the plan for the compulsory purchase of grain.

In spite of widespread propaganda and special privileges granted to peasants the plans for the purchase of grain have ended in utter failure. In view of this new defeat, the regime is beginning to threaten the peasants with reprisals. This fact shows that the situation in the agricultural sector is as serious as that in the industrial sector. In view of the hard and obstinate resistance put up by the peasants, the regime press has abandoned its childish tactics of photographing "shockworkers" decorated with medals and publishing their eulogies and is now printing, on orders, open threats, such as:.... "If even these measures should prove insufficient, penal sanctions will have to be applied...." This sentence provides ample proof of the extent of the failure of the regime in the campaign for the purchase of grain in the countryside. Nevertheless the regime is doing its utmost to avoid applying official sanctions. In view of the very serious position in this sector, it has announced the mobilisation of all party forces to increase agricultural production in 1952. So far, in spite of repeated threats the regime has very rarely punished peasants who broke the regulation compelling them to supply grain for sale to the government. It is instead ruthlessly persecuting so-called "kulaks" who are known to be bitterly hostile to the regime. Information about them is supplied by the Security Police (U.B.)

4. Results of Party purges.

The systematic purges carried out in the PZPR have led to the liquidation of a comparatively large number of experienced party activists, to whom the P.P.R. owed the building-up of the Party. At present many posts in the Party are being manned by persons known to have no qualifications for the fairly important jobs for which they will be responsible to the Party. Despite intensive training and owing to the lack of proper cadres ("odpowiedni aktyw") the regime is forced to appoint to many important posts individuals of very dubious moral worth and qualifications. Naturally all this deepens the existing chaos.

The newly appointed people enjoy no prestige whatever among the personnel subordinated to them and are regarded with a quiet but universal contempt. Party committees and factory councils no longer include "moral leaders", enjoying the respect of the personnel and selected from among generally known and respected leftist worker "activists". The communist party has come to the conclusion that this element, socially valuable and able to think independently, must be regarded as dangerous; therefore the communists are doing their best to eliminate it from all Party sectors. The regime is increasingly depending on the Security Police and the worst, worthless elements drawn from the former malcontents and social "scum", which have now become its last support. Were it not for the terrorism of the Security Police, the former disillusioned Party members could easily organise a fighting Opposition, the size of which would be enormous. The silent meetings of factory workers give best proof of this. Party politicians realise fully this state of affairs and are therefore doing their utmost to liquidate the former "activist" workers who still wield a lot of influence among old workers who still remember old times. One of the methods used by the regime in fighting the former "activists" is to force them to work in new, strange environments far removed from their former domicile.