June 21, 1948

Counter Intelligence Corps Reports on the 'Katyn Forest Murders

Citation:

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Summary:

The U.S. Army investigates what happened in the Katyn Forest in 1940 using the accounts of locals, newspapers, intelligence, and diplomatic correspondence.

Original Language:

English,German,Polish,Russian

Contents:

Original Scan

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HEADQUARTERS
970TH COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS GROUP REGION V
APO 225

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File: V-4303 21 June 1948

SUMMARY REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

SD—
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A. C. OF S., G-2, DA

SUBJECT: Katyn Forest Murders

CROSS REFERENCE: Murder of Polish Army Officers

CASE CLASSIFICATION: Miscellaneous

1251 G-2 000.5 21 June 48/fw (29 Jul49)

1. Reason for Investigation

In compliance with letter, Headquarters 970th CIC Detachment, EUCOM, dated 18 March 1948, subject as above, file D-229548, investigation was initiated in this area to obtain all available information concerning subject.

2. Synopsis of Previous Investigation

None in this area.

3. Synopsis of Present Investigation

a. Franciszek KUSIEL, former Captain in the Polish army, stated during interview that he was serving with the Polish army at the time they surrendered to Soviet forces on 22 September 1939 at LWOW, Poland. From LWOW, KUSIEL along with approximately 4,000 other Polish officers, was sent to STAROBIELSK, Ukraine, where he was confined until May 1940. KUSIEL states that in March 1940, small groups of officers (ranging from 60 to 120 in number) were shipped from STAROBIELSK to PAVLISCOV BOR, a small city not far from SMOLENSK, and interned at the JUCHNOVSKI Lager, a short distance from Katyn. In May 1940 when he was shipped to JUCHNOVSKI, KUSIEL came into contact with a group of approximately 100 Polish officers who had just arrived from the KOZIELSK Enclosure, who informed him that KOZIELSK was employing the same method of shipping prisoners as the STAROBIELSK Lager.

b. KUSIEL was transferred to the LUBIANKA Prison in MOSCOW on the same day he arrived at PAVLISCOV BOR due to urgent pleas from prominent White Ruthenian authors and poets concerning the release of his wife, a poetess of some note, who was also imprisoned by the Soviets. During the time he was interned at JUCHNOVSKI Lager, he states that there were approximately 200 Polish officers there, of which twenty (20) were taken away by the Soviets. KUSIEL states that to this day he has not seen any of the officers who were interned with him either at STAROBIELSK or at PAVLISCOV BOR.

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Page 1 of 13 pages
1 of 5 Copies.

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Lt. Col. Glenn, Chief Central Br.
Courtney Nicks WO16 29 Jun 51

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SUBJECT: Katyn Forest Murders (Cont'd)

(1) KUBIEL states that Dr. Ferenc ORSOS, Hungarian professor who was head of the German Investigation Commission at Katyn, resided in CHAM (N50/U58) until 1946, at which time he moved to MAINZ, French Zone, where he is working at the MAINZ Medical School.

c. George KRANZEDER of Kirchstr. 49, VILSBIBURG, a former officer in the German Army, stated that he was stationed in SMOLENSK, fifteen (15) km from the Katyn Forest in 1942-43 with the 57th German Army Corps. He was present when the bodies were exhumed from Katyn forest, and states that to his knowledge there were between 2,000 and 3,000 bodies, all shot through the neck, and buried in ten (10) to fifteen (15) mass graves. He states that the bodies were exhumed by German soldiers under the direction of an International Commission in August 1943.

d. The following information was obtained from Ø-38-V, and was translated from the original Polish language by Special Agents BRAND, SOLTYS, and SHOIK of this headquarters.

(1) Over 8,000 officers of the Polish army were interned by the Soviets in three (3) main Prisoner of War Enclosures at the cessation of hostilities between Poland and Russia in September 1939. Included among these officers were twelve (12) Generals, ninety-four (94) Colonels, 263 Majors, and 7,800 officers of lesser rank. The camps were located at KOZIELSK, STAROBIELSK, and OSTASHKOV. Beginning in the spring of 1940, these officers were moved in small groups of between sixty (60) and 300 men to a small town near the Katyn Forest in the vicinity of SMOLENSK, USSR, from where they subsequently vanished.

(2) During the period from September 1941 until the discovery of the bodies of these officers, numerous personal contacts between Polish officials, including Ambassador S. KOT, Generals Wladimir ANDERS, Wladimir SIKORSKI and Minister H. SOKOLNICKI, and Russian officials including Ministers VYSHINSKY, MOLOTOV, and Marshall Josef STALIN, were made in an effort to learn their fate. In addition to personal contact, several official communiques were dispatched from the LONDON Polish Government to MOSCOW demanding to know the disposition of these men. In all discussions, and in all answers to Polish communiques, the Soviets asserted the following points:

(a) All Poles taken prisoner by the Soviets had been freed.
(b) It was possible that the missing Polish officers had escaped to Manchuria. (This theory was advanced by Stalin himself.)
(c) Perhaps the officers had been captured by the Germans.

During one discussion, Polish Ambassador KOT had stated to VYSHINSKY that approximately 9,500 officers were being held by the Soviets. The Soviets also maintained that their data never showed this many officers as prisoners.

(3) On 28 January 1942, Mr. RACZYNSKI, Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs for the London Polish Government, sent the following quoted note to the Soviet Ambassador to England, BOGOMOLOV:

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SUBJECT: Katyn Forest Murders (Cont'd)

London, January 28, 1942.

Mr. Ambassador,

The Polish Government regrets to have to bring to Your Excellency's notice that, according to information just received, the liberation of Polish citizens detained on the territory of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in labour camps and other places of detention has not been completely carried out. In a number of cases the local administrative authorities of the Union do not apply in full the provisions of the Soviet Decree dated August 12, 1941.

In this respect I have the honour to mention in particular the painful fact, that of all the officers and soldiers registered in the prisoner of war camps of KOZIELSK, STAROBIELSK and OSTASHKOV, 12 generals, 94 colonels, 263 majors and about 7,800 officers of lesser rank have so far not yet been set free. It must be emphasized that investigations carried out in Poland and in the Reich have made it possible to establish definitely that these soldiers are not at present in occupied Poland, nor in prisoner of war camps in Germany.

According to fragmentary information that has reached us, a certain number of these prisoners find themselves in extremely hard circumstances on Franz Joseph Land, Nova Zemlya and on the territory of the Yakut Republic on the banks of the Kolyma river.

I must add that the question of the fate of Polish citizens, civilians and military, has been the subject of several consecutive interventions by the Polish Embassy at KUYBYSHEV, which will soon be in a position to submit a new list of names of all these persons to the Government of the Union. The same question was also the subject of a conversation in MOSCOW on December 4, 1941, between the Polish Prime Minister and the Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars. During the course of this conversation General SIKORSKI was relieved to receive an assurance that the necessary instructions would be issued to the competent Soviet authorities and that all the prisoners would be set free.

Referring to the letter and spirit of this conversation and of the understandings reached by our two Governments, I have no doubt that Your Excellency will share my conviction that the efficient and speedy execution of the provisions of the supplementary Protocol to the Polish-Soviet Agreement signed in London on July 30, 1941, concerning the liberation of Polish citizens, imprisoned or detained in prisoner of war camps or labour camps, rests on imperative motives of humanity and justice. Your Excellency will no doubt also share the Polish Government's opinion that special importance should be attached to the favourable development of our mutual relations, as desired by the political leaders of both our countries united in the common struggle against the invader.

In requesting Your Excellency to be so good as to bring the contents of this note to the attention of your Government, I take this occasion to assure Your Excellency of my highest consideration.

I have the honour to be, etc.

RACZYNSKI

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(4) On 13 March 1942, Soviet Ambassador BOGOMOLOV replied to the above quoted note as follows:

PAGE 3 of 13 PAGES
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SUBJECT: Katyn Forest Murders (Cont'd)

London, March 13, 1942.

Mr. Minister,

In reply to your note of January 28, 1942, I have the honour, by order of the Soviet Government, to bring the following to your notice:

The Soviet Government cannot agree to the statement contained in Your Excellency's note. According to these statements the liberation of Polish citizens, including officers and soldiers, detained on the territory of the USSR in labour camps and other places of detention, has not been completed, because, it is alleged in the note, the local Soviet authorities have not applied to their full extent the provisions of the Decree (Ukase) of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the USSR of August 12, 1941, concerning the amnesty to Polish citizens.

In the reply by M.V.M. MOLOTOV's note of November 8, 1941 addressed to M. KOT, and in the Aide-Memoire of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs of November 19, it had already been announced that the amnesty to Polish citizens had been strictly carried out. An appropriate investigation conducted by competent Soviet authorities after the conversation held on December 4, 1941, between the Polish Prime Minister, General SIKORSKI, and the Chairman of the People's Commissars of the USSR, J.V.STALIN, completely confirmed the above statement; besides the People's Commissar, in the spirit of his note No.6 of January 9, 1942, addressed to the Embassy of the Republic of Poland, gave additional detailed explanations on the carrying out of the amnesty in favour of Polish citizens.

As the Polish officers and soldiers were liberated on the same basis as other Polish citizens under the Decree of August 12, 1941, all that has been said above applies equally to the Polish Officers and soldiers.

As regards the statements contained in Your Excellency's note, alleging that there are still Polish officers who have not yet been set free, and that some of them are on Franz-Joseph and Nova Zemlya islands, and the banks of the River Kolyma, it must be stated that these assertions are without foundation and obviously based on inaccurate information. In any case, whenever it is learned that there are certain isolated instances of delay in setting free Polish citizens, the competent Soviet authorities immediately take measures necessary for their release.

The Soviet Government takes this opportunity to declare that it has put into full effect the measures concerning the liberation of Polish citizens in accordance with the Supplementary Protocol to the Soviet-Polish Agreement of July 30, 1941, and that thus the Soviet Government is doing in this respect all that is this respect all that is necessary for the future favourable development of Soviet-Polish relations.

I have the honour to be, etc.

BOGOMOLOV

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CIC LOG NO. 43907

PAGE 4 of 13

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SUBJECT: Katyn Forest Murders (Cont'd)

According to information of the Polish Government there were in all at the beginning of 1940, 15,490 Polish citizens, including 8,700 officers, in the three above mentioned camps. From April 5, 1940, until the middle of May, 1940, the Soviet authorities proceeded to break up these camps, deporting the inmates in batches every few days. Prisoners of the KOZIELSK camp were deported in the direction of SMOLENSK, and from all the three camps only 400 men were transferred in the last batches, first to the YUKHNOWSKI camp (railway station Babynino) and subsequently in June 1940, to Griazovetz in the Vologda district.

When after the signing of the Polish-Soviet military agreement on August 14, 1941, the Polish Government proceeded with the organization of the Polish Army in the USSR, the camp of GRIAZOVETZ, to which in the meantime military and civilian prisoners from other camps had arrived, was also broken up and from the above mentioned group of 400 prisoners more than 200 officers reported for service in the Polish Army before the end of August 1941. All the other officers, however, who were deported to an unknown destination from the camps of KOZIELSK, STAROBIELSK and OSTASHKOV have neither been found nor have they given any sign of life. So it became apparent that more than 8,000 officers were missing who might have supplied the cadres of senior and junior officers of the army in formation and who would have been of inestimable value in the military operations against Germany.

From October, 1941, both Ambassador KOT and General ANDERS, Commander-in-chief of the Polish Army in the USSR, constantly intervened, both orally and in writing, in the matter of the missing officers. Ambassador KOT discussed this matter with Premier STALIN, with Mr. MOLOTOV, People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs, and with Mr. VYSHINSKY, Deputy People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs, demanding a list of the prisoners detained in the three camps mentioned above and an explanation as to their fate. During his visit to MOSCOW in December, 1941, General SIKORSKI also intervened in the above matter in a conversation with Mr. STALIN and on that occasion handed him a list containing the names of 3,845 Polish officers. On March 18, 1942, General ANDERS gave Mr. STALIN, Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars, a list of 800 officers. On January 28, 1942, I had the honour to send you, Mr. Ambassador the anxiety of the Polish Government at the failure to find many thousands of Polish officers. Lastly, on May 19, 1942, Ambassador KOT sent the People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs, a Memorandum in which, reverting again to the question of the missing officers, he expressed his regret at the refusal to supply him with the list of prisoners, and his concern as to their fate.

I regret the necessity of calling your attention, Mr. Ambassador, to the fact that the Polish Government in spite of reiterated requests, has never received either a list of the prisoners or definite information as to the whereabouts of the missing officers and of other prisoners deported from the three camps mentioned above. Official, verbal and written statements of the representatives of the USSR have been confined to mere assurances that, in accordance with a Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the USSR, dated August 12, 1941, the amnesty was of a general and universal character as it included both military and civilian prisoners, and that the Government of the USSR had released all the Polish officers from prisoner of war camps.

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SUBJECT: Katyn Forest Murders (Cont'd)

(5) Subsequent to the exchange of the above quoted notes , the German army reported that on 13 April 1943, they had found the bodies of several thousand Polish officers contained in mass graves in the vicinity of Katyn Forest near SMOLENSK. This news was given wide publicity by the German propaganda service. The Polish Government in London then issued a statement dated 17 April 1943 requesting the International Red Cross in GENEVA, Switzerland, to send a delegation to Katyn and establish the following three fundamentals:

(a) Who are the people found in the Katyn graves ?
(b) Who and what caused their deaths ?
(c) Establish the time of death.

An excerpt of this statement is quoted below:

" The Polish Government has instructed their representative in Switzerland to request the International Red Cross in GENEVA to send a delegation to investigate the true state of affairs on the spot. It is desired that the findings of this protective institution, which is to be entrusted with the task of clarifying the matter and establishing responsibility, be issued without delay. "

(6) On 20 April 1943, Minister RACZYNSKI again despatched a letter to Soviet Ambassador BOGOMOLOV, demanding an explanation as to the fate of the Polish prisoners missing within the USSR:

London, April 20, 1943.

Mr. Ambassador,

Foreign telegraph agencies publish a report of the German military authorities concerning the discovery at Kozia Gora near Katyn in the vicinity of SMOLENSK of a mass grave containing the bodies of the Polish officers allegedly killed in the spring of 1940. During the first few days 155 bodies were identified among which the body of Major General MIECZYSLAW SMORAWINSKI is supposed to have been found.

The report, although emanating from enemy sources, has produced profound anxiety, not only in Polish public opinion, but also throughout the world.

In a public statement on April 17, 1943, the Polish Government categorically condemned Germany's attempt to exploit the tragedy of Polish prisoners of war in the USSR for her own political ends. But more than ever the Polish Government maintains its attitude that the truth about this case so cynically exploited by Hitlerite propaganda must be fully elucidated.

You are no doubt aware, Mr. Ambassador, that after the conclusion of the Polish-Soviet Agreement of July 30, 1941, the Polish Government repeatedly approached the civil and military authorities of the USSR with requests for information concerning the prisoners of war and civilians who were in the camps of KOZELSK (East of SMOLENSK), STAROBIELSK (Near KHARKOV) and OSTASHKOV (near KALININ).

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TOP SECRET

SUBJECT: Katyn Forest Murders (Cont'd)

" I should like to emphasize that the Polish Government, as can be seen from their many representations quoted above, entirely independently of recent German revelations, has never regarded the question of the missing officers as closed. If, however, as shown by the communique of the Soviet information Bureau of April 15, 1943 the Government of the USSR would seem to be in possession of more ample information of this matter than was communicated to the representatives of the Polish Government sometime ago. I beg once more to request you, Mr.Ambassador, to communicate to the Polish Government detailed and precise information as to the fate of the prisoners of war and civilians previously detained in the camps of KOZIELSK, STAROBIELSK and OSTASHKOV.

Public opinion in Poland and throughout the world has rightly been so deeply shocked that only irrefutable facts can outweigh the numerous and numerous and detailed German statements concerning the discovery of the bodies of many thousands of Polish officers murdered near Smolensk in the spring of 1940. "

The Soviet answer to the above quoted note, if one was issued, is not available.

(7) During the period 28 April 1943 to 30 April 1943, an International Commission appointed by the International Red Cross in GENEVA, Switzerland, investigated the Katyn graves, and their official report is quoted below:

" Smolensk, 30 April 1943.

Memorandum

Drawn up in connection with the investigation of mass graves of Polish officers in the forest of Katyn near SMOLENSK, carried out by a Commission of leading representatives of European schools of Legal and Criminal Medicine, and by other eminent and university medical authorities.

From 28th to 30th April, 1943, a Commission of leading representatives of European Schools of Legal and Criminal Medicine and other eminent university medical authorities undertook a thorough scientific investigation of the mass graves of Polish officers in the forest of Katyn near SMOLENSK.

The members of the Commission were as follows:

1. Belgium: Dr.Speleers, Professor of Optics at the University of Ghent.
2. Bulgaria: Dr.Markov, Reader of Legal and Criminal Medicine in Sofia University.
3. Denmark: Dr.Tramsen, lecturer in the Institute of Legal Medicine in Copenhagen.
4. Finland: Dr. Saxen, Professor of Pathologic Anatomy in Helsinki University.
5. Italy: Dr. Palmieri, Professor of Legal and Criminal Medicine in Naples University.
6. Croatia: Dr. Miloslavich, Professor of Legal and Criminal Medicine in Zagreb University.

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SUBJECT: Katyn Forest Murders (Cont'd)

"

7. Holland: Dr.de Burlet, Professor of Anatomy in Groningen University.

8. Protectorates of Bohemia and Moravia: Dr. Hajek, Professor of Legal and Criminal medicine in Prague.

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9. Rumania: Dr.Birkle, Consultant to the Rumanian Ministry of Justice and First Assistant in the Institute of Legal and Criminal Medicine in Bucharest.

10. Switzerland: Dr.Naville, Professor of Legal Medicine in Geneva University.

11. Slovakia: Dr.Subik, Professor of Pathologic Anatomy at Pressburg University and Head of the Slovakian State Health Service.

12. Hungary: Dr.Orsos, Professor of Legal and Criminal Medicine in Budapest University.

The following were also present at the proceedings and meetings of the Committee:

1. Dr.Buhtz, Professor of Legal and Criminal Medicine in Breslau University, entrusted by the Supreme Command of the German Army with the direction of the excavations at Katyn.
2. Medical Inspector Dr. Costedoat, entrusted by the Head of the French Government to be present at the proceedings of the Commission.

The discovery, recently brought to the knowledge of the German authorities, of the mass graves of Polish officers in the forest of Katyn near SMOLENSK, prompted Dr. Conti, Head of the State Health Services, to invite the above-mentioned specialists from various European countries to inspect the site of the excavations at Katyn in order to assist in elucidating this unparallelled case.

The Commission personally heard the evidence of some native Russian witnesses, who, inter alia, declared that, during March, April 1940, big transport trains brought Polish officers almost daily to the station of Gnisdowa, near Katyn; from here they were taken in prison cars to Katyn forest and were never seen again. The Commission also took note of reports and depositions previously made, and inspected the documents found. Up to 30 April 1943, 982 corpses were disinterred. Of these about 70% were immediately identified; the papers of the rest could only be used as an aid to identification after careful treatment. The bodies desinterred before the arrival of the Commission were inspected and a large number of them were subjected to a post-mortem by Professor Buhth and his colleagues. Up to the present date, seven mass graves have been opened, containing at a rough estimate the bodies of 2,500 officers.

Nine post-mortems were carried out by members of the Commission, and an inquest was held on numerous specially selected cases.

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CIC LOG
NO. K-3947

PAGE 8 of 13
COPY 1 of 5 COPIES

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SUBJECT: Katyn Forest Murders (Cont'd)

Legal and Medical results of the inspections and examinations conducted

It was ascertained that in the case of all the bodies so far disinterred death was caused without exception by shooting through the head. The shots were nearly always in the back of the neck; in most cases only one bullet had been necessary; there were a few cases where two bullets had been used and one single case where three could be traced. The shot was fired at the base of the back of the neck, and passed through the base of the skull, usually exploding where the hair and forehead met, sometimes lower. The shots were usually from pistols of a calibre less than 8 mm.

The broken skulls and the discovery of traces of powder on the base of the skull near the place where the shot entered the body, together with the fact that this place was always the same, points to a shot from a weapon with a muzzle attached or one fired at a point-blank range. Moreover, with very few exceptions the direction taken by the bullet is nearly always the same. The remarkable similarity of the wounds and the fact that the shot always entered the body at a particular point at the back of the skull points to a skilled hand. Many bodies showed traces of the hands having been bound in a particular way, and in certain cases, of transverse cuts by bayonets in clothes and flesh. The way in which the hands were bound corresponds to that observed in the case of the bodies of Russian civilians also excavated in Katyn forest, which had been buried considerably earlier. It was also ascertained that the shots in the back of the heads of these Russian civilians had been fired with similar certainty.

From the presence of a transverse shot in the head of a Polish officer already killed by a shot at the base of the skull, it may be inferred that another officer was killed by this shot, which passed out of his body and into that of a man already shot and lying in the mass grave. This points to the fact that the shooting often took place in the graves themselves to avoid transport to the place of burial.

The mass graves are in a forest clearing. They have been levelled, and young pine trees have been planted there. As members of the Commission saw for themselves, and as was stated by the Head Forester, who was called in as an expert - Von Herff (phonetic spelling) - these are underveloped saplings grown in the shade of big trees and about five years old, planted here three years ago.

The mass graves were dug in step form in the hilly country, the soil of which consists of pure sand. In places they go down to water level.

The bodies almost all lie on their faces, close together, and are on top of one another. They are clearly arranged in layers at the sides of the grave, more irregularly in the centre. The legs are almost always straight. They have obviously been systematically arranged. The uniform worn by the bodies excavated have been unanimously observed by the Commission to have in all respects unmistakable features of Polish uniforms, especially as regards buttons, badges of rank, medals, type of boots, laundry marks, etc. The bodies were in winter clothing: fur coats, leather jackets, woollen waistcoats, high boots, typical uniform caps as worn by Polish officers. Only in a very few cases were the bodies not those of officers; one was identified as a priest. The quantity of clothing corresponds to the number of bodies. The underwear is buttoned up,

" braces and belts are in place. From this it may be inferred that the bodies were interred in the uniform they were wearing at the time of death.

The rings and watches were not found on the bodies, though watches must have been available up to the last hours of life, to judge from entries in diaries showing the exact time of day. Articles of value were only discovered in a very few instances, when they had been carefully concealed. On the other hand many bodies still had gold stoppings in the teeth. Polish banknotes were found in large quantities, and in some cases foreign currency also. Polish cigarettes and match boxes were also found on the bodies and in some cases tobacco pouches and cigarette ends with the mark "Kozielsk". The documents found on the bodies (diaries, letters, newspapers) date from the autumn of 1939 to March and April 1940. The latest established date so far is that of a Russian paper of 22 April 1940.

The nature and extent of decomposition has differed according to the position of the bodies in the grave and relative to one another. Bodies on the surface and at the edges of the mass of corpses reveal a process of mummification, while damp putrifaction is present in the center. The clothing together of neighboring bodies by dense purifaction, and in particular the deformation due to pressure, point decisively to the fact that this is the original grave.

There were no insects or insect remains which might have dated from the time of burial. It appears from this that the executions and burials must have taken place at a cold, insect-free time of year.

A considerable number of skulls were examined for a reaction, which, in the opinion of Professor ORSOS, is of great importance in fixing the time of death. This consists of several strata of a calcareous tufa-like incrustation on the surface of the brain, which has already turned to a clay consistency. This is not observed in bodies which have lain in the grave for less than three (3) years. Such a condition was present in a very advanced form in the skull of body No. 526, which was recovered from the surface of a large mass grave.

Summary of Opinion

In Katyn Forest mass graves of Polish officers were investigated; seven (7) of these have so far been opened. 982 bodies have so far been recovered from them and examined; post-mortems have been conducted on a number of bodies, 70% of which have been identified.

Without exception death was caused by shooting through the back of the head. From the testimony provided by the letters, diaries, newspapers, etc., found on the bodies, it appears that the executions took place in March and April 1940. The reports on the mass graves in the memorandum and the individual bodies offPolish officers fully accord with this.

Signed: Dr. SPELEERS, Dr. MARKOV, Dr. TRAMSEN, Dr. SAXON, Dr. PALMIERI, Dr. MILOSLAVICH, Dr. de BUHLET, Dr. HAJEK, Dr. BUKLE, Dr. MAVILLE, Dr. SUBIK, Dr. ORSOS.

**Note: According to O-38-V, Dr. MARKOV, due to pressure applied by the NKVD, did not sign this report.

SUBJECT: Katyn Forest Murders (Cont'd)

(8) Following is quoted an excerpt from the diary of Major A. SOLSKI, found on his body when it was discovered in one of the mass graves at KATYN forest, and describes the last moments of the convoy which left KOZIELSK on 7 April 1940:

" 9.4.40. From dawn the day started in a special way. Departure in prison coach in cells (terrible). Taken somewhere into a wood, something like a country house. Here a special search. I was relieved of my watch, pointing to 6.30 a.m. (8.30 a.m. Polish time), and asked about a wedding ring. Roubles, belt and pocket knife taken away. "

(9) In the spring of 1944, the Soviets regained control of the KATYN district, and set up an enquiry commission to investigate the KATYN murders. This commission, which was comprised solely of Soviet citizens, arrived at the conclusion that the atrocities had been committed by the Germans. Results of this commissions findings were issued in form of a communique, entitled "Report of Legal and Medical Examination", which is briefly outlined below:

" a. Testimony by a certain number of witnesses confirms that west of SMOLENSK, where they were doing road work, were quartered Polish officers in three camps.

b. After the outbreak of war it was impossible to evacuate them and they fell into the hands of the Germans.

c. Some of these witnesses avowed that they had seen Polish officers after the area was occupied by Germans.

d. They affirmed further that during the German occupation, trucks with Polish prisoners came to the KATYN forest, and, following this, shots were heard in the woods.

e. Other witnesses stated that they had seen German trucks loaded with corpses headed for the woods.

f. The Commission found documents in the clothing of the victims containing dates as late as June 1941.

g. Medical investigations established that the murders took place approximately in the autumn of 1941.

h. At the beginning of this communique is the following short statement: "The total number of the corpses according to the experts' estimate approximately 11,000".

(10) The records of the original medical commission appointed by the Germans refer to a definite number of corpses examined, as well as the number uncovered. The first figure is 982, the second 4,143. Other documents issued by the Germans include changes as to the number of victims, however it is believed that these changes were made for propaganda publications. It was established in investigation by Polish authorities that the graves at KATYN could hold only 5,000 bodies, since that was the maximum capacity of the graves, whose measurements were published by both Soviet and German experts.

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SUBJECT: Katyn Forest Murders

After checking the list of identified corpses, Polish experts established that the majority of the victims identified were former prisoners of KOZIELSK, where approximately4,500 prisoners were kept. 245 of these prisoners left KOZIELSK between 26 April 1940 and 12 May 1940; thus the number of officers imprisoned at KOZIELSK could be estimated at approximately 4,250. This would substantially agree with the number of bodies originally reported found at KATYN (4,143) by German Medical Commission. The fate of the officers held in STAROBIELSK and OSZTASZKOW would then still remain a mystery.

(11) In 1946 the Polish Communist Regime sent Judge (fnu) MARTINI to Katyn with the assignment of collecting material evidence proving irrefutably the guilt of the Germans in the massacre of these Polish Officers. Instead, Judge MARTINI gathered proof incriminating the NKVD, including names of NKVD officers who were directly responsible for the Katyn murders. According to his information, the Katyn action was carried out by NKVD officer BURIANOV, in conjunction with Lev ROBAK, Chaim FINBERG, Abraham BORUSOWICZ, Boris KUCEV, Ivan SIEKANOV, and Osip LISAK. As a result of his findings, Judge MARTINI was murdered on 12 March 1947 in his home at KRAKOW, Krupniczej St. 10, on orders of the PPR by two young Communists, namely Stanislaw WROBLEWSKI and Iolanthe MAKLAKIEWICZ; the latter, the daughter of the former director of the WARSAW Philharmonic. Judge MARTINI, however, foreseeing his fate, turned the evidence over to a trusted confidant before his death. In the search for this material, the entire Ministry of Security was mobilised, but so far the search has been fruitless.

4. Undeveloped Leads

a. Interview with Hans FRITSCHE, who was Press Chief of the German Propaganda Ministry during the war, and handled all information concerning the Katyn Forest murders.

b. Interview with Dr. Ferenc ORSOS, Hungarian Professor who was present during the International Commission's investigation of the Katyn incident, reportedly residing in MAINZ, French Zone of Germany.

c. This Headquarters has been offered access to the complete files of the LONDON Polish Government on the Katyn Forest murders if arrangements can be made for a United States Agent to pick them up in PARIS, France within the next two months. A courier will bring the documents as far as PARIS, but will not attempt to bring them into the U.S. Zone of Germany.

d. The possibility exists that the evidence referred to in paragraph 3. d. (11) can be obtained if a concerted effort is made in that direction.

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CIC LOG NO. 4.3.9.0.7.

PAGE 13 of 13 PAGES

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Subj: Katyn Forest Murders (cont'd) 21 June 1948

5. Agent's Notes and Comments

None.

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6. Recommendations

a. It is recommended that copies of newspapers for the period 13 April 1943 to 15 May 1943 be examined for the reports of the foreign correspondents who personally examined the graves. The Swiss press, particularly the "Neue Züricher Zeitung", "Basler Nachrichten", "Journal de Geneve", and "Weltwoche" should contain excellent material on the Katyn incident. In addition it is possible that much material may be found in the "Zeitungswissenschaftlichen Institut der Universität München" library, and in the "Kelsings Archiv".

Source: Franciszek KUSIEL
George KRANZEDER
C-38-V

Evaluation: B-3

Forrest E. Wood
FORREST E. WOOD
Special Agent,
CIC

APPROVED:
Ben M Forbes
for GEORGE W. GREER, Jr.
Special Agent, CIC
Operations Officer

Page 13 of 13 pages.

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NO. 4-3947

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~~TOP SECRET~~ 23 June 48

HEADQUARTERS

COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS REGION V

7970TH COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS [redacted] GROUP

FSN/tb APO 225

File: V-4303 D229543

23 June 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE

CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: Katyn Forest Murders K-3907

1. In compliance with verbal instructions from Operations Officer, Headquarters Region V, Hans FRITZSCHE was interviewed regarding his knowledge of the subject.

a. Hans FRITZSCHE who is now interned at the Civilian Internment Enclosure #22, REGENSBURG, was as a former leading member of the German Propaganda Ministry, in close contact with those people and agencies who were entrusted with the investigation of the Katyn Forest Murders in 1943.

2. As a whole FRITZSCHE's report confirms substance stated in SRI, this Headquarters, subject as above, dated 21 June 1948.

a. FRITZSCHE insists though that Dr. MARKOV, the Bulgarian member of the International Commission which investigated the Katyn Forest Murders in April 1943, did not fail to sign the findings of the Commission because he dissented with the opinion expressed by all other members as to the length of time the corpses had lain in the mass graves. Dr. MARKOV had made such a statement before the International Military Tribunal in NURNEMBERG.

b. FRITZSCHE's story for Dr. MARKOV's failure to sign the findings of the Commission is as follows;

(1) Dr. BUHTZ who was in charge of the Commission and who was an old time acquaintance of FRITZSCHE met the latter just as he (Dr. BUHTZ) was about to turn over the findings of the Commission to the International Press. Dr. BUHTZ told FRITZSCHE that the entire findings were unanimous, but that Dr. MARKOV had not signed it, having had a rendezvous with some girl from which he had as yet not returned.

c. At least to the Commission Dr. MARKOV had never voiced his disagreement as to the length of time the corpses were though to have lain buried before discovery.

REGRADED: CONFIDENTIAL
BY SECARMY PER DIR/ADA
AUTHORITY: EO 12958
REVIEWER/DATE: [illegible] 21 July 99

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PAGE 1 of 2 PAGES
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3. Agent's Notes and Comments: It is recommended that higher Headquarters avail themselves to the records of the First International Military Tribunal at NUREMBERG which pertain to the Katyn Forest Murders.

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a. In that connection the statements of the two German witnesses for the defense may be of particular interest.

b. Evaluation of above report is B-3.

F. C. Hood for
F. S. NORRING
Special Agent, CIC

OFFICER COURIER ONLY

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CIC LOG
NO. 4-3907

~~SECRET~~ 18 March

HEADQUARTERS
970TH COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS DETACHMENT
EUROPEAN COMMAND

S: 18 May 48

CONFIDENTIAL

D-229548

APO 757
18 March 1948

SUBJECT: Katyn Forest Murders

TO : See Distribution

1. This headquarters is desirous of obtaining information which might be available concerning the Katyn Forest Murders.

2. Several thousand Polish Army Officers were supposedly murdered in the early part of the war in this forest. Propaganda stories released by the Germans accused the Russians of these atrocities while the Russians stated that the Germans performed the murders.

3. It is believed that further information might be procurable from former German Military authorities or German Military Government officials who may have been located in the general area of Eastern Poland or Western Russia.

4. It is realized that practically every German will have some general knowledge of this event, however, only reports made by persons having some actual basis for their statements are desired.

5. It is further desired that source of report and the probability of source being in a position to render such a report be given. It is not necessary to submit name of source.

6. Negative reports are desired.

BY ORDER OF COLONEL ERSKINE:

Earl S. Browning Jr.
EARL S. BROWNING, JR.
Major, Infantry
S-3

Mr. OLIPHANT/emf/7256

Distribution "C"

~~SECRET~~ CONFIDENTIAL

13 Apr

~~SECRET~~

HEADQUARTERS
COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS REGION V
970TH COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS DETACHMENT

APO 225

FEW/er

File: V-4303 CONFIDENTIAL 13 April 1948
D-229548

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE

SUBJECT: KATYN Forest Murders

1. In compliance with verbal orders Commanding Officer, investigation was initiated in an attempt to gather information concerning subject.

2. Information received from informant sources reveals that a record of subject incident, including statements from many former high ranking officers in the German Army, among them Herman GOERING, is contained in the annals of the International Military Tribunal at NURNBERG. This record, by virtue of an agreement between a U. S. Army General and a Soviet Army General (names unknown), was never made public.

3. It is recommended that action be taken by higher headquarters through appropriate command channels in gaining access to IMT records for further information concerning subject.

Forrest E. Wood
FORREST E. WOOD
Special Agent, CIC

Tel: REGENSBURG MIL. 2087

SOURCE: C-38-V

EVALUATION: B-3

Page 1 of 1 Page

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141 Apr

HEADQUARTERS
SUB-REGION MARBURG
COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS REGION III

APO 572

III-M-1761 14 April 19 48

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE

SUBJECT: KATYN FOREST MURDERS

CONFIDENTIAL

1. Reason for investigation:

Reference is made to 1st Ind. Region III, Counter Intelligence Corps, Subject: KATYN FOREST MURDERS, file number III-5197, dated 15 March 1948. With reference to the above mentioned letter, this office contacted former General Oberst Heinz GUDERIAN, former German Chief of Army General Staff, now detained at the NEUSTADT (L51/G74) HDIE Generals Camp, who submitted the information contained in paragraph 2 of this report, concerning the KATYN FOREST murders.

2. Results of investigative activity:

On 6 April 1948, this Agent questioned former General Oberst Heinz GUDERIAN, at the NEUSTADT HDIE Generals Camp, who was formerly in command of the Second Panzer Army in Russia during the year 1941. General GUDERIAN stated that he remembered having read reports on the KATYN FOREST MURDERS, late in 1942 or the beginning of 1943, and that there was no doubt in his mind, but that the murders had been committed by the Soviet forces. General GUDERIAN further stated that the following listed General Staff Generals could give exact information on the murders because they were in command of the Signal Corps troops in the area where the bodies of the Polish officers were discovered.

a. Albert PRAUN, Generalleutnant, formerly detained in NEUSTADT HDIE, presently living in the US Zone at NEUMARKT (M50/T78), St. Veit Behelfsheim 5, Oberbayern.

b. (fnu) HOBKIRCHER or HOBKIRCHNER, former Generalleutnant, detained in ALLENDORF (L51/G94) HDIE. Present address unknown. Address could be obtained from General Albert PRAUN.

c. Adolf HEUSINGER, Generalleutnant, former Chief of Operation Division at HITLER's Headquarters. HEUSINGER was injured with HITLER on 20 July 1944. Formerly detained at ALLENDORF HDIE and presently living at WALKENRIED (M52/G93) Kreis GOSLAR, Bahnhofstrasse 3, British Zone.

3. Agent's notes, comments and recommendations:

It is suggested that copies of this report be submitted to Region [redacted] and to the British Intelligence in order to conduct interrogations of the above listed General Staff Officers. Evaluation: B-2

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Source: Heinz GUDERIAN

Telephone: MARBURG 2838

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APPROVED:

WILLIAM E. BURR II
Special Agent, CIC
Commanding

THOMAS H. EVANS
Special Agent, CIC

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20 Apr

HEADQUARTERS
COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS REGION I
970TH COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS DETACHMENT
EUROPEAN COMMAND EKE.EFG.al

APO 154, US Army
20 April 1948

I-10227

SUBJECT: KATYN Forest Murders

CONFIDENTIAL

1. Reason for Investigation.

Reference is made to letter, Headquarters, 970th CIC Detachment, APO 757, dated 18 March 1948; file D-229548, subject: KATYN Forest Murders.

2. Results of Investigation.

a. Attached hereto as Exhibit 1 is an English translation of a statement from the SOURCE concerning his duties and knowledge of the SUBJECT.

3. Agent's Comments and Recommendations.

a. The SOURCE is placing the undersigned agent in contact with several of his former unit members. As this is done further results will be submitted.

b. Evaluation of this report is C-3.

c. SOURCE: uncarded.

E. F. Gearhart
E. F. GEARHART
Special Agent CIC

Approved: Edwin K Eich
EDWIN K. EICH
Special Agent CIC

Incl: Exhibit 1, a/s

Stuttgart Switch 93255 Ext 302

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Report on KATYN, the way I experienced it.

In the year 1943 I was with the Second Company of the Third Battalion under the command of the SS-regiment "Der Fuehrer".

Our billets were at DEBICA-Cracow.

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In May 1943 we were transferred from out billets to a place then unknown to us. Later we found that it had been KATYN.

According to out training plan we were taught how to drive and operate the "Tiger" type armoured cars. One day though our training was interruped and we got orders to completely block off the road leading from KATYN to BERISCHANZ. A Swedish vehicle and also a Swiss vehicle were the only cars allowed to pass. As outer signs both cars were marked with the signs of the Red Cross and they had white flags.

After a few days I as guard just off duty went into to wood to find out what was going on there. I found that the SD was doing excavation work under the direction of a Swiss professor. At that time they had exhumed the bodies several completely uniformed Polish officers which had been killed by a "Genickschuss". In three bodies of the officers first exhumed the doctor found the bullet deriving from a Russian automatic rifle, while in the other bodies no bullets were found anymore.

After such discoveries the wood was closed off hermetically. Double guards were stationed. Only the excavation command and their directors were allowed to enter the wood, they had special passes. I myself was stationed as guard in the wood.

The second time I went into the wood the bodies of 10,000 officers were uncovered. All bodies lay face down in the grave, the shots that had killed them must have been fired from the rear, the bodies lay in double rows, heads together.

After the bodies were all exhumed I saw for the first, besides the Swiss and Swedish doctors I already mentioned, Finnish, Belgian, Italian, French, and German and Polish doctors. In order to get an objective picture of what had happened therese scientists had the order to establish the time (date) these bodies had been killed. After these investigations I read for the first time in German newspapers about the case. At once the Russians spread by aeroplane newspapers and pamphlets in this territory telling that the murdering had been done by Germans. However, the doctors had already established that the bodies had been murdered at a time when the wood had still been in the hands of the Russians.

After the investigation we returned to DEBICA again.

EXHIBIT "1" (one)

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HEADQUARTERS
COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS REGION I
970TH COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS DETACHMENT
EUROPEAN COMMAND EKE.JRH.al

APO 154, US Army
20 April 1948

CONFIDENTIAL

I-10227

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE

SUBJECT: KATYN Forest Murders

1. Reason for Investigation.

Reference is made to letter, Headquarters, 970th CIC Detachment, APO 757, dated 18 March 1948, file D-229549, subject: KATYN Forest Murders.

2. Results of Investigation.

a. Attached hereto as Exhibit 1 is a copy of DZIENNIK POLSKI, a Polish language newspaper published in LONDON. This paper contains an article extracted from American papers entitled "GOEBBEL's notes on the KATYN case". A translation in English is attached as Exhibit 2. F-1

b. Attached as Exhibit 3 is a translation of an article in CZAS, a Ukrainian newspaper published in FUERTH (M50/030), published in March 1948. F-3

c. Both newspaper articles are unanimous in blaming the Russians for the atrocity.

3. Agent's Comments and Recommendations.

a. The original of the CZAS article will be forwarded on receipt.

b. Evaluation at end of each paragraph.

c. SOURCE: uncarded.

John R Himmelright
JOHN R. HIMMELRIGHT
Special Agent CIC

Approved: Edwin K Eich
EDWIN K. EICH
Special Agent CIC

3 Incls: Exhibits 1, 2 &3, a/s

Stuttgart Switch 93255 Ext 302

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~~SECRET~~

WYDANIE B

Dziennik Polski

& Dziennik Żołnierza

1 PENSY

"THE POLISH DAILY & SOLDIERS DAILY" 25th March 1948.
Rok II, Nr. 73, Londyn, czwartek, 25 marca 1948 r.

Registered at the G.P.O. as a newspaper

Na żądanie Sowietów
Chory premier Finlandii poleciał do Moskwy

Helsinki, 24.3. — Pomimo choroby premier fiński Pekkala odleciał dziś do Moskwy, aby stanąć na czele delegacji do rokowań z Sowietami na temat paktu wzajemnej pomocy.

Według otrzymanych tu wiadomości, rząd sowiecki nie chciał rozpocząć rokowań póki Pekkala nie przybędzie do Moskwy. Delegacja fińska znajduje się w Moskwy [illegible] od dwóch dni, ale głównie odbyła wstępną rozmowę z Mołotowem, właściwe rokowania jeszcze się nie zaczęły. Jak wiadomo Pekkala jest hemiplegiczny, podczas gdy minister spraw zagranicznych Enckell, który w jego zastępstwie stał na czele delegacji, nie należy do żadnej partii. Kremel obawiał się, że pod nieobecność Pekkala stanowisko delegacji fińskiej będzie bardziej nieprzejednane.

Rosyjscy przyślą specjalny samolot dla przewiezienia Pekkali i jego lekarza do Moskwy. Pekkala od dłuższego czasu choruje na ucho. Choroba Pekkali wywołała dużą ulgę w Helsinkach, gdzie spodziewano się, że w tym czasie rokowania toczyć się będą bez jego udziału. Te nadzieje jednak nie spełniły się.

Prezydent Paasikivi przyjął wczoraj korespondentów amerykańskich, wobec których dał wyraz nadziei na rozszerzenie stosunków handlowych ze Stanami Zjednoczonymi i uzyskanie dalszych kredytów od USA.

Zapytany co sądzi o pogłoskach na temat rychłej wojny Paasikivi odpowiedział: "Był może jeszcze nieco zadwy, ale nie wierzę w dzisiaj do wojny w bliskiej przyszłości. Nowa wojna nie może rozpocząć się przed upływem 4 lat od zakończenia takiej wojny jaką właśnie mieliśmy".

Prezydent zapowiedział, że wybory odbędą się w Finlandii w lipcu, jak to przewiduje prawo. "Żyjemy w kraju, w którym panuje prawo i porządek, wola narodu będzie zawsze czynnikiem życia wyw".

Ambasador Czechosłowacji w Paryżu ustąpił

Paryż, 24.3. — Ambasador Czechosłowacji w Paryżu Nosek poinformował rząd francuski, że nie może nadal reprezentować Czechosłowacji po ostatnich wydarzeniach politycznych.

Poprzednio już cały szereg dyplomatów czeskich na czele z ambasadorem w Waszyngtonie Slawikiem demonstracyjnie ustąpiło.

Z Berna donoszą, że Hubert Ripka, bliski współpracownik Benesza, minister handlu zagranicznego rządu czeskiego przed komunistycznym zamachem stanu, który nastąpił 10 dni temu z Pragi, znajduje się w bezpiecznym miejscu „za zachód od żelaznej kurtyny".

Z Pragi donoszą: Ks. J. Szramek b. premier czeski i ks. Franciszek Hala, b. minister poczt, których komuniści aresztowali w ub. niedzielę za rzekomą chęć ucieczki zamiastem „obcego pochodzenia" będą uwięzieni w klasztorze katolickim — tak oświadczył prezes komunistycznego Komitetu Akcji Związku b. Kombatantów, Steiner.

Konferencja szefów sztabów u Trumana

Waszyngton, 24.3. — Truman zwołał wczoraj konferencję, w której wzięli udział minister obrony Forrestal oraz szefowie sztabów armii lądowej, marynarki i lotnictwa. Konferencja trwała 70 minut i zwołana została „celem określenia podziału kompetencji poszczególnych rodzajów broni na wypadek wojny".

Między szefami sztabów istnieje różnica poglądów głównie na temat podziału żołnierzy między armią lądową, lotnictwem i marynarką. Siły Zbrojne [illegible] za [illegible] niewystarczające dla pokrycia wszystkich potrzeb i każdy

Doniosłe ostrzeżenie amerykańskie w Radzie Bezpieczeństwa
Zbiorowa akcja przeciw Rosji
z powodu „pośredniej agresji" w Czechosłowacji?

Nowy Jork, 24.3. — Drugi dzień debaty o Czechosłowacji w Radzie Bezpieczeństwa był jeszcze bardziej dramatyczny niż pierwszy i przyniósł niezwykle poważne ostrzeżenie delegata USA, że jeżeli udział Sowietów w kryzysie czeskim będzie udowodniony, to inne państwa musiałyby podjąć zbiorową akcję przeciwko tej „pośredniej agresji". Jest to pierwszy wypadek, by mowa była w Radzie Bezpieczeństwa o sankcjach wojskowych przeciwko Sowietom w związku z ich aktami agresji w Europie wschodniej. Nie jest jednak jeszcze jasne, jak daleko USA zamierzają pójść po drodze czynnego wystąpienia w obronie państw Europy wschodniej, które padły już ofiarą imperializmu sowieckiego.

Po przemówieniu delegata USA dalsza debata została odroczona do 31 marca.

BENESZ — WIĘŹNIEM

Pierwszym mówcą był wczoraj delegat Francji Parodi, który oświadczył, że cały ciężar ONZ musi być użyty dla poparcia skargi Chile. Stwierdził, że w ciągu niewielu godzin państwo demokratyczne zostało zastąpione przez państwo policyjne. Od 22 lutego, kiedy komuniści przejęli kontrolę, głos Benesza nie był słyszany. Nie uczynił on najmniejszej aluzji do tragedii, która spadła na jego naród. Nie jest rzeczą nieprawdopodobną, że jest on trzymany pod zarzutem i że opiera się presji by poparł nowy lud swym autorytetem.

Z kolei przemawiał Gromyko, który określił skargę Chile jako „brudny manewr". Stany Zjednoczone i W. Brytania planowały wyrzucenie panowania nad Czechosłowacją przez wykorzystanie „elementów reakcyjnych" w tym kraju, ale te plany zostały w zarodku udaremnione.

Gromyko tłumaczył, że podczas gdy Czesi są wolni, Francuzi, Włosi i Grecy cierpią pod jarzmem amerykańskim. „Każdy porucznik w nowojorskim hotelu" może opowiedzieć że zmiana rządu we Francji nastąpiła bez „konsultowania narodu francuskiego".

„Każdy kowboy USA" może opowiedzieć nam, że zmiana rządu włoskiego nastąpiła na skutek presji i szantażu amerykańskiego. „Każda papuga w Stanach Zjednoczonych" może opowiedzieć jak USA.

Gromyko usiłował wyszydzić zarzuty pod adresem Sowietów twierdząc że „fantazją swoją rywalizują z bajkami z 1001 nocy. Ich autorzy grzebią w śmietniku wyniesionym z goebbelsowskiej kuchni propagandowej".

Delegat USA Warren Austin twierdził, że Rada nie usłyszała jeszcze niczego w odpowiedzi na zarzuty pod adresem ZSSR. Zapytał on czy nowy delegat Czechosłowacji /nieobecny na sali obrad/ mógłby wytłumaczyć przybycie sowieckiego wiceministra spraw zagranicznych Zorina do Pragi bezpośrednio przed kryzysem. "Co tam robił i jakie dyskusje miał z premierem Gottwaldem? Dlaczego prezydent Benesz odmówił przyjęcia go? Czy może przedstawiciel Czechosłowacji zasiąść przy stole Rady i stwierdzić, że Czechosłowacja wolna była od presji zewnętrznej? Czy może stwierdzić, że odmowa współdziałania w planie Marshalla nastąpiła z własnej woli? Dlaczego dr. Masaryk popełnił samobójstwo? Dlaczego prez. Benesz zachował milczenie?

"Rada Bezpieczeństwa musi zdać sobie sprawę z tego, żeby sformułowane zostały poważne oskarżenia, na które nie może zamknąć oczu. Rada powinna rozważyć te zarzuty pod każdym względem. Żaden z członków nie powinien przedwcześnie lub zbyt łekko wyciągać wniosków. Mój rząd z pewnością tego nie zamierza.

"Rada musi zdać sobie sprawę z tego, że jeżeli te oskarżenia byłyby udowodnione, to stanowiłyby wypadek pośredniej agresji. Narody zjednoczone byłyby wówczas powołane do podjęcia skutecznych kroków zbiorowych, zmierzających do zachowania integralności terytorialnej i niepodległości politycznej narodów choćby najmniejszych" — zakończył p. Austin swoje poważne ostrzeżenie.

Szybka odpowiedź na apel Międzynarodówki do Cyrankiewicza
Reżymowa PPS zerwała stosunki z Zachodem
Gomułka zapowiada że fuzję poprzedzi nowa czystka w PPS

Kongresowa PPS uchwaliła wystąpienie z Międzynarodowego Komitetu Socjalistycznego. Decyzja ta pozostaje w związku z uchwałą konferencji londyńskiej, przestrzegającą PPS przed całkowitym podporządkowaniem się komunistom i utratą samodzielności organizacyjnej.

"Robotnik", komentując tę uchwałę twierdzi, że dotychczasowe [illegible] w Międzynarodzie wywodzie [illegible] powrócą uchwałę swej partii. [illegible] jedności organicznej musi być politycznie i organizacyjnie skonkretyzowane" — oświadczył.

"Jednolity front w dotychczasowej swej formie — twierdzi Gomułka — był potrzebny do utrzymania w Polsce władzy ludowej i rozbicia reakcji. Jednak w obecnej chwili forma tego [illegible] „prawicowych i WRN-owskich" to jednak nadszedł już czas aby przystąpić do połączenia obu partii robotniczych.

Gomułka cierpko stwierdza, że w ramach PPS mieszczą się i tacy jeszcze, którzy uważają jedność i front za kompromis taktyczny. Zapewnia jednak, że w zjednoczonej [illegible] nie będzie dla nich

Sukces wojsk greckich

Ateny, 24.3. Komunikat sztabu greckiego ogłasza, iż w ciągu [illegible] Olimpu wojska rządowe odniosły duże zwycięstwo nad partyzantami. 427 partyzantów poległo się w ciągu ostatniej doby, 1.500 partyzantów jest otoczonych i rokuje o kapitulację. Wojska greckie zdobyły na szczytach górskich, pokrytych śniegiem, magazyn żywnościowy i amunicyjny partyzantów złożony z 200 tonów.

Uciekowie — koszmy zatory

Władze bezpieczeństwa województwa śląsko - dąbrowskiego wykryły w Zabrzu 15-osobową tajną organizację „antypaństwową". W skład jej wchodzili [illegible] i [illegible] [illegible]

Przedwyborcze żniwo

Rzym, 24.3. — Policja włoska przeprowadzając przedwyborczą obławę w poszukiwaniu kryjówek broni znalazła w ostatnim miesiącu: 2 działa, 208 cekaemów, 1400 karabinów, 12 moździerzy, 519 rewolwerów, 4430 pocisków artyleryjskich, 3800 granatów i 2 tony materiałów wybuchowych.

Trzęsienie ziemi

Nowy Jork, 24.3. — W Batawii zanotowano wczoraj rano gwałtowny wstrząs podziemny.

Od Wydawnictwa

"Dziennik Polski" nie ukaże się w Wielki Piątek, dnia 26 marca i w dniu tym nie wychodzi prasa angielska i nie funkcjonuje poczta.

W poniedziałek 29 marca, w drugi dzień Świąt Wielkiejnocy, Dziennik ukaże się normalnie.

Reżym przesiedli 40 tys. wodzów

W roku bieżącym plany reżymowe przewidują przesiedlenia z Polski centralnej na Śląsk województw olsztyńskiego, szczecińskiego i na Ziemie Lubuską 40.000 rodzin chłopskich z województw krakowskiego, kieleckiego, rzeszowskiego, lódzkiego, lubelskiego, warszawskiego i poznańskiego.

Przymusowi przesiedleńcy otrzymać mają częściowo działki z rozparcelowanych majątków, a częściowo przydziały opuszczonych gospodarstw indywidualnych. Należy spodziewać się, że obok względów gospodarczych o przesiedleniach decydować będą również momenty polityczne. Mniej ulegli wobec reżymu chłopi przeniesieni zostaną na nowe tereny.

wym Komitetu [illegible] rozwiązaniem odbywania na pozostałe partie socjalistyczne w kierunku zmiany ich "przewrotowego kursu". Rzecz jasna, że po wykluczeniu z Komitetu innych partii socjalistycznych z krajów satelickich, PPS byłaby w Komitecie w swej akcji dywersyjnej całkowicie osamotniona.

We wtorek, przewodniczący CKW reżymowej PPS Rusinek na konferencji prasowej w Warszawie, w długim i demagogicznym

[illegible] nia się do Podkiela jednocześnie [illegible] przez uczestnicząc stanu [illegible] Kongresu [illegible] polityka ich prowadzi do [illegible] imperializmu [illegible] wspiera kampanię podżegaczy wojennych. Ze szczególnym oburzeniem Rusinek napiętnował wrogą postawę niezależnych partii socjalistycznych wobec Rosji i państw "demokracji ludowej".

W konkluzji swych wywodów Rusinek stwierdził, że "PPS uważa dalszy swój udział w międzynarodowych konferencjach socjalistycznych za bezcelowy" i wzywa inne [illegible] robotnicze do wyzwolenia się spod wpływów reakcyjnych i prawicowych socjalistów.

Rezolucja Rusinka odpowiadała w swym tonie całkowicie agresywnemu komentarzowi radia moskiewskiego, które nazwało londyńską konferencję socjalistyczną „siłą kolumną imperializmu amerykańskiego i narzędziem rozbijania demokracji"

FUZJA OPARTA O „CENTRALIZM DEMOKRATYCZNY"

Grunt do tej decyzji partii Cyrankiewicza przygotował również artykuł Gomułki ogłoszony 20 bm. na łamach komunistycznego „Głosu Ludu".

„Wchodzimy w drugi etap jednolitego frontu, w którym zagad-

[illegible] miejsca. Jednocześnie [illegible] powstać [illegible] w rezultacie procesu oczyszczania [illegible] ruchu robotniczego z burżuazyjno-liberalnych

(Dokończenie na str. 4-tej)

Rozmarek u prez. Trumana apeluje o interwencję w sprawach polskich

Nowojorski „Nowy Świat" donosi z Waszyngtonu:

Prezydent Truman [illegible] prezydentem Kongresu Polonii amerykańskiej mec. K. Rozmarek i [illegible] był z nim konferencję.

Przez Kongresu Polonii apelował do Prezydent Stanów Zjednoczonych, by plan Marshalla, jeżeli ma być skuteczny, został obmurowany niezwyciężoną potęgą powietrzną, morską i lądową Ameryki, a przede wszystkim obfitym zapasem bomb atomowych

Rozmarek twierdził, że celem przywrócenia światu przedwojennej równowagi, niezbędnym jest, by Stany Zjednoczone zwróciły się do Organizacji Narodów Zjednoczonych z wezwaniem, aby ONZ zażądał wycofania wojsk rosyjskich i rządów marionetkowych ze wszystkich okupowanych przez Sowiety krajów.

Prezes Kongresu Polonii omawiał również z Prezydentem Trumanem konieczność szybkiego uchwalenia przez Kongres ustaw o dopuszczeniu do Stanów Zjednoczonych conajmniej 400.000 wyseidleńców politycznych. Rozmarek apelował, by wyzsiedleńcy — bezdomni żołnierze, którzy bohaterska walczyli po stronie naszych amerykańskich chłopców — otrzymali prawo azylu w Stanach Zjednoczonych.

Dopuszczenie odpowiedniej ilości Polaków — podkreślił Rozmarek — przyczyniłoby się do czy-

Głód i polityka

Wiedeń, 21.3. — Komuniści rozkleili w sowieckiej strefie Austrii afisze z napisem: "Obywatele ludowych demokracji jedną masło i mięso — my znamy puste żołądki". Żandarmeria sowiecka nie pozwoliła policji austriackiej zdzierać tych afiszów. Rząd austriacki złożył protest do władz alianckich.

Nowskazany pośpiech

Nowy Jork, 24.3. — Komisja wojskowa Izby Reprezentantów uchwaliła wniosek zakazujący rządowi "zadej pomocy w [illegible] dywizji demobilu wojskowego [illegible] wojskowych". Jeden z posłów oświadczył, iż rząd "nie powinien się zbytnio śpieszyć z tym rozkazem."

16 maja Żydzi ogłoszą powstanie niepodległego państwa

USA mają uznać suwerenność Palestyny

Stanowisko Ameryki wobec Palestyny uległo po raz drugi sensacyjnej zmianie: "New York Times", najpoważniejszy dziennik amerykański, doniósł w środę z Waszyngtonu, że prezydent Truman zamierza uznać suwerenne niepodległe państwo żydowskie.

Żydzi zapowiedzieli, że w dn. 16 maja ogłoszą oficjalnie powstanie niepodległego państwa palestyńskiego.

Wiadomość „New York Times'a" pochodzi z kół, zbliżonych do Białego Domu, które zapowiadają jeszcze przed świętami Wielkanocnymi oświadczenie Prezydenta w duchu uznania przez Stany Zjednoczone suwerenności państwa żydowskiego w Palestynie.

Jeżeli doniesienie „NYT" odpowiada prawdzie, to zapowiedziana na środę debata Rady Bezpieczeństwa na temat chwilowego powierzictwa ONZ nad Palestyną — może stać się zupełnie bezprzedmiotową.

Wielkiej wagi nabiera natomiast wspólna deklaracja Agencji Żydowskiej i Zarządu Gminy Żydowskiej w Palestynie. W myśl tej deklaracji, Żydzi ogłoszą oficjalnie powstanie własnego niepodległego państwa w dniu 16 maja 1948 r., na drugi dzień po złożeniu przez W. Brytanię mandatu. Deklaracja odrzuca stanowczo wszelkie projekty powierzictwa nad Palestyną.

W Izbie Gmin uchwalono w nocy z wtorku na środę, o godz. 3-ej nad ranem, projekt ustawy w sprawie Palestyny. Minister spraw zagr. Bevin oświadczył, że bez względu na stanowisko Ameryki, W. Brytania rezygnuje z mandatu palestyńskiego w dniu 15 maja r.b. Uzasadniając tę decyzję Bevin dodał: „Nie oddaliśmy kraju tego na pastwę chaosu. Oddaliśmy go ONZ. Nie możemy odpowiadać za cudze niedociągnięcia lub błędy... Robi się nam zarzuty, że opuszczamy Palestynę, a jeżeli chce się nam z kolei narzucić odpowiedzialność za to, co nastąpi później, to — im prędzej wyjdziemy, tym lepiej"!

Minister kolonii Creech Jones również stwierdził, że administracja brytyjska w Palestynie przestanie nieodwołalnie działać z dniem złożenia mandatu

A WALKI TRWAJĄ

Tymczasem trwają utarczki pomiędzy Arabami i Żydami w Palestynie. Arabowie, rewanżując się za samochód ciężarowy-bombę, przy pomocy którego Żydzi wysadzili w powietrze liczne domy arabskie w centrum Haify, użyli podobnego samochodu-bomby w dzielnicy Żydów-Jemenitów w starym mieście Jerozolimy. Wybuch zdemolował 30 do 40 domów i poranił ok. 15 osób. W Jerozolimie i na pograniczu Tel Awiwu—Jaffy toczą się walki, przy czym obie strony używają moździeży. Mecet Hassan Beja w Jaffie uległ lekkim uszkodzeniom od ognia moździeży żydowskich. W Jerozolimie, arabscy strzelcy wyborowi przerwali ruch pojazdów żydowskich. Wojska brytyjskie kilkakrotnie strzelały do żydowskich i arabskich gniazd broni maszynowej, aby zmusić walczących do przerwania ognia. Z obu stron są ranni, nie ma jednak meldunków o zabitych.

Niewyjaśniony tajemnicy statków szwedzkich

Sztokholm, 24.3. — Władze rosyjskie oświadczyły, że nic nie wiedzą o losach dwóch szwedzkich statków oraz ich załóg, które zniknęły w tajemniczy sposób w połowie lutego br. na Bałtyku. Były to małe statki, każdy o pojemności około 250 ton z załogą liczącą razem 18 marynarzy. Po wyjściu z portu polskiego Ustka statki te zniknęły. Jeden z nich znaleziono opuszczony niedaleko Bornholmu, drugi nie został odnaleziony, ale znaleziono na pół zatopioną łódź ratunkową oraz pas ratunkowy.

Prasa szwedzka podniosła alarm z powodu zniknięcia tych statków, oskarżając Rosjan o uprawianie kaperstwa na Bałtyku.

Unia celna francusko-włoska

Fotos. „Fotel Kino"

P. Georges Bidault, francuski minister spraw zagranicznych (od lewej) i hr. Carlo Sforza, włoski minister spraw zagranicznych podpisują w Turynie układ o unii celnej.

CONFIDENTIAL

EXHIBIT 1 (one)

Exhibit 1

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Inicjatywa w Niemczech przechodzi do Aliantów

Niewyjaśniona sytuacja w Berlinie

Berlin, 24. 3. — Dziś odbyło się tu posiedzenie 4 zastępców komendantów wojskowych Berlina. Było to pierwsze zebranie z udziałem Rosjan od chwili wyjścia marsz. Sokołowskiego z Rady Kontroli w sobotę. Odbyło się ono w przyjaznej i pogodnej atmosferze. Należy jednak podkreślić że sojusznicza administracja Berlina jest całkiem odrębnym organem, nie mającym nic wspólnego z Radą Kontroli, która w dalszym ciągu jest całkowicie sparaliżowana.

Inicjatywa w sporze z Rosją przeszła obecnie w ręce państw zachodnich, które postanowiły zbojkotować zaproszenie sowieckie do udziału we wspólnych komitetach administracyjnych, tak długo dopóki nie zostaną rozstrzygnięte losy Komisji Kontroli. Bojkot nie objął jednak komendy miasta Berlina.

OPOWIADANIA KTÓRYM NIKT NIE WIERZY

Prasa niemiecka kontrolowana przez Rosjan ogłasza obszerne artykuły o rzekomych incydentach granicznych i grasowaniu bandytów nad granicą. Doniesienia te mówią o aresztowaniu brytyjskich, amerykańskich i francuskich agentów, przemycających broń i ulotki propagandowe z zachodu na wschód, o terrorystach wysyłanych przez Brytyjczyków i Amerykanów, którzy atakują policjantów niemieckich i o „setkach tysięcy głodnych Niemców”, którzy uciekają na wschód zwiększając trudności aprowizacyjne administracji sowieckiej. Prasa sowiecko-niemiecka ostrzega, że jeżeli te incydenty nie ustaną, to granica będzie hermetycznie zamknięta.

Koła anglosaskie w Berlinie twierdzą że ruch Niemców z zachodu na wschód jest bardzo mały, natomiast ruch ze wschodu na zachód jest bardzo duży. Miesięcznie przechodzi nielegalnie ze wschodu do strefy brytyjskiej 40.000 ludzi.

ZARZĄD WOJSKOWY POZOSTANIE

Rząd USA postanowił wczoraj odłożyć likwidację zarządu wojskowego zachodniej strefy na czas nieograniczony. Od 1 lipca b.r. zarząd strefy amerykańskiej Niemiec miał być sprawowany przez Departament Stanu. Ta nieoczekiwana decyzja jest następstwem sobotnich demonstracji Sokołowskiego i przejawem usztywnienia polityki amerykańskiej walki z komunizmem.

Znów „latające talerzyki”

Rzym, 24. 3. — Tzw. „latające talerzyki”, które widziano w ub. roku nad Ameryką, państwami skandynawskimi, Francją, Portugalią i Austrią, pojawiły się nad Włochami.

W okolicach Florencji zauważono onegdaj w nocy a nad Ferarą wczoraj w nocy „latające talerzyki” lecące w kierunku południowo-zachodnim. Przelotowi towarzyszył głośny szum.

W południowo-wschodniej Szwajcarii zauważono olbrzymi meteor, lecący w zachodnim kierunku. Meteor, jak twierdzą świadkowie, był w wielkości księżyca w pełni a lecąc zygzakami pozostawiał po sobie długi ogon złożony z małych gwiazd.

Istnienie tzw. latających talerzyków nie zostało nigdy oficjalnie stwierdzone. Prasa amerykańska doniosła, iż jeden lotnik został zabity w zderzeniu z takim talerzykiem, ale władze lotnicze w Ameryce oświadczają, że nie mają dowodów, aby talerzyki rzeczywiście istniały.

Niektórzy przypuszczają, że talerzyki są przejawem masowej [illegible] twierdzą, że są to

Reżymowe „nie” w Hawanie

Donoszą z Hawany, iż rząd warszawski zapowiedział, że nie podpisze układu uchwalonego przez odbywającą się tam, z udziałem przedstawicieli 62 państw, międzynarodową konferencję gospodarczą. W konferencji nie brała udziału Rosja Sowiecka; udział w niej rządu warszawskiego tłumaczony był dotąd jako wyraz chęci utrzymania kontaktu handlowego z Zachodem. Uchwalony układ jest wynikiem 4 miesięcy prac konferencji; ma on być „kodeksem dobrego sprawowania” w międzynarodowych stosunkach handlowych; zmierza on do usunięcia ograniczeń międzynarodowej wymiany towarowej.

Delegacja brytyjska oświadczyła, że rząd W. Brytanii ma szereg zastrzeżeń co do treści paktu ale przedłoży go parlamentowi do ratyfikacji. Dla W. Brytanii najbardziej kłopotliwą jest kwestia t.zw. „preferencji imeperialnych”.

Kłótnie w Ameryce Środkowej

Panama, 24.3. — Ameryka środkowa stała się punktem zapalnym. Prezydent Panamy oskarżył rząd Nicaraguy o agresję przez wtrącanie się do wojny domowej w Costarica. Prezydent Panamy stwierdził, że 1.000 żołnierzy Nicaraguy walczy po stronie przeciw rewolucji, która wybuchła w Costarica 12 dni temu. Rząd Costarica oskarżył Guatemalę o popieranie buntowników. Rząd Costarica zwrócił się z apelem o broń do Hondurasu. Republika dominikańska [illegible] rząd Nikaraguy.

Nie ma obrony przed bombą atomową

Oświadczenia b. min. Sir John Andersona, w Izbie Gmin, o możliwości zabezpieczenia ludności od skutków bomby atomowej, spotkały się z ostrą krytyką ze strony dr. Burhopa, sekretarza Komitetu Atomowego.

„Zalecenia pana Andersona, jak chronić się przed bombą atomową, przypominają propozycje lorda Crofta, który chciał uzbroić Home Guard w dzidy”.

Dr. Burhop twierdzi, że każdy kto znajdzie się w obrębie fali ciepła, promieniowanej przez bombę atomową, może zostać zabity przez promienie „gamma”. Wybuch jednej bomby atomowej na ziemi wywołuje promieniowanie, które uniemożliwia na pół roku zamieszkanie w terenie w promieniu ok. pół mili od miejsca wybuchu.

Jedyną obroną przeciw bombie atomowej — konkluduje dr. Burhop — jest jak największe rozproszenie ludności.

2 arystokratki niemieckie skazane

Augsburg, 24.3. — Ilsa Hess, żona Rudolfa Hessa zwana [illegible] hitlerowskich „pierwszą [illegible]

Moskwa jeszcze milczy

Triesteńczycy z troską myślą o przyszłości

Wzmocniona ochrona pogranicza

Rosja wciąż jeszcze nie udzieliła odpowiedzi na propozycję trzech mocarstw w sprawie Triestu. Prasa sowiecka dopiero wczoraj podała wiadomość o tej propozycji łącznie z doniesieniem "o ofercie jugosłowiańskiej."

Min. Bevin oświadczył wczoraj w Izbie Gmin, że w oczekiwaniu na odpowiedź sowiecką pragnie uniknąć dyskusji, któraby mogła pomniejszyć szanse osiągnięcia porozumienia na temat tego pilnego zagadnienia w drodze bezpośrednich rokowań. Min. Bevin zapewnił Izbę, że propozycja ta nie ma nic wspólnego z wyborami włoskimi.

W samym Trieście panuje nastrój nerwowości. Mieszkańcy Triestu nie przewidują coprawda nagłego zamachu ze strony Tity, tak długo dopóki znajduje się tu garnizon anglo-amerykański w sile 10.000 ludzi. Obawiają się oni jednak, że Jugosłowianie staną się agresywni, gdy zgodnie z propozycją 3 mocarstw Triest powróci do Włoch i siły anglo-amerykańskie opuszczą terytorium. W żywej pamięci są wydarzenia z 16. września, gdy po ratyfikacji traktatu pokoju 2000 Jugosłowian usiłowało wejść do Triestu i zostało zatrzymanych przez 12 żołnierzy amerykańskich. Ludność Triestu dobrze pamięta też 42 dni okupacji jugosłowiańskiej w 1945, gdy wywieziono 10.000 ludzi z pośród których 5.000 zniknęło bez śladu.

Tymczasem nowe oddziały brytyjskiej żandarmerii wzmocniły posterunki graniczne wzdłuż linii demarkacyjnej pomiędzy anglo-amerykańską a jugosłowiańską strefą wolnego terytorium. Wzmocnienie ochrony granicy „nastąpiło po incydencie w poniedziałek, gdy Jugosłowianie przekroczyli linię demarkacyjną i zranili miejscowego policjanta.

Do portu w Trieście przybyły dwa brytyjskie kontrtorpedowce.

Dowódca strefy anglo-amerykańskiej gen. Airey oświadczył, że podjął tylko nieznaczne dodatkowe kroki ostrożności, ale zaprzeczył doniesieniom jakoby wzmocnił ochronę granicy wojskiem i samochodami pancernymi. Jego zdaniem po jugosłowiańskiej stronie istnieje wprawdzie dużo wojska, ale ma ono za zadanie kontrolę graniczną. Byłoby rzeczą fałszywą sądzić, że Triest otoczony jest masami wojska jugosłowiańskiego. Gen. Airey stwierdził, że w ciągu ostatnich miesięcy sytuacja na pograniczu stała się mniej napięta. Wpływy komunistyczne w Trieście uległy zredukowaniu.

Sowiecka misja repatriacyjna wyjeżdża z Austrii

Wiedeń, 24.3. — Sowiecka misja repatriacyjna w amerykańskiej strefie okupacyjnej Austrii napotkała w swej pracy na ciągłe trudności ze strony wysiedleńców, którzy odmawiali powrotu na wschód i demonstrowali przeciwko urzędnikom misji. Władze amerykańskie ogłosiły, że nie przedłużają akredytacji dla misji, która będzie musiała wobec tego opuścić obszar amerykański, co praktycznie równa się zaprzestaniu repatriacji na wschód.

Komentarz zagraniczny o fuzji PPS i PPR

(Dokończenie ze str. 1-szej)

chwastów i obcych naleciałości.”

Praktycznie oznacza to zapowiedź dalszych czystek w PPS przed ustaloną fuzją. Gomułka podkreślił, że zjednoczona partia będzie się opierać o zasady „centralizmu demokratycznego”, będzie musiała być zwarta i jednolita i nie będzie w niej miejsca na jakiekolwiek frakcje i różnice poglądów.

Po atakach na WRN, Gomułka wiele miejsca poświęcił rozprawie z socjalistami w Zachodniej Europie. Uważa on ich wszystkich za prawicowców i reakcjonistów, którzy ułatwiają szerzenie się ideologii burżuazyjnej wśród klasy robotniczej. „Angielska Labour Party z premierem Attlee i Bevinem na czele maszeruje wspólnie z przedstawicielami amerykańskiego kapitału Trumanem i Marshallem tworząc w ten sposób „amerykańsko - labourzystowską spółkę imperialistyczną”, której celem jest agresja przeciwko prawdziwym demokracjom.

KOMENTARZ ZAGRANICZNY

Ten nowy rozwój sytuacji politycznej w Polsce komentuje "New York Times" w depeszy swego korespondenta warszawskiego Grusona. Podkreśla on, że PPR [illegible]

[illegible] le wystąpienie Juliana Hochfelda z CKW PPS. Zdaje się, że Hochfeld był na czarnej liście tych socjalistów, o których wspomina Gomułka w swym artykule, zapowiadając ich usunięcie z partii. Przyszłość pokaże, czy w stosunku do socjalistów będą zastosowane areszty i metody zastraszenia. Zamach na PPS jak dotychczas ma przebieg spokojny i zastanawiający jest brak reakcji ze strony PPS.

Szary człowiek w Polsce mało interesuje się manewrami i sporami między PPS i PPR. Jeżeli PPS zostanie zlikwidowana, to dla zwykłego obywatela oznaczać będzie, że rząd kontrolowany już dziś całkowicie przez komunistów, stanie się narzędziem ich wyłącznego działania.

Król Jerzy VI wprowadził Wielkiego Mistrza Masonerii

Król Jerzy VI, który jako ks. Yorku, był Wielkim Mistrzem Zjednoczonej W. Loży Masońskiej Anglii, wprowadził we wtorek na urząd Wielkiego Mistrza — księcia Devonshire. W uroczystości, która odbyła się w Albert Hall'u, wzięło udział 8 tysięcy masonów angielskich w pełnych regaliach oraz delegaci następujących Wielkich Lóż: W. Loży Irlandii, W. Loży Szkocji, W. Loży amerykańskiej Massachussets, Virginia, Maryland i Michigan, W. Loży Szwecji, W. Loży Holandii oraz Regularnej Niezależnej W. Loży Francji.

Król, entuzjastycznie powitany, zasiadł na złoconym Tronie Masońskim, sporządzonym w r. 1791 dla ówczesnego ks. Walii, późniejszego króla Jerzego IV. Przy wprowadzaniu na urząd W. Mistrza

Anonimowe pogróżki

Wiedeń, 24. 3. Amerykanie mieszkający w jednym z hoteli w Wiedniu otrzymali wczoraj anonimowe ostrzeżenie, że hotel będzie wysadzony w powietrze. Austriacka policja otrzymała również anonimowe ostrzeżenie zapowiadające [illegible]dzenie w powietrze brytyjskiego szpitala, hotelu i klubu. Prze[illegible]kano budynki, ale nic nie znaleziono.

Ambasador węglowy

CONFIDENTIAL

nie stwierdzone. Prasa amerykańska doniosła, iż jeden lotnik został zabity w zderzeniu z takim talerzykiem, ale władze lotnicze w Ameryce oświadczają, że nie mają dowodów, aby talerzyki rzeczywiście istniały.

Niektórzy przypuszczają, że ta [illegible] „kopnięcie społecznej ONZ [illegible] „latające talerzyki" są przejawem kampanii politycznej przeciw Sowietom.

Igły na kartki

Frankfurt, 24.3. — Gospodynie niemieckie w zachodnich Niemczech otrzymają pierwszą od zakończenia wojny rację igieł: 4 igły do cerowania i 6 igieł do szycia.

stwierdził, że 1.000 żołnierzy Nicaraguy walczy po stronie przeciw rewolucji, która wybuchła w Costarica 12 dni temu. Rząd Costarica oskarżył Guatemalę o popieranie buntowników. Rząd Costarica zwrócił się z apelem o broń do Honduras [illegible]

Nowy redaktor naczelny „Times"

Dotychczasowy zastępca naczelnego redaktora londyńskiego „Times'a", Mr. William Francis Casey, mianowany został naczelnym redaktorem, na miejsce zmarłego R.M. Barrington-Warda. Mr. Casey, absolwent Trinity College w Dublinie, wstąpił do redakcji „Timesa" w r. 1913; był zastępcą naczelnego redaktora od r. 1941.

[illegible] hop — jest największe rozproszenie ludności.

2 [illegible]

[illegible] nowobogackich, skazana została przez sąd denazyfikacyjny na 6 miesięcy więzienia z zawieszeniem oraz grzywnę 2000 marek za przestępstwa polityczne.

Księżna Paulina von Wied, lat 70 córka ostatniego króla Wirtembergii skazana została przez amerykański trybunał wojskowy na 25 tysięcy marek grzywny za ukrywanie Gertrudy Scholtz-Klink, przywódczyni centralnej organizacji hitlerowskich kobiet. Gertrudę nazywał Hitler „idealną Niemką".

Maryland i Michigan, W. Loży Szwecji, W. Loży Holandii oraz Regularnej Niezależnej W. Loży [illegible]

Król, [illegible] powitany. [illegible] Trzecie Ma[illegible] r. 1779 [illegible] zmarłego szwagra królewskiego, hr. Harewood), Król wygłosił przemówienie, w którym podkreślił konieczność odrodzenia walorów moralnych i duchowych po wojnie.

W czasie uroczystego zebrania, podano do wiadomości szereg nominacji na dygnitarzy W. Loży. Tytuł „Past Grand Wardens (Junior)" nadano, m.in. ministrowi pracy Isaacsowi oraz odkrywcy penicyliny, prof. Sir Alexander Flemingowi.

celem jest agresja przeciwko prawdziwym demokracjom.

KOMENTARZ ZAGRANICZNY

Ten nowy rozwój sytuacji politycznej w Polsce komentuje "New York Times" [illegible] socjalistów, domagać się jednak będzie przeprowadzenia w PPS [illegible]rej czystki i wyeliminowania ze zjednoczonej partii nie dość „pewnych" socjalistów.

Kategoryczny ton artykułu Gomułki — twierdzi Gruson — jest odbiciem dezorganizacji PPS. Co prawda Cyrankiewicz powziął sam decyzję zlikwidowania PPS, ale socjaliści polscy przyjęli ten wyrok śmierci w sposób zrezygnowany i bez widocznego protestu.

Jedynym znakiem sprzeciwu by-

[illegible] dzie wysadzony w opwietrze. Austriacka policja otrzymała również anonimowe ostrzeżenie zapowiadające wysadzenie w powietrze brytyjskich szpitala, hotelu i klubu. [illegible]

Ambasador węglowy

Kopenhaga, 24. 3. — Orkiestra powitała w [illegible] górnika brytyjskiego Wil[illegible], który przybył z pierwszym od czasu zakończenia wojny transportem 2.000 ton węgla do Kopenhagi.

„Mamuciątko"

Hamburg, 24.3. — Pod Hanowerem znaleziono w kopalni gliny nienaruszony szkielet młodego mamuta. Same kości szyji „mamuciątka" ważą 24 funty.

KOMUNIKATY

[illegible]rzedek nabożeństw dla Polaków-katolików w Wielkim Tygodniu w Londynie: [illegible]/164. POLSKI (2, Devonia Road — [illegible]ąsk: st. kolejki podziemnej Angel). Wielki Czwartek (dnia 25.3.1948) godz. 10.00 — Msza św. z komunią. Wielki Piątek (dnia 26.3.1948) godz. 9.00 — Liturgia wielkopiątkowa; godz. 15.00 — Droga krzyżowa. Wielka Sobota (dnia 27.3.1948) godz. 10.00 — Msza św.; godz. 18.00 — Rezurekcja (po Resurekcji święcenie potraw). Niedziela i Poniedziałek wielkanocny (25 i 29 3. 1948) godz. 10 i 11.30 — Msze św.

LITTLE ORATORY (między Victoria-Albert Museum a Brompton Oratory, dojazd: kolejką podziemną: South Kensington, autobusami: 30, 14, 74, 94): Wielki Czwartek (dnia 25.3.1948) godz. 9.00 — Msza św. z komunią św. Wielki Piątek (dnia 26.3.1948) godz. 20.00 — Konferencja o Męce Pańskiej (na kan. Bo'ch). Niedziela i Poniedziałek wielkanocny (dn. 28 i 29 3. 1948) godz. 9.00 i 10.00 — Msze św. Wielka Sobota — święcenie potraw o godz. 15 — 16 — 17 w sali Hospicjum. 2636

Uwaga SIKIKI! 14. 3. 1948 r. zostało zorganizowane Koło ks. Sołtanty 14 Baonu Strz. Wileńskich „ŚBIK". Do Koła może należeć każdy żołnierz b. 14 9.p. b. 11 Baonu Strz. Wileńskich oraz 14 Baonu Strz. Wileńskich „Żyk". [illegible] zakończeniu nie pobiera się. Inoracowy wpisowe wynosi z. 1. Adres [illegible]: Oak Lodge Camp, Emsworth, Hants. Prezesy Kolegów o zgłaszanie się na członków Koła i nadesłanie swych aktualnych adresów. Zarząd. 2637

POLSKI ZWIĄZEK B. W ŁAGRÓW POLITYCZNYCH w Londynie zawiadamia, że w środę, dnia 31 marca 1948 o godz. 10. w drugim terminie o godz. 10.30 — w sali „Gorskiej Polskiej" w Londynie, 55, Eaton Place, S.W.1, odbędzie się WALNE ZEBRANIE CZŁONKÓW ZWIĄZKU. Porządek dzienny: Godz. 9—9.45 Msza św. w kościele Brompton Oratory Brompton Road (w pobliżu Retaba). Godz. 10 lub 10.30 Zebranie. 1) Zagajenie i wybór Prezydium Walnego Zebrania 2) sprawa odszkodowań dla ofiar nazizmu — referent kol. H. Stypułkowski, 3) sprawozdanie Zarządu i Komisji Rewizyjnej, 4) dyskusja nad sprawozdaniami i wnioski Komisji Rewizyjnej o udzielenie absolutorium ustępującemu Zarządowi, 5) wnioski i uchwały Walnego Zebrania, 6) zamknięcie Walnego Zebrania. Stosownie do statutu, Walne Zebranie będzie prowadzone w drugim terminie bez względu na ilość osób. [illegible] 2633

DOM ŻOŁNIERZA w EDINBURGHU zawiadamia, że w dniu 16 marca 1948 przeniósł się z 9, Moray Place do nowego domu przy ulicy 21, ROYAL TERRACE, tel. 22741. Tak jak przedtem można przenocować i dostać wszystkie posiłki. Czynna jest świetlica i Kantyna. Dorocznym zwyczaj[illegible] m urządza się Wspólne Święcone. Koszt święconego 3 s. 6 d. Zapisy w biurze Domu do dnia 27 marca. 2634

NABOŻEŃSTWA EWANGELICKIE w okresie wielkanocnym. Wielki Piątek. Londyn — nab. ewang. augsb. z komunią św — Holy Trinity Church (Holborn) godz. 15.00 Manchester — St. Stephen's Church (obok st. kol. Victoria) Salford 3, godz. 11.00. Manse Lane Yorkshire, godz. 10.00. Cambridge — St. Paul's Church, Hills Road (obok stacji kol.) godz. 15.00, Reading — Methodist Church, Friars - Thera St., godz. 14.30. WIELKANOC. Birmingham Moor Camp nr. Lock godz. 10.00. Wybyc nr. Warminster, Wilts, kościół anglikański godz 9.30, York — St. George's Church, Fulford Road — godz. 16.00 Manse Lane — obok obozu Foxley nr. Hereford — godz 9.45. Londyn — Poniedziałek wielkanocny — Holy Trinity Church (Holborn) — godz. 10.00. 2637

NABOŻEŃSTWA KATOLICKIE. W każdą niedzielę i święto odprawiana jest Msza św. dla Polaków w Leeds w Kościele św. Patryka (9, New York Road) o godz. 10.30. 2635

ZWIĄZEK KOMBATANTÓW ŻYDÓW PRZE zaprasza członków i sympatyków na PURIMOWY WIECZÓR TANECZNY z udziałem wielu znanych artystów, który odbędzie się w niedzielę 28 marca 1948 o godz. 18 w sali Brondesbury Synagogue, Cheverton Road, N.W.6. (Autobusy 1 i 8 do Winchester Ave). 2621

PRACA

Małżeństwo polsko-szkockie z małym dzieckiem, obecnie w Londynie, emigruje w lecie do Kanady, poszukuje POSTY DOMOWEJ oraz do DZIECKA. W razie obustronnego zadowolenia są współpracy zawierza sprzedaż się [illegible] w tym samym charakterze do Kanady. Zgłoszenia do Wydawnictwa box 694. 2627

Potrzebna od zaraz młoda samotna Polka lub dziewczyna gotowa na przyjaciół do pomocy rolnym w pobliżu rolnika jako KUCHARKA i POMOC DOMOWA. Niezależnie pokój, oddzielny pokój. Dobre wynagrodzenie dla odpowiedniej osoby. Korespondencję proszę kierować: The Bar of Orphir, Orkney Scotland. 2618

Małżeństwo z dwojgiem dzieci poszukuje kobiety do POMOCY DOMOWEJ. Jedna jest pracująca. Płaca 2 5 tygodniowo (plus [illegible] pokój). Pisać lub telefonować: Mrs. J. Baron, 11, Cliffe Road, Waterloo, Liverpool 22, tel. Waterloo 132. 2619

RÓŻNE

POŻYCZKI HIPOTECZNE na zakup domu w Anglii od 25 % — 50% przy 4 % oprocentowaniu rocznym organizuje Mrs. SMITH, 38, Rosslyn Hill, London, N.W.3. (Informacje listowne po polsku). 1977

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SKÓRY na torebki i rękawiczki, wielki wybór, wysyła na prowincję, cenniki i próbki na żądanie. DUDLEY GRAHAM, 11, Camden High Street, London, N.W.1. 1949

POKOJE umeblowane do wynajęcia, z łazienką od 30/- tygodniowo, 19, Mayflower Road, Clapham North, S.W. 9. 1969

POKÓJ PODWÓJNY, jasny, czysty wraz z używalnością kuchni, łazienki, gazu, elektryczności, ogrodu — £ 2.10.0. Tel. CHiswick 1984. 1966

EDINBURG. Do sprzedania DOMEK PIĘTROWY w środkiem zawierający dwa mieszkania po dwa pokoje z kuchenką. Nowoczesna łazienka. Pokoik na podwórzu. Dodatkowa sklitnia. Kosztuje £ 2000. Piękna sąsiedztwa. Informacje udzielanie na (4-ej) M. BUCHAN, 19, Hermitage Place, Edinburgh 4. 1961

Reprodukcje fotografii, dokumentów, wyświetlanie, kopiowanie filmów. Polski Zakład Fotograficzny RIMB, 79, George Street (Baker Street) London, W.1. [illegible]

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Sprzedam ręczny WARSZTAT TKACKI. Informacje: godz. 16—17, 23, Brondesbury Park, N.W.6. 1971

Wynajmę pokój, ACTON. Informacje: FRE 6905. 1972

MIESZKANIE 2-pokojowe, kuchnia, wanna, W.C., bez przyjęć od 1. 4 gwinea tygodniowo. Tel. BAY 1050. 1973

HOTEL POLSKI blisko Muzeów, Inspektoratu i Kombatantów, 117, Cromwell Road, S.W.7. tel. FRObisher 7194. Książka: Gloucester Road. 1974

POSZUKIWANIA

ALBINA REUTTA, wd Dębskie-Leopol oraz ROMANA RUTKOWSKIEGO, syna JÓZEFA i JULII, ur. 1921 we Lwowie, poszukuje ADAM ROLNEROWICZ, S.W.A.F.C. Hostel, Wivelscombe nr. Taunton, Somerset. 2338

ANTONI GAŁATOWICZ, Lwów, 1909, który miał wyjechać ze szpitala polskiego w Beyrouth 6.2.1948 do Anglii, jest poszukiwany. Kto wiedziałby coś o jego losie proszony jest o powiadomienie syna STANISŁAWA, Crowthorne, Hooton, Wirral, Cheshire. 2338

KONSTANTY BARIARZ, ur. 8.5.1927 r. w Woroneżynie. Kisielin, zabrany przez Niemców 1.12.1944 r., jest poszukiwany przez matkę. Wiadomości proszę kierować do: Z. FIJAŁEK, Rivenhall Camp, nr. Witham Essex. 2335

CZESŁAW KIRYŁO jest poszukiwany przez brata. Łaskawe wiadomości proszę kierować: HENRYK KIRYŁO, 17, Marine Parade, Sheerness, Kent. 236

Kościołek ujednolity coś o losie AUGUSTYNA WIERSZAŁOWICZA, ur. 1910, organisty w m. Derczyn, pow. Sheinskiewa, wywiezionego w r. 1940 z Wołkowyska do Rosji, proszony jest o powiadomienie PIOTRA PIESKOWSKIEGO, Blackshaw Moor Camp 1, nr. Leek, Staffs. 239

KAPITAN WYSZKOWSKI (lub prawdopodobnie SZYSZKOWSKI), lotnik personal w R.O.P.L., Bydlęta, Italia, jest poszukiwany przez ppłk. DYMKIEWICZA, Peerless Camp, nr. Pulbeli, Caernarvonshire. 240

MATRYMONIALNE

KAWALER, lat 24, pozna panną do lat 25, wyznania ewangelickiego, w celu matrymonialnym. Korespondencja prosi kierować do Wydawnictwa pod box nr: 546. 2367

Młody, urzędujący BLONDYN, lat 24, wzrost 178 cm., pragnie nawiązać korespondencję z miłą, inteligentną dziewczyną do lat 23. Listy z fotografią (której zwrot zapewnia) prosi kierować do Wydawnictwa box 694. 2344

Kawaler lat 30, prowadzący się bardzo dobrze, lubiący spokojne życie i ustalone domowe, pragnie poznać miłą Kaszubkę do lat 28. Cel: WSPÓLNIE KU PRZYSZŁOŚCI. Powstanie odpowiednia, możliwie z fotografią, które zwrócę, proszę kierować do Wydawnictwa pod box 695 2345

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OGŁOSZENIA PŁATNE PRZY ZAMÓWIENIU. Zamówienia nadsyłać do Polish Daily, 151/153 Curtain Road, London, E.C.2. Tekstowe: 1 wiersz £ 3. Zwykłych przez 6 d za słowo. Zdjęcia 10 d. za słowo. W ogłoszeniu dwukrotnym 9 d., trzykrotnym 8 d., czterokrotnym 7 d., pięcio wszystkich 6 d. Osobiste: 9 d. za słowo. Matrymonialne: 9 d za słowo. Poszukiwania osób: Do 20 słów 3 s., dwukrotnie zamieszczone 12 s., trzykrotnie 15 s. Za każde następne 5 słów 2 s., w dwukrotnym poszukiwania 3 s., trzykrotnym 3/6 s. Kalendarzyk i Komunikaty: 1 d. Ogłoszenia niehandlowe Stowarzyszeń w tekście 3/- za cal. Korzystanie z boxu 1 s dodatkowo. Nekrologi: 1 cal 35 s., dwukrotnie 25 % taniej, trzykrotnie 35 % taniej

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Printed for the "Polish Daily and Soldier's Daily" Trust by Caldra House Ltd., 151/153 Curtain Road, London, E.C.2

SECRET

"DZIENNIK POLISKI" of 25 March 1948, published in LONDON.
(The Polish Daily and Soldiers Daily)

GOEBBEL's notes on the KATYN CASE.

CONFIDENTIAL

In the American press appear presently some parts of GOEBBEL's diary, which were found recently in Berlin. The point is that his notes on the KATYN case are dated 9 April 1943. He writes:

"Polish common graves have been found near of SMOLENSK. The Bolsheviks simply shot and buried in these graves about 10,000 Polish prisoners. Among them are civilian prisoners, bishops, intellectualists, artists etc. On the graves they made all kinds of installations, in order to destroy all signs of this crime. In spite of this, the secret of this execution was revealed on account of statements made by the population. I ordered neutral reporters of Berlin to investigate this case. Polish intellectualists were sent to this place too. The Poles will convince themselves what they can expect if their wish as to the overcoming of the Germans would come true."

These notes are the evidence for the fact that the Germans only then have learned of the event in KATYN. It is also considerable that GOEBBELS acted very quickly and already three days after his notes in the diary published these facts all over the world. Nevertheless GOEBBELS was glad about his revealment, He writes on the 17 April:

"Since 10,000 to 12,000 Poles have sacrificed their lives (probably by their own fault) as they are the origin of this war) so they at least will be used for opening the eyes of Europe's nations as to Bolshevism."

On 8 May GOEBBELS mentions again the KATYN case and is rather despaired of the fact that within the graves German ammunition have been found. He writes:

"Unfortunately, German ammunition was found in the graves in KATYN. It must be revealed in which way the ammunition happened to get into the graves. Either it must have been sold by us at the times of out friendship with the Soviets, or the Russians must have thrown themselves the ammunition into the graves. Anyway, this thing has to be kept in secret."

Moreover, it has to be pointed out that the Russians have not tried either at Norymberg or somewhere else to use the fact that German ammunition was found in the graves, as evidence for the fact that this crime committed the Germans.

EXHIBIT "2" (two) CONFIDENTIAL

SECRET

"CZAS" - Ukrainian weekly news-paper, published in FUERTH, Markstr. No. 13, Tel. 72827, which appeared in March.

TRANSLATION FROM UKRAINIAN - POLISH - ENGLISH

NEW DETAILS ON THE KATYN CASE (shortened)

According to the Swedish chronical a certain Polish lawyer (name is not mentioned), who had fled to Sweden, revealed the following facts:

A friend of his, Mr. Roman MARTYNI who was charged to prove that the Germans had committed the massacre in KATYN, found out that the Russians had done this crime. He reported to the authorities on this subject, although he was aware that this will cost him his life. And indeed, after he submitted his report, he was murdered by Polish communists in KRAKOW. MARTYNI revealed also several names of NKWD-members who had taken part in their crime of KATYN, i. e. the following Jews:

Leo RYBAK
Chaim FINBERG
Abraham BONSOWICZ
Borys KUCOW
Iwan SIEKANOFF
Jozef LIZAK

12,000 Polish officers had been murdered at the time.

EXHIBIT "3" (three)

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS REGION I
970TH COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS DETACHMENT
EUROPEAN COMMAND

EKE.DLS.wrr

APO 154, US Army
21 April 1948

CONFIDENTIAL

I-10227

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE

SUBJECT: KATYN FOREST Murder of Polish Officers

RE : Miscellaneous

1. Reason for Investigation.

Reference is made to letter, Headquarters 970th CIC Detachment, EUCOM, APO 757, dated 18 March 1948, file D-229548, Subject: KATYN FOREST MURDERS.

2. Results of Investigation.

a. An article appearing in the 14 March 1948 publication of the CDU Wuerttemberg paper "The UNION", is entitled "Russia Responsible For Katyn?". The article quotes from a Swiss newspaper the "Basler News" dated 14 February 1948, under the headline; "United Press Dispatches from STOCKHOLM, Sweden". Translations of parts of the article follows. The original article is enclosed with this report as Exhibit "A". A-1

> "A non-communist personality, who had the opportunity to take part in the Polish investigation of the wholesale (mass) graves in the Forests of Katyn in the spring of 1940, stated in an interview with a correspondent of "Dagens Nyheter" that supposedly the investigation Commission would blame the Russian Intelligence NKVD as being responsible for the catastrophe. The famous Polish lawyer, Roman MARTINI, who was the head of that Investigation Commission is no longer alive.
>
> He was murdered at his home on 12 March 1946 by two (2) Polish Communists because the results of his investigation "had an unagreeable result for the Russians".
>
> "According to the "Dagens Nyheter" many Poles are of the opinion that their compatriotes abroad are in possession of numerous important documents which could reveal the guilty parties. This is especially believed of MIKOLAJCZYK. MARTINI did not realise, in any case, that the results uncovered during his investigations would eventually lead to his death. Before he was murdered he showed these documents to his friend, the Pole who was interviewed and whose name can not be published. This Pole stated that it had been rumored that the Russians were

Cpy to 30 April 48 JC

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Hq, CIC Reg I, APO 154, dtd 21 Apr 48, file I-10227, MOIC, Subj: KATYN FOREST Murder of Polish Officers. RE: Miscellaneous. Cont'd.

CONFIDENTIAL

responsible for the massacre in Katyn, whereupon the Polish Minister of the Supreme Court, SWIATKOWSKI, commenced proceedings to determine how great the German guilt was. MARTINI started the work in the most exact manner and even received permission from the Russians to open the graves of Katyn. He soon realized that his investigation would bring unexpected results, however he continued the investigation. He stated as follows: "That all Polish Officers, murdered in the Forests of Katyn, had been murdered during March, April and May of 1940". At that time the Russians were still in possession of the Katyn territory." (End Quote)

3. Agent's Comments and Recommendations.

a. Evaluation: As indicated

b. The agent submitting this report realizes that no specific facts are given in the report, however, high level cordination could possibly obtain more information through the correspondent mentioned and from his source. (UP-Correspondent from STOCKHOLM).

c. Source: [redacted]

Donald L. Sower
DONALD L. SOWER ΣΣ
Special Agent CIC

Approved: Edwin K. Kich
EDWIN K. KICH
Special Agent CIC

1 Incl:
Incl. 1 Newspaper Article.

Stuttgart Switch 93255 Ext 302

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Rußland verantwortlich für Katyn?

In Deutschland erregte es bei dem Nürnberger Prozeß nicht wenig Verwunderung, als der scheußliche Mord von Tausenden polnischer Offiziere von der Anklage zurückgezogen wurde. Nun findet dieser Vorgang durch eine Veröffentlichung in den „Basler Nachrichten" vom 14./15. Februar, die wir in vollem Wortlaut hier wiedergeben, eine Erklärung, die beweist, daß die Feststellung der geschichtlichen Wahrheit immer erst erfolgen kann, wenn ein gewisser zeitlicher Abstand von den Ereignissen gewonnen ist. Unter der Überschrift „Wer trägt die Verantwortung für den Massenmord von Katyn?" gibt das Schweizer Blatt folgende, Aufsehen erregende Meldung der „United Press" aus Stockholm wieder:

„Eine nichtkommunistische Persönlichkeit, die Gelegenheit hatte, an der polnischen Untersuchung über die Massengräber in den Wäldern von Katyn im Frühling 1940 teilzunehmen, erklärte in einem Interview mit dem Korrespondenten des „Dagens Nyheter", es sei wahrscheinlich, daß die Untersuchungskommission den russischen Geheimdienst NKVD für die Katastrophe verantwortlich machen werde. Der berühmte polnische Anwalt Roman Martini, der die Untersuchungen leitete, lebt nicht mehr.

Er wurde am 12. März 1946 von zwei polnischen Kommunisten in seinem Heim ermordet, weil er zu einem „für die Russen unangenehmen Ergebnis" gelangt war.

Das Massaker von Katyn hatte im Prozeß gegen die deutschen Kriegsführer in Nürnberg eine hervorragende Rolle gespielt. Im Verlauf der Verhandlungen kamen jedoch Tatsachen zum Vorschein, die die Russen veranlaßten, ihre Anklage in diesem Punkte fallen zu lassen. Im Urteil gegen die Nazis wurde dann Katyn nicht mehr erwähnt. Nach Angaben des „Dagens Nyheter" glauben viele Polen, daß die exilierten Landsleute im Besitz von zahlreichen wichtigen Dokumenten sind, die zur Aufdeckung der Schuldigen führen könnten. Das wird vor allem von Mikolajczyk vermutet. Martini war sich der Tatsache wohl bewußt, daß die Ergebnisse, zu denen er im Verlauf der Untersuchung gelangte, für ihn den Tod bedeuten könnten. Vor seiner Ermordung zeigte er diese Dokumente seinem Freunde, dem interviewten Polen, dessen Name nicht bekanntgegeben werden kann, damit er der Wahrheit zum Durchbruch verhelfe. Dieser Pole führte aus, nachdem Gerüchte kursiert hätten, wonach die Russen hinter dem Massaker von Katyn steckten, habe der polnische Justizminister Swiatkowsky gegen Ende 1946

Martini ersucht, eine Untersuchung einzuleiten, aus der die deutsche Schuld ersehen werden könnte.

Martini ging sorgfältig an die Arbeit und erhielt sogar die russische Genehmigung zur Öffnung der Gräber von Katyn. Es wurde ihm bald klar, daß seine Untersuchung unerwartete Ergebnisse zeitigen würde. Er setzte sie dennoch fort und es gelang ihm festzustellen,

daß alle in den Wäldern von Katyn getöteten polnischen Offiziere im Verlauf der Monate März, April und Mai 1940 getötet wurden. In diesem Zeitpunkt waren aber die Russen noch im Besitz des Gebiets von Katyn."

Soweit die Meldung der „Basler Nachrichten". Was uns Deutsche dabei am meisten befremdet ist die Tatsache, daß bis heute vor dem Nürnberger Forum und durch das Nürnberger Recht nur Deutsche abgeurteilt worden sind. Das Schuldkonto des Hitler-Regimes bleibt groß genug. Doch sollten Verbrechen, gleich von wem sie begangen wurden, mit gleichem Recht gesühnt werden.

Kommunisten gegen Milderung

In der letzten Sitzung des Landtags fand eine eingehende Aussprache über die Entnazifizierung statt. Den Anlaß hiezu gab der Antrag der KPD auf Aufhebung des Erlasses des Befreiungsministeriums vom 7. Februar, wonach alle nach Klasse II der Anlage des Befreiungsgesetzes nur formal belastete Personen entgegen der bisherigen Übung als Mitläufer angeklagt werden können, ausgenommen die Mitglieder der durch das Nürnberger Militärtribunal für verbrecherisch erklärte Organisationen und mit Ausnahme der Personen, die gewisse Tatbestände des Befreiungsgesetzes verwirklicht haben.

Abg. Lausen (SPD)) stellte den Antrag, Ortsgruppenleiter, SA-Führer vom Sturmführer aufwärts, Kreisfrauenschaftsleiterinnen und Mitglieder des Sondergerichts und der Standgerichte von den Erleichterungen des Erlasses auszunehmen.

Abg. Walter (CDU) legte in ruhiger und sachlicher Weise unter gespannter Aufmerksamkeit des Hauses die Stellung seiner Fraktion zur Entnazifizierungsfrage, insbe-

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B/L: Hq. 970th CIC Det., EUCOM, dtd 18 Mar [illegible] Subj: Katyn Forest Murders, file: D-229548

III-W-1890 2nd Ind.

Headquarters, Sub-Region Wiesbaden, Counter Intelligence Corps Region III, APO 633, US Army
26 April 1948

TO: Commanding Officer, Counter Intelligence Corps Region III, 970th CIC Detachment, APO 757, US Army

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1. Reference basic communication, which was shown to all agents of this office, nothing could be learned concerning Subject through German sources. However, Special Agent Daniel BARNA, of this office, has submitted from memory the information given below.

2. During October and November, 1943, Mr. BARNA was a patient in the PW hospital, Stalag VI-J, in KREFELD (K52/A10), near DUESSELDORF (K52/F39). The hospital held several hundred French, Polish, and Russian PW patients. One of the male nurses, a Pole, mentioned the murders in the Katyn Forest during a conversation in Polish with Mr. BARNA.

3. The Polish nurse said that he had been in a large group of Polish prisoners in the Katyn Forest area. It was rumored that the Germans were killing Polish officers, so they tried to change to EM uniforms and otherwise disguise themselves as ordinary soldiers. The Germans, naturally noticed the small number of officers, so they required the Polish prisoners to march past them with their hands held out. If a man had rough, workingman's hands he was allowed to pass; if he had smooth, clean hands he was marched off into the woods and shot.

4. According to Mr. BARNA, the Polish nurse had been a medical non-com and appeared fairly intelligent. He had indicated that he had no particular love for the Soviets, and it is therefore assumed that if he had thought the Soviet army responsible for the Katyn Forest murders he would have said so.

5. Any further information concerning Subject that may be developed in this area will be forwarded.

THOMAS D. FOX
Special Agent, CIC
Commanding

Tel: WIESBADEN 7058 - 7493

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HEADQUARTERS
SUB-REGION MARBURG
COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS REGION III

APO 872

III-M-1761 25 April 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE

SUBJECT: KATYN FOREST MURDERS

CONFIDENTIAL

Re: Liquidation of Polish Officers

1. Reason for investigation:

Attention is invited to Letter Headquarters 970th CIC Detachment, EUCOM, Subject: KATYN FOREST MURDERS, dated 18 March 1948, file number D-229548 and to 1st Ind. Headquarters Region III, dated 29 March, file number III-5197 to Basic Letter. With reference to the above mentioned basic letter and 1st Ind. thereto, the information contained in paragraph 2 of this report was revealed during the course of an interview with General (Inf) Guenther BLUMENTRITT, who is presently living at the NEUSTADT (L51/G94) Generals Camp, LK MARBURG.

2. Results of investigative activity:

a. General Guenther BLUMENTRITT was Chief of Staff of Von KLUGE's 4th Army for the period 1 November 1940 to 25 December 1941 and took an active part in the offensive BREST/LITOVSK, MINSK, ORSHA, SMOLENSK, ROSLAVL, JUCHNOW to MOSCOW. BLUMENTRITT stated the following in substance:

(1) KATYN FOREST is located west of SMOLENSK, only a few kilometers from the auto road "Orsha-Smolensk" MOSCOW. Neither I nor any of the officers belonging to the staff of the 4th Army heard anything of KATYN in 1941 nor did we receive any reports about KATYN from panzer Groups II or III nor from any of the subordinate Infantry Corps.

(2) The fact that 10,000 Polish Officers were being held in this camp, (KATYN FOREST) would certainly have been reported by someone. On the other hand if 10,000 Polish Officers had been murdered (shot through the head), this would have been so monstrous that the entire 4th Army would have been greatly agitated. News of such an atrocity would have spread like wild-fire to all units and penetrated into Germany itself by numerous routes.

(3) Quite apart from the circumstance that German troops would never have comitted anything of the sort, they simply could not have shot 10,000 people, and buried them so well that no one would notice anything for quite a long time, especially in the midst of the rapid development of the 1941 offensive, during their advance and ensuing battles with the Soviets.

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Page 1 of 3 Pages
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(4) From 15 January to 25 September 1942, I was Oberquartiermeister (Quartermaster General) I, in the General Staff of the Army at the Eastern front. The word "KATYN" was never mentioned in the OKH before 25 September 1942, because we did not know anything about it.

(5) From 25 September 1942 on, I was Chief of Staff, O.B. (Chief Command) West. It was only at this time, i.e. end of 1942 or the beginning of 1943, that we learned, through press, radio, and special reports, of the "KATYN affair" and its investigation by German and neutral commissions.

(6) I think that the persons listed below are best suited to make statements in this connection:

General (retired) Gero von GERSDORFF, at that time Ic (Chief of Staff) of the army group "Mitte", in the forest west of SMOLENSK, i.e. in the immediate neighborhood of KATYN. He was personally present at the excavations, so that he probably still knows the names of the members of the commissions. (He was interrogated in NUERNBERG (M50/040) in 1946). He told me in 1946 that the excavated diaries of many Polish Officers had been partly written by them up to a short period before their tragic deaths. Their calvary was described, day by day, until shortly before their end. All that took place before the German troops arrived in 1941. These diaries speak only of the GPU and the Soviets. According to von GERSDORFF, these officers were not shot, all 10,000 of them at once, but were being taken to the spot and murdered, in sections of twenty (20) to sixty (60). The Russian population allegedly referred to this KATYN area as a mass place of execution where mass executions had already taken place in former years. On the one hand, KATYN is situated in a woody, deserted area. On the other hand, since KATYN is located quite near the auto road and the large railroad line ORSHA-SMOLENSK, it could have been convenient to move an entire division (10,000) into that area. It is said that the crime was discovered due to repeated reports by the population, which, at first, were not believed. Only when such reports kept on arriving in such large numbers, the area was investigated, and the mass graves discovered. The Swiss and Swedish members of the neutral commissions will also be prepared, yet today, to make statements, but von GERSDORFF alone will still know their names and addresses.

Count Edwin ROTHKIRCH, General (retired) (Cavalry), who was formerly in the British Camp at BRIDGEND, can supply information

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in this connection. He is, at present, living in the KASSEL (L52/C20), WILDUNGEN (L52/098) area not too far from the General's Camp at NEUSTADT. He was in MINSK, in the rear district of the "Mitte" Army, and described the KATYN events to me in BRIDGEND in 1946.

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Lt. General Eugen OBERHAEUSER, Chief of the Signal Department (Nachrichten Fuehrer) of the Army group "Mitte" (he was also questioned in NUERNBERG in 1946). Released in Bavaria.

Colonel Ic (retired) HELMDACH was my Ic (Chief of Staff) 4th Army up to 25 December 1941 but I do not know whether he was still Ic in 1942 and 1943. He could probably also furnish information on KATYN.

Colonel General Hans HEINRICI (British Camp Bridgend), was also on duty during the period 1941-1944 with the 4th Army as a Commanding General of the "Mitte" army group and he could also make some informative statements.

3. Agent's notes, comments and recommendations:

It is recommended that the officers mentioned in paragraph 2 of this report be exploited with a view of gaining more detailed information on the KATYN affair. Evaluation: B-2

Source: General Guenther BLUMENTRITT, NEUSTADT General's Camp.

Telephone: MARBURG 2838

APPROVED:

WILLIAM E. BURR II
Special Agent, CIC
Commanding

THOMAS H. EVANS
Special Agent, CIC

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HEADQUARTERS
COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS REGION I
970TH COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS DETACHMENT
EUROPEAN COMMAND

EKE.EFG.wrr

APO 154, US Army
29 April 1948

CONFIDENTIAL

I-10227

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE

SUBJECT: Katyn Forest Murders

1. Reason for Investigation.

Reference is made to letter, Headquarters, 970th. CIC Detachment, APO 757, dated 18 April 1948, file D-229548, subject: as above, and MOIC this Headquarters, subject and file No.as above, dated 20 April 1948.

2. Results of Investigation.

Attached hereto as Exhibit A is an English translation of a statement from the SOURCE concerning his duties and knowledge of the SUBJECT.

3. Agent's Comments and Recommendations.

a. Author of Exhibit A was the commanding officer of the author of Exhibit A of MOIC this Headquarters, Subject and file No. as above, dated 20 April 1948.

b. Evaluation: F-3.

c. Source: Uncarded.

E. F. Gearhart
E.F. GEARHART
Special Agent CIC

Approved: Edwin K Eich
EDWIN K. EICH
Special Agent CIC

1 Incl.
Incl. Exhibit A (Translated Statement)

Stuttgart Switch 93255 Ext 302

CONFIDENTIAL

Exhibit "A" Translation

Katyn 1943

I, having been chief of the 3. Battalion of SS-Regiment "Der Fuehrer", report the following experiences regarding Katyn.

My battalion was newly organized and consisted of members taken out of "Z. B. V. Units" (units at disposal for special missions), we had orders to get acquainted with the armored car of the "tiger" brand. We were billeted in DEBICA-CRACOW.

In the first days of May there came an order that the "Z. V. B." Battalion be ready for departure in about 8-10 hours. Everything was to be taken along. I felt relieved to get away from the training field. Arrived at the designed (new) station I reported to the commander. I was told that it was about Katyn.

I received the following order:

"Z.B.V" Battalion occupies the road leading from KATYN to BERISCHANZ, until further orders. All vehicles, except those displaying the Red Cross flag, are to be controlled. "The Red Cross cars were cars of a Swiss professor and some doctors. I, myself, together with the commander of my unit, watched for a few days the excavations. Mr. B. is in the position to give you details about it.

One thing, at any rate, is sure for me: at the time it had happened the wood had been occupied by the Russians.

According to the investigations of the Swiss professor and the other doctors (who came from all European states, with the exception of Russia) the Polish officers were killed with Russian automatic rifle ammunition through the neck (Genickschuss).

A few days later the Russians dropped pamphlets telling that we (the Germans) had done it.

After termination of this mission we were ordered to return to DEBICA again. My battalion was dissolved.

The above statement is the truth.

Most respectfully,

CONFIDENTIAL

SECRET

SECRET

10 May

HEADQUARTERS
SUB REGION BADEN
970TH CIC DETACHMENT, REGION I
EUROPEAN COMMAND

SAW/emf

APO 154

CONFIDENTIAL

File: I-B-1056
I-10227
D-229548

10 May 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE

SUBJECT: LECHTOLD, Stanislaus

RE: Katyn Forest Murders

1. Reason for Investigation:

a. Reference is made to basic letter Headquarters, 970th CIC Detachment, dated 18 March 1948, Subject: Katyn Forest Murders, File D-229548.

b. The following account of the occurances in the Katyn Forest were submitted by Mr. Stanislaus LECHTOLD, editor of the Polish newspaper "Przegled Literacki" in KARLSRUHE (L50/R44).

2. Results of Investigation:

a. Mr. LECHTOLD said that in 1943 he became interested in the Katyn Forest murders and conducted his own investigation. During this investigation he interviewed wifes of the murdered officers; two of whom were Mrs. SMORAWINSKI, wife of General SMORAWINSKI, and Mrs. HORBOWY, wife of Lt. HORBOWY, a former Professor at the University in WILNO.

b. LECHTOLD said that he was told by Mrs. SMORAWINSKI that her husband was taken prisoner by the Russians in 1939 and was sent to ZAMOSC, Russia. She last heard from him late in 1940 and only found out of his death through the papers. Mrs. SMORAWINSKI lives in LUBLIN, Poland.

c. LECHTOLD said that Mrs. HORBOWY stated that her husband was also taken prisoner by the Russians in 1939 and that he was sent to a PW Camp in STAROBIELSK, Russia. The last time she heard from her husband was late in 1940. She later saw his name on the list of the names of the Polish officers supposedly murdered by the Germans at Katyn Forest.

d. During his investigation, Mr. LECHTOLD also contacted Ludwik CHRESTIANS, a lawyer in LUBLIN, who, as the head of the Polish Red Cross,

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Page 1 of 3 Pages
Copy 1 of 8 Copies

was a member of the Polish investigating committee investigating the murders. According to Mr. CHRISTIANS the murders must have been committed in the winter of 1941 and only the Russians could have done it.

e. LECHTOLD stated that after the occupation of part of Poland by the Russians in 1944, he joined the Polish Liberation Army of General ZYMIERSKI. The Russians at that time were using the Katyn murder story for propaganda purposes against the Germans. Soldier delegations of Polish Divisions were sent to the Katyn Forest to see the graves of the murdered officers and were then told to sign a document stating they were convinced the Germans committed the murder. LECHTOLD said he visited Katyn Forest as a war correspondent for his Division and had an opportunity to speak to many Polish soldiers visiting the graves. Most of the soldiers were convinced that the Russians had committed the murders. However, any soldier who stated that he did not believe the Russian version was immediately sent to a convict company which was later almost completely destroyed.

f. LECHTOLD said that in his capacity as a staff officer of the 2nd Polish Division, he had an opportunity to intercept a top secret letter of the political commissar of the signal company of that Division. It said: "The talk about Katyn among the soldiers is very dangerous. A group of drunken soldiers have openly accused the Russians as murderers. When I entered their conversation they claimed to have spoken about the Germans, but their eyes spoke differently. We must attempt to find and destroy the source of the enemy propaganda". In April 1945, shortly before the great offensive at the Oder-Neisse, an order came to discontinue any discussions about Katyn.

g. Mr. LECHTOLD gave the following opinion of the Katyn murders: The Russians were responsible for the murders. The Germans found the graves when they invaded Russia, but did not say anything about it until 1942 when they had to retreat and were worried that the Russians would use them for propaganda purposes. Between the discovery of the graves in 1941 and the announcement in 1942 the Germans themselves had brought Polish PWs to Katyn and had executed them.

3. <u>Agent's Notes, Comments, and Recommendations</u>:

a. Source: Interview with Subject.

b. Evaluation: F-6

c. The name of Milan MIKASINOWICZ, Kellerstr. 7, MUNICH (M49/Y85) or RIEDEN (M48/D29), C/O LEDERLE was given as a lead to the undersigned.

SECRET

CIC Reg I, S/R BADEN, MDIC dtd 10 May 48, Subj: LECHTOLD, Stanislaus, File I-B-1056, con't.

MIKASINOWICZ is supposedly a Yugoslav war correspondent who, in 1942, visited the graves as a reporter for the Swedish newspaper, STOCKHOLM Tidingen. It is suggested that Region IV contact MIKASINOWICZ, who is now supposedly an assistant correspondent for Associated Press.

CONFIDENTIAL

Samuel A. Winters
Special Agent, CIC

Heidelberg 6490/FORD

Contents and Evaluation Approved:

C. GUY LEE
Special Agent, CIC
Operations Officer

CONFIDENTIAL

SECRET

4/May

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HEADQUARTERS
SUB-REGION MARBURG
COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS REGION III

APO 757
4 May 1948

III-M-1761

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE

SUBJECT: KATYN FOREST MURDERS

CONFIDENTIAL

Re: Liquidation of Polish Officers

1. Reason for investigation:

Attention is invited to Letter, 970th CIC Detachment, EUCOM, Subject: KATYN FOREST MURDERS, dated 18 March 1948, File number D-229548 and 1st Ind., Headquarters Region III, dated 29 March 1948, file number III-5197 to Basic Letter. With reference to the above mentioned letter and 1st Ind. thereto, the information contained in paragraph 2 of this report was revealed by former Polish Army Captain (LONDON Polish Government) [redacted], presently living at Bismarck Strasse 15, MARBURG (L51/G74).

2. Results of investigative activity:

a. In 1939, the Germans and the Russians divided Poland and with their part of Poland, the Russians took over 180,000 Polish Prisoners of War, among which were more than 10,000 officers. These 10,000 officers were accomodated in three (3) different camps: STAROBIELSK, which is located 220 kms south east of CHARKOW; KOZIELSK located 220 kms north of ODESSA and OSTASZKOW, which is located 350 kms south east of ST. PETERSBURG.

b. On 5 April 1940, the camp at STAROBIELSK was liquidated and of its population of 3,920 officers, only seventy-nine (79) remained alive. On 5 and 6 April 1940, the three (3) camps, together, had a total population of 8,700 officers and 7000 NCO's and enlisted men. Of this total of 15,700 prisoners only 400 persons have been found alive. Of these 400 persons who remained behind in the above named camps after all of their comrades had been evacuated, included seventy-nine (79) officers and the balance enlisted men and a small group of civilians. They were transferred shortly after to PAWLISZCZEWBOR, 375 kms north east of MOSCOW, and thence on to GRJASWEZ near WOLOGDA. The last group of this 400 arrived at GRJASWEZ on 12 May 1940. Part of the above named 400 survivors, although members of the three camps, STAROBIELSK, KOZIELSK and OSTASZKOW, were not living in these camps at the time of the KATYN executions, but were in prisons (criminal) or in hospitals (sick) and they therefore survived. These individuals from prisons or hospitals were transported in small groups and the last of them arrived in GRJASWEZ early in 1941. The majority of these Prisoners of War were released in August or September 1941.

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Page 1 of 13 Pages
Copy 1 of 6 Copies

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c. Early in 1941, the first contingents of political prisoners from Eastern Poland and Lithuania were brought into these transient camps which subsequent to May 1940 were renamed STAROBIELSK II and KOZIELSK II. These individuals have all been found and are presently serving with General ANDERS Army. (France and England).

d. The following is a close approximation of the breakdown of Polish officers (PW's) who had been interned in STAROBIELSK II, KOZIELSK I and OSTASZKOW and who were never again located alive:

(1) Colonels and Lt. Colonels	300
(2) Majors	500
(3) Captains and Cavalry Captains	2,500
(4) 1st and 2nd Lts.	5,000
Total:	8,300 Officers

In addition over 800 doctors, some of whom were officers and some civilians, had also been interned at STAROBIELSK and KOZIELSK.

e. The following is a list of the Generals who had been interned at STAROBIELSK and never found:

(1) General Stanislaw HALLER

(2) General SKIERSKI

(3) General LUKOWSKI

(4) General Franciszek SIKORSK (Not to be mistaken for Commander in Chief Wladislaw SIKORSKI.

(5) General BILEWICZ

(6) General PLISOWSKI

(7) General KOWALEWSKI

(8) General Piotr SKURATOWICZ

The bodies of the following named Generals who had been interned at STAROBIELSK I, were found in the KATYN FOREST grave:

(1) General SMORAVINSKI

(2) General MINKIEWICZ

(3) General BOHATYROWICZ

(4) Rear Admiral CZERNICKI

f. The following is a report by a CIC Source of the circumstances surrounding the liquidation of Subject Polish PW's together with certain details which were revealed during the search of the missing Poles which tend to prove deliberate concealment of facts connected with their disappearance.

(1) Those who survived: Towards the end of April 1940, the last Polish officers then still in camps were formed into small groups of twenty (20) to sixty (60) per group in preperation for transfer elsewhere. The Commandant of the STAROBIELSK Camp, Soviet Lt. Colonel BEREZKOW, and Commissar KIRSZOW told them that they, the same as the others, would be taken to collecting camps, and from there returned to Poland. Part of them were to be sent to the German Generalgouvernement, and the balance east of the Bug/Curzon line, to be under Russian administration. On 12 May 1940, a small (the last) group of sixteen (16) officers were placed into a railroad car for PW's at the STAROBIELSK railroad station. They found the following inscription on the wall of the railroad car: "Wysadzili nas kolo SMOLENSKA" (They put us down near SMOLENSK), supposed to have been written by a Colonel (fnu) KUBYA, who had been evacuated prior to the 400 persons. This group was detrained at a small station BABYNINO near SMOLENSK. An open platform truck took them to the camp "PAWLISZCZEW BOR" located in the woods. These sixteen (16) officers found there their comrades who had been taken to this camp previously: 200 PW's from KOZIELSK, 120 from OSTASZKOW, and sixty-three (63) PW's from STAROBIELSK. All of them were sent to GRJASWEZ near WOLOGDA a few weeks later. They remained alive and were released in August 1941.

(2) These 400 officers learned from letters they received from Poland, that they were the only group who had survived. They made a list to their comrades who had been in the camps with them. This list comprised more than 10,000 names (it was a rough list, partly without first names) and was delivered to General ANDERS, Commander of the Polish Army, who had been released from MOSCOW's LUBIANKA prison on about 1 July 1941. General ANDERS' Polish Army was formed after the "August Amnesty" (for all Polish PW's) of the Russians, in accordance with the Polish-Russian agreement in July 1941. After the Russians had issued their August Amnesty, all the Poles still held in the Russian camps and prisons were released. The formation of the Polish Army was begun in September 1941 in TATISZCZEW near SARATOW and in TOCK on the KUJBYSZEW-CZKALOW line. Poles by the thousands came to ANDERS' Headquarters from the prison camps, but there were almost no officers. Then General

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ANDERS requested the Soviet authorities to release the Polish officers, whom he needed to train the army. He continually received polite but hazy promises. Then Polish Ambassador KOT in KUJBYSZEW started an energetic search for the missing officers. In November 1941, Ambassador KOT was granted an audience by STALIN, and asked him (STALIN) what had become of the Polish officers. STALIN was very surprised then he grew indignant, and called up NKVD Headquarters in the Ambassador's presence. STALIN asked the NKVD why the captured Polish officers from the STAROBIELSK, KOZIELSK and OSTASZKOW camps were not released. STALIN added that the "amnesty" applied to all Poles, and ordered that the officers be immediately released. Early in December 1941, General W. SIKORSKI and General ANDERS went to MOSCOW with a partial list containing 4,000 names (complete) of missing officers. In the meantime, a rumor had been circulated among the Poles that the missing officers were alive, interned on the KOLYMA Peninsula and that their return from there would be possible only during the summer months. A Soviet Air Force officer told the Poles that he had flown, as an NKVD courier, to "Franz Josef's Land", where a number of Polish officers (5000) were living. The Polish military attache in KUJBYSZEW thereupon, sent a radio gram to New Land (Nova Zembla), requesting that the Polish PW's be released and returned. Quite unexpectedly, he received a reply signed "MOJZEROW, Priedsiedatel Ostrownowo Soviets" (President of the Island Council), to the effect that all Polish PW's on the island had been informed of the formation of the Polish Army, and that he was taking the necessary steps to send them off so that they could join the army. The purpose of this telegram sent by the president of the Council, was to deceive the Polish Embassy, and to fabricate evidence of the alleged existence of the Polish officers.

(3) On 4 December 1941, STALIN granted an audience to SIKORSKI and ANDERS. ANDERS gave him the list containing the 4,000 names of missing officers from STAROBIELSK, KOZIELSK and OSTASZKOW and they both asked STALIN that these officers be transferred to the Polish Army as quickly as possible. This time, STALIN's reaction was different. He was no longer indignant (as he had been during the interview with KOT), but replied evasively, "Perhaps these officers had escaped to Manchuria". (Manchuria is directly south of KOLYMA, about 2500 miles. General SIKORSKI retorted that he (SIKORSKI) would have been informed in LONDON if anything like that had happened, also if the officers had fallen into the hands of the Germans, it would have been reported to him. General ANDERS said he knew the working methods of the NKVD very well, and it was impossible that such a great number of officers could have escaped from under NKVD surveillance. ANDERS added that in his opinion, the officers were being held back as a

result of arbitrary measures adopted by individual camp commandants. He said these commandants were not releasing the Polish officers in defiance to orders issued to them by higher headquarters, because they needed them as laborers in order to fulfill their work plans. STALIN replied "If it is these commandants who do not release the Polish PW's, my ich budiem lamat" (We shall break them), and personally ordered MOLOTOV, in SIKORSKI's and ANDERS presence, to release the PW's from STAROBIELSK, KOZIELSK, and OSTASZKOW.

(4) Another month passed without a single one of these officers joining the army. Late in December 1941, the Polish Command learned, due to the indiscretion of a Bolshevik employee that "GULAG" (Glawnoje Uprawlienie Lageriej-Head Administration of Camps) had been transferred from MOSCOW to CZKALOW, formerly ORENBURG. Early in January 1942, General ANDERS dispached a Polish officer, Josef CZAPSKI, to go to CZKALOW. This officer was to ask General NASIEDKIN, the GULAG Commandant, to clear up the matter. During the first interview between CZAPSKI and NASIEDKIN, the latter was probably taken by surprise, and therefore very amenable. He did not ask for any inside information before doing anything in the matter, but in CZAPSKI's presence issued an order by telephone to explain the matter of the PW's from STAROBIELSK, KOZIELSK, and OSTASZKOW at once and completely. Quating the following passage from General ANDERS' letter literally: "po prikazaniju tow STALINA (on orders from Comrade STALIN". On that same day, at approximately 2300 hours, Josef CZAPSKI was received by the chief of NKVD of the region BZYROW. Two (2) other NKVD agents were present as witnesses. BZYROW said that everything CZAPSKI would like to know could be obtained best from the central authorities of NKVD. CZAPSKI was given to understand that MIERKULOW or FIEDOTOW could help the Polish officer to a great extent. (At that time, chief of NKVD was BERIA, his deputy was MIERKULOW, the next executives, according to their ranks, were KRUGLOW, FIEDOTOW, and RAICHMAN). BZYROW explained that there were no Polish PW's who had not been released yet in his Region (Oblast).

On the following day CZAPSKI was again received by General NASIEDKIN. This time, NASIEDKIN was no longer in a state of surprise. He said simply "Only the central authorities can clear the matter up, I personally can supply no information". "If CZAPSKI has a list of the missing officers, he may give it to him (NASIEDKIN) and he will send it on to KUJBYSHEW." Thereupon CZAPSKI handed him a list with 4,500 names. (500 names had been added meanwhile to the original list of 4,000 names.) CZAPSKI received the impression that General NASIEDKIN had been reprimanded by KUJBYSHEW (Wartime Soviet Headquarters) severely for having

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talked to CZAPSKI at all. When the Polish officer pointed out that several thousand Polish officer were allegedly, still interned in the north on "New Land" (a White-Ruthenian farmer had also reported this to the Polish officers), General NASIEDKIN's reaction was quite different than on the preceding day: he said it was impossible that several thousand officers were held there, since only small groups could have been sent there. The day before, on the contrary, when CZAPSKI had mentioned the north, General NASIEDKIN assured him that he (NASIEDKIN) had no PW's at all there, only political and criminal prisoners. A few days after Captain CZAPSKI had departed, an NKVD representative visited General ANDERS and drew his attention to the fact that such trips as Captain CZAPSKI's journey to CZKALOW were not permitted in the USSR. He requested General ANDERS to see to it that such incidents were not repeated. General ANDERS replied that he had taken due note of this request, and was therefore, intending to send the same officer, J. CZAPSKI, with a similar mission to the central NKVD authorities in MOSCOW.

(5) In the middle of January 1942, J. CZAPSKI was sent on the same mission to KUJBYSZEW and MOSCOW with letters of recommendation to General RAJCHMAN and General ZUKOW. These two high-ranking NKVD generals had been given orders to help form the Polish Army, and the Poles were hoping to obtain contact through them with the mighty NKVD chief BERIA or his assistant, MIERKULOW. As neither RAIJCHMAN nor ZUKOW were present in KUJBYSZEW, CZAPSKI went to MOSCOW. It was only on 3 February 1942 that, after many efforts and even a short period of arrest, he finally succeeded in speaking to General RAIJCHMAN at LUBIANKA (Central NKVD prison) in MOSCOW. CZAPSKI was obliged to hand General ANDERS' letters to an NKVD Agent. After a waiting period of several days and nightly telephone calls from LUBIANKA Prison, an NKVD Agent took CZAPSKI to the office of General RAIJCHMAN. Before CZAPSKI could see the General, one of the Camp Commandants of GRJASWEZ by the name of CHODAZ, was admitted to the General's office. CZAPSKI asked RAIJCHMAN to help him obtain an audience either with BERIA or MIERKULOW. RAIJCHMAN refused it politely. Then CZAPSKI handed RAIJCHMAN a Memorandum in which the entire matter was described, including the search, which up to that time, had been unsuccessful. It was also pointed out in this Memorandum that each Prisoner of War, when he was taken prisoner and also later was interrogated several times, and that records of these interrogations, together with documents and certified photographs, were kept in special NKVD files. Since this work had been carried out by NKVD very thoroughly, each Polish PW who was alive had the firm conviction that the higher NKVD authorities knew wher the

missing 15,000 PW's including 5,300 officers were. (Approximately 400 out of the total number of 5,700 officers were alive). Relying on STALIN's solemn promise and the categorical order issued by him, the Polish authorities were hoping to learn the location of the place where their missing PW's were living. The Memorandum did not state names, but a list of missing PW's broken down according to numbers and rank. General RALJCHMAN read the Memorandum very carefully, in J. CZAPSKI's presence, then he told CZAPSKI that he did not know anything about the fate of these PW's. He said this did not enter into his sphere of duties, but he would try and clear the matter up, and let CZAPSKI know the result of his efforts. He asked the Polish officer to stay in MOSCOW, and wait for a telephonic communication. CZAPSKI waited one week. Then RALJCHMAN called him up personally one night and told him politely that he was obliged to leave MOSCOW, and advised CZAPSKI to go to KUJBYSZEW. He said that the entire material concerning the matter had been sent to dputy Foreign Commissar WISZYNSKI and Comrade NWIKOW in KUJBYSZEW. CZAPSKI replied: "WISZYNSKI will give no explanation, for Ambassador KOT had already attempted to get information there eight times unsuccessfully." That is why CZAPSKI was sent to MOSCOW. General RALJCHMAN made no reply.

(6) SIKORSKI and ANDERS still retained a shadow of hope that the Polish PW's were still interned high up in the north of Russia or Siberia and would be sent back to the Polish authorities in the summer, as soon as navigation was possible in those latitudes. This hope was being skillfully kept alive by some Soviet officers especially detailed to the Polish Command. They pretended to be indiscreet in saying the following: " We are not allowed to speak about it, but be patient, for your comrades will return to you in July or August." July and August passed but not a single Polish officer returned. In the Spring 1942, J. CZAPSKI established the following fact: In October 1940, eight (8) months prior to the outbreak of war with Germany, several Polish Staff officers, including one Colonel BERLING, were taken by the Russians to a camp near MOSCOW, and later to MOSCOW proper. The Russians proposed to these officers to set up or form, a Polish army in order to fight the Germans. Colonel BERLING agreed to this idea then and there, but made the following stipulation: all officers and enlisted men, regardless of their political outlook were to be accepted. He had a conference with BERIA and MERKULOW. BERIA and MERKULOW said, "Of course, Poles of all political opinions have a right to join this army." "Thats splended", replied Colonel BERLING, "We have a wonderful staff of officers for this army in the STAROBIELSK and KOZIELSK camps." "No, not those", replied MERKULOW, "We committed a big mistake with them"

(My sdielali s nimi bolshuyu oshibku). This sentence in this identical wording was later repeated to J. CZAPSKI by three different witnesses to the above conversation.

(7) Based on above statements, the following can be summed up:

(a) Rumors and reports to the effect that the Polish PW's from the Camps STAROBIELSK I, KOZIELSK I, and OSTASZKOW were interned high up in the north of Russia were always "third-hand information". They were invariably indefinite, uncertain and impossible to be verified.

(b) Since April 1940, i.e., since the evacuation of three camps, no sign of life, not even from a single one of the missing persons, ever reached Poland, their families or people, or their comrades in the Polish army. The former Polish 1st Lt. Michal WROBLEWSKI, President of Camp Council in DP Camp KORNBERG (M50/T48) states the following: 1st Lt. Miecsislav FRYDRICH was captured by by the Russians in 1939 near LUDZK, Volhynia, Poland. FRYDRICH was never subsequently turned over to the Germans, for Frau FRYDRICH, whom WROBLEWSKI visited in WARSAW in 1943, had been receiving communications from her husband from a Russian Camp in 1940. WROBLEWSKI found the name of 1st Lt. FRYDRICH listed in the official lists published by the German Government, of officers whose corpses were unearthed in KATYN.

(c) During the years when the Polish Army was being formed in the USSR (1941-1942), young and old Poles reported from the most outlying parts of Russia, such as KOMI, New Land, (Nova Zemba) WORKUTA, KOLYMA, and from the Chinese border, but never a single inmate of the Camps STAROBIELSKI KOZIELSKI I and OSTASZKOW.

(8) At this stage, the Polish authorities halted their investigations as it became apparent that the Soviet Government was not in a position to arm, nourish and clothe the Polish soldiers. That is why, based on preceding negotiations between the USSR and the Polish Government in LONDON, the Polish Army was turned over to the British Government. In this manner General ANDERS was able to transfer to Iran over 100,000 soldiers and a small number of civilians (soldiers families and children). The families remained in Iran, while the soldiers were taken to Palestine, where they formed the Second corps of the Polish Army, after a merger with the "Carpathian Brigade" of Colonel KOPANSKI. (KOPANSKI is now General and Chief of Staff of the Polish Army in LONDON.)

(9) Early in April 1943, the Germans declared that they had found mass graves near SMOLENSK at KATYN FOREST, where Polish officers (PW's), approximately 10,000 of them, and a great number of civilians belonging to the Polish intelligentsia were buried. German press and radio propaganda greatly exploited this event, describing in detail the work of excavation and laying open the mass graves, to the fullest extent. Doctors and press correspondents of various nations were taken to the spot where the excavations were being carried out. Polish officers from the German PW Camps Oflag II B (WALDENBERG) and VII A (MURNAU) were also flown to KATYN, in order to convince themselves in person how the Soviets had treated the Polish intelligentsia. Among these Polish PW's was Major Alexander NOWOSIELSKI, who must be somewhere in Germany yet at present. The Polish Government in exile (General SIKORSKI) requested the International Red Cross in GENEVA in the middle of April 1943 to conduct an investigation of the matter. The USSR turned this demand down, and severed its diplomatic relations with the Polish Government in exile in LONDON late in April 1943. It was therefore no longer possible to continue discussions about KATYN with the Russians. The Germans were compelled to stop their excavations early in September 1942, due to the Russian offensive. SMOLENSK was recaptured by the Soviet forces on 25 September 1943 and Soviet Officials immediately began their investigation into the KATYN question. The question of guilt in regards to KATYN are summed up as follows:

(a) Sub-paragraphs 1 to 9 show that the Russian authorities created nothing but difficulties to the authorized Polish officers, so that as a consequence the matter of the disappearance of over 15,000 Polish PW's could not be cleared up. As NKVD's work is known to be very precise, it is out of the question that so large a number of people about who information was recorded very thoroughly, could have disappeared without leaving any trace. The attitude displayed by executive officers at the highest Soviet Headquarters showed rather that they knew what the fate of these Prisoners of War had been but because of their own critical position did not want to lose the aid of the Poles.

(b) The following conclusion can be drawn from sub-paragraph 7 (b) and from the correspondence which was found on the dead in the course of the excavations, that the mass executions were carried out in April 1940 and /or in the first days of May.

(c) The German Commission of twelve (12) which comprised citizens of Switzerland, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Holland, Romania, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and including Poles, established in the Spring of 1943 that pine trees had been planted over the mass graves near KATYN. Judging by the height of the trees it was decided that they had been growing there for approximately three (3) years. It is a known fact that pine trees must be planted when they are very small, for otherwise they will not grow properly. The date when they were supposed to have been planted, the Spring of 1940, corresponds with the date of the execution as was determined from letters and documents found on the dead.

(d) Valuables, such as watches, silver cigarette cases, rings, etc, were found on the corpses. If the Germans had shot these prisoners of war, they would have (as was their custom) taken away these valuables, and not buried them with the dead. In connection with the fact that the corpses had both their footgear and their valuables on their persons, it should be noted that from personal experiences of Source, when he was a member of the frontier Polish troops, the Russian troops were at that time, so well and so severely disciplined that they would never have dreamed of stealing valuables or clothing. It was only due later to their getting accustomed to foreign merchandise that the Russian soldiers began plundering.

(e) If the Germans had murdered these prisoners of war, the Soviets would not have raised any objections to an examination by the International Red Cross. The Germans themselves did not object to such examination, they probably sent a corresponding letter to the I.R.K. in GENEVA.

(f) Furthermore it must be pointed out that the Germans exploited the KATYN affair only at a time when their political and military situation was critical. The purpose of their action was to show the Poles how the Russians treat them and what fate would befall them should the Russians win, as was the wish of the Poles at that time. However, the fact that the Germans started exploiting the KATYN affair only at a stage in their political and military situation when

it had become unfavorable to them, seems to point to the fact that they had previous knowledge of the massacre of the Poles. Another purpose of the Germans was to weaken the work of the Polish underground movement in Poland. The Germans partly succeded in this, in that the Polish A.K. (Armija Krajowa-Army of the Country) began to fight against Communist para-troopers and members of the A.L. (Armija Ludowa-Peoples Army) which was also Communist. Before the outbreak of the Russo-German war, and during the period of friendship between Germany and Russia, the A.K. was opposed to the A.L. (The present Communist Government in Poland is still accusing the A.K. of having collaborated with the Germans. As a proof, it quotes the fact that the so called "Brygada Swiatokzyska" (Holy Cross Brigade), on its retreat to Czechoslovakia, was allowed to pass through the German lines.) Almost the entire brigade formed the Polish guard companies in the LANGWASSER DP Camp in the U.S. Zone. As a result of the KATYN affair, the Germans succeeded in splitting public opinion in Poland and in driving a wedge among the allies, for almost immediately diplomatic relations between the Soviet and the Polish Government in exile in LONDON were broken. The Polish Government in exile subsequently experienced many difficulties in its relations with the US and British Governments, because it persisted in demanding that the KATYN affair be investigated by the International Red Cross.

(g) There is evidence also that points to the possibility that the Germans were indirectly responsible for these murders. In connection with the Agreement signed by Germany and Russia (non Aggression Pact), the project of a biological "extermination" of the Poles and above all, the Polish intelligentsia was being discussed. MOLOTOV expressed the following opinion on 23 September 1939: "It is now high time to put an end to the bastard of the Versailles Pact". (meaning the Poles). The methods of the Nazis and the Russians were the same. In the first place both destroyed the Polish intelligentsia; Both also deported the Poles into their respective countries for hard labor under difficult conditions. (The Russians have deported about two million Poles from the Polish east, out of this number, approximately 400,000 children alone have died. More that 100,000 Poles came to Persia. If one compares these figures with the repatriation statistics from the east, one finds that even today over one million people are still missing).

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(h) Munitions of German origin found in the mass graves cannot be looked upon as a direct proof of German guilt, although this fact was very detrimental to German propaganda. This ammunition could either have been sold to Soviet Government during the period of Russo-German friendship or planted there intentionally. The age of the small pine trees is decisive. It proves that the trees were planted in 1940, at a time when only the Russians were in SMOLENSK.

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(i) If the Germans had really been guilty at KATYN, the Soviet prosecution would have turned this fact into a serious charge in the NUERNBERG trials. But the Soviet prosecutor did not make any reference of KATYN, in fact, very little was said about German crimes in Poland, although ample evidence was available. In this connection the much more publicity was given to the LIDICE, Czechoslovakia Case.

(j) The present Communist Government in Poland detailed a small Commission to KATYN FOREST for the purpose of collecting evidence proving that the Germans were the perpetrators of the murders committed there. However this Polish Commission reached quite a different conclusion and a member of this Commission has recently escaped to Sweden (name unknown). Another member (fnu) MARTINI was found dead a short while after a private conversation about his work with a Polish Ministry official.

(k) Finally the Source pointed out a rumor that was circulating about the time of General SIKORSKI's aeroplane accident near GIBRALTAR. As a result of the Polish Governments demand that the International Red Cross examine the affair at KATIN, many people suspected there was a connection between General SIKORSKI's air crash and this matter.

3. Agent's notes, comments and recommendations:

It is the opinion of the undersigned that the Nazis knew about the KATYN FOREST murders but that it was their intention never to disclose the fact due to their knowledge of it, however, their critical military situation forced them to make a last minute propaganda effort using KATYN to sway public opinion and to win the favor of the Poles. The forgoing report was submitted by Captain [redacted] former Polish contact officer for USMG Hesse at FRITZLAR (L52/H08). JANISZ is presently living in MARBURG (L51/G74) Bismarck Strasse 15, pending his transfer to LONDON. Evaluation: B-3

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Page 12 of 12 Pages

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APPROVED:

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SUB REGION KASSEL
COUNTERINTELLIGENCE CORPS, REGION III

12 May

APO 807
12 May 1948

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III-K-1183

SUBJECT: Katyn Forest Murders

TO : Commanding Officer, Region III, 970th CIC Detachment
APO 807, US Army

1. In compliance with request contained in letter, Hqs., 970th CIC Detachment, EUCOM, dated 18 March 1948, File: D-229548, Subject as above, an uncarded source of this office was contacted and he stated that he had knowledge of the Subject and also stated that he knew of other persons who could give statements.

2. Our SOURCE obtained the statements and they are forwarded, together with German and English translations.

3. Forwarded also is a book, published by the Germans in BERLIN in 1943, Subject: "Amtliches Material zum Massenmord von KATYN". This book was obtained by an Agent of this office some time ago and has been in the library of this Sub-Region since that time.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

Robert H. Swezey
ROBERT H. SWEZEY
Special Agent, CIC
Operations Officer

Incl:
1 - Statement w/translation
2 - Statement w/translation
3 - Statement w/translation
4 - Book - Amtliches Material zum Massenmord von KATYN.

Tel: Kassel 3855
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TRANSLATION:

I, Georgy BESPROSWANNY, recently emigrated from Russia, former officer of the Red Army with the 47th Motorcycle Rifle Regiment for Special Tasks (Commanding officer of the Regiment, Lt. Colonel TSCHEBRANENKO) declare the following:

My father was a mechanic at the State Trust Company, SAPNUKA, in SMOLENSK. From 1931 till 1933 we were living near the station KUPRINO (RR) about 25 km east of SMOLENSK. The Woods of Katyn is a new designation whcih became known after the Soviet Atrocities against the Polish Officers were uncovered. Formerly this area was called "Kossji Gory" (Goat mountains or hills). The area is a very lonely forest region with many swamps and hills densely covered by firs and bushes. This area has a form of a triangle and is located between the Railroad Stations of GNOSDOWO, KUPRINO of the RR line SMOLENSK - WITEBSK and the RR station KATYN on the RR Line SMOLENSK - ORSCHA. Lake KUPRINO is located nereby in the vicinity of the RR stations KATYN and KUPRINO. This lake has swampy banks. Over the"Kossji Gory" a motor highway and the RR SMOLENSK-ORSCHA are leading.

Former members of the W.TSCH.K and OGPU and also inhabitants of the above-mentioned personalities.mentioned and spoke about the fact that the Bolsheviks shot their "Political Criminals" in this particular area. In calm and dark nights the population of the surrounding villages could at times hear shots and long drawn out human cries. At the time of the Farm Collectivisation (1932 and 1935), which caused a terrible hunger famine in the Ukraine and White Russia, murders and holdups were an alomost daily occurance in the area "Kossji Gory". On the highways, the populade smoetimes found empty bags with labels with the following inscription: "Now we are murdering for a PUD (16 kg), soon we will murder for a pound". The populace is superstitious and rarely enters the area.

In 1941 Germany began the war against the Soviet Union. The remainder of the Soviet Army was retreating by way of MINSK, ORSCHA, and WITEBSK towards the city of SMOLENSK and there erected defensive positions. I was ordered to go on scouting patrols in the area between GUSSINO, KATYN, GNJOSDOWO and up to the river SEREBRJANKA. I personally explored all corners of the Kossji Gory and the neighboring woods and my job was to look for German parachutists. On one of my scouting trips, I ran into large half-sunken holes from which came a terrible stin ky smell of putrefication. These holes were covered with yellow clay on top covered with brush. Judging from the outside of the holes and the brushwood, the holes could not have been closed very long ago. At that time I did not care much about those holes. I spoke with my fellow officers about this observation and I was told by the politruk of my unit by the name of WEISSMANN, that the holes contained dead cattle.

During the defense of the river SERBJANKA in July 1941, a RR official at the station of GNJOSDOWO informed me that those holes were graves of prisoners of war that had been killed there towards the end of 1940. He could not definitely state how many were shot at that time or of what nationality the prisoners were. I do not knownhow those prisoners were taken there, but its possible they were taken by trucks because the populace said that the motor highway from GNJOSDOWO to KATYN was often blocked about that time for all traffic. The blocks were put up by members of the NKVD.

It is also possible that the prisoners were taken there by rail, because from the RR station of GNJOSDOWO and KRASNYBOR, several rail lines branch off toward the sand and clay pits from where sand and clay is being taken for construction jobs. I never visited the above area during the German occupation. I did not tell anybody as yet that I know those places very well.

Incl 1

May 6. 1948 /s/ Georgy Besproswanny

Übersetzung aus dem Russischen.

Ich, Georgy BESPROSWANNY, bin neuer Emigrant, ehemaliger Offizier der S.A. und diente beim 47. selbst. Kradschützen Rgt. z.b.V. (Kdr. des Rgts. war Oberstlt. TSCHERBANENKO).

Mein Vater war Mechaniker in dem Staatstrust "SApmuka" ("Westmehl" in SMOLENSK und wir wohnten von 1931 bis 1933 bei der Station KUPRINO, ca. 25 ostwärts SMOLENSK.

Der "Wald von KATYN" ist eine neue Bezeichnung, die erst seit der Bekanntwerden der bolschewistischen Greueltaten mit den polnischen Offizieren geläufig ist. Dieses Gebiet wird in Wirklichkeit von der Bevölkerung der umliegenden Kreise und Ortschaften als "Kosji gori" (Ziegenberge - Anm. des Übersetzers) bezeichnet. Es ist ein sehr abgelegenes Waldgebiet mit viel Sümpfen und Hügeln, die dicht mit Fichten und Gestrüpp bewachsen sind. Das Gebiet erstreckt sich im Dreieck zwischen den Stationen GNJOSDOWO, KUPRINO der Bahnlinie SMOLENSK-WITEBSK und der Station KATYN auf der Bahnlinie SMOLENSK-ORSCHA.

Von Westen erstreckt sich in dieses Gebiet zwischen den Stationen KATYN und KUPRINO der KUPRINOSEE mit seinen sumpfigen Ufern. Über die "Kosji gori" geht die Rollbahn und die Eisenbahn SMOLENSK-ORSCHA.

Ehemalige Mitglieder der W.TSCH.K., der O.G.P.U. und die alten Einwohner dieser Ortschaften erzählten schon früher, dass in der Gegend von den Bolschewisten seit 1918 die sogenannten politischen Verbrecher erschossen wurden. In stillen und dunklen Nächten wurden von der Bevölkerung der anliegenden Ortschaften manchmal in den Wäldern einzelne Schüsse und langgezogene Menschenschreie gehört.

Während der Kollektivisierung in den Jahren 1932 - 1933, die in der UdSSR. eine katastrophale Ernährungslage hervorrief und in der Ukraine u. Weissrussland sogar schreckliche Hungersnot herrschte, wurden in den "Kosji gori" öfters Plünderungen und Morde ausgeführt. Auf der Landstrasse fand die Bevölkerung öfters leere Säcke, in welchen Zettel mit der

Aufschrift: "Jetzt morden wir für ein Pud (16 kg - Anm. d. Übersetzers) und wir werden bald für ein Pfund morden" - angebracht waren.

Die Bevölkerung geht schon allein wegen ihres Aberglaubens nicht in diesen Teil der Wälder.

1941 begann Deutschland den Krieg gegen die UdSSR. Die Reste der sowjetischen Armeen marschierten rückwärts über MINSK, ORSCHA, WITEBSK, in Richtung SMOLENSK und richteten vor dieser Stadt eine Verteidigungslinie ein. Ich musste auf Befehl des Kommandeurs des 47. selbst. Kradschützen-Rgts. einen Spähtrupp im Raum der Ortschaften GUSSINO, KATYN, GNJOSDOWO und bis zum Fluss SSEREBRJANKA bei SMOLENSK durchführen. Ich durchforschte selbst sämtliche dunkelsten Ecken der "Kosji gori" und der umliegenden Wälder, da ich die Aufgabe hatte, dort deutsche Fallschirmspringer aufzufinden. Ich kam dabei öfters an grosse halbeingefallene Löcher, aus welchen sich ein schrecklicher Geruch der Verwesung verbreitete. Diese Löcher waren mit gelbem Lehm zugeworfen und darüber mit Reisig bedeckt. Nach dem Aussehen und dem Reisig zu urteilen, waren die Löcher vor nicht allzulanger Zeit zugeworfen worden. Damals machte ich mir allerdings über diese Löcher weiter keine Gedanken. Nach meiner Aufklärung erzählte ich während einer Unterhaltung meine Beobachtungen anderen Offizieren, worauf der politische Leiter meiner Einheit mit Namen WEISSMANN erklärte, dass es sich bei diesen Löchern um Stellen handelt, wo verendetes Vieh vergraben wurde.

Schon später, im Juli 1941, während der Verteidigung des Flusses SEREBRJANKA, erzählte mir ein Bahnbeamter des Bahnhofs GNJOSDOWO, dass es sich bei diesen Löchern um Massengräber erschossener Kriegsgefangener handelt, die Ende 1940 von der NKWD. dort erschossen wurden. Wieviel Mann dort erschossen wurden und welcher Nationalität diese waren, konnte er nicht sagen. Auch wie die Opfer dorthin gebracht wurden, ist mir nicht bekannt, es ist jedoch anzunehmen, dass dieses auf Lkw. vonstatten ging,

denn die Bevölkerung er-

denn die Bevölkerung erzählte, dass die Rollbahn oft von GNJOSDOWO und KATYN für den Verkehr gesperrt war. Die Absperrung wurde von Angehörigen der NKWD-Truppen durchgeführt.

Man kann andererseits auch annehmen, dass der Transport der Opfer durch die Eisenbahn bewerkstelligt wurde, denn von den Bahnhöfen GNJOSDOWO und KRASNY BOR (wo sich die Kasernenstadt Cholodjilnik befindet) gehen mehrere Abzweigungen der Bahnlinie zu den einzelnen Sand- und Lehmgruben, von wo der Sand für grössere Bauarbeiten geholt wurde.

Während der deutschen Besetzung war ich nie in diesem Raum. Habe auch bis heute noch zu niemandem davon gesprochen, dass ich diese Stellen sehr gut kenne.

6.5.1949 gez. Georgy BESPROSWANNY.

Я Георгий Беспрозванный, новый эмигрант, бывший офицер Советской Армии 47 отдельного особого назначения мотоциклетного полка (Ком. полка подполковник Чебаненко) Мой отец будучи механиком треста „Заготзерно" в г. Смоленске вместе с нашей семьей проживал с 1931 по 1933 год на ст. Купино, приблизительно в 25 км от г. Смоленска.

Катынский Лес, это новое название, появившееся с момента раскрытия злодеяний большевиков над польскими офицерами. Место это у населения окружающих деревень и районов называется „Козьи Горы". Глухая, пересеченная местность с болотами и возвышенностями, густо поросшими сосновым лесом и кустарником. Расположено в треугольнике между станцией Гнездово, ст. Купино на железной дороге Смоленск - Витебск и ст. Катынь по дороге Смоленск - Витебск.

С Запада между станциями Кайдаки и Куприно в этом лесистом месте есть Купринское озеро с болотистыми берегами. Через „Козин гук" проходит шоссе и теперь идет путь Смоленск - Орша. Бывшие сотрудники Г.К., О.Г.П.У. и старожилы этих мест рассказывали о массовых расстрелах большевиками так называемых политических преступников начиная с 1918 года. Глухими и темными ночами население прилегающих деревень иногда слышало звуки отдельных выстрелов и крики расстреливаемых. Ах... В разгар коллективизации, которая в 1932-33 г. вызвала продовольственное затруднение Сов. Союза - страшный голод Украины и Белоруссии. В Козьих горах кипела работа и убийства. На шоссе находили трупы лиц с записками - „Сейчас режем за хлеб, а будем резать за фунт!" Из за лишнего куска хлеба, наши крестьяне - окрестности избегают заходить в этот лес. 1948 г.

В 1941 году Германия вступила в войну с Сов. союзом. Остатки армий откатывались с запада через Минск Орш, Витебск, на Смоленск, перешли в оборону подступов к Смоленску. Мне лично по приказанию ком. 47. отдельного, особого назначения моего стрелкового полка пришлось проводить разведку районов Гусино, Камынь, Гнездово до реки Серебрянка под Смоленском. Я лично прошел почти все закоулки „Козьих Гор" и прилегающих окрестностей в поисках немецких парашютных десантов. Я неоднократно натыкался на полусгнившие ямы издающие зловонии разложившихся трупов. Эти ямы были засыпаны землей глиной и забросаны валежником. По своему виду, поросшим травы ямы были недавнего происхождения. В то время над происхождением ям я не имел времени задумываться. После разведок в кругу офицеров я рассказал о всем мной виденном и политрук нашего подразделения Вайсман сообщил нам, что это места свалки нашего скота.

Позже в обороне по реке Серебрянке в Июле 1941 года мне рассказывал один железнодорожник со ст. Гнездово что это могилы расстрелянных военнослужащих, которых расстрелено Н.К.В.Д в Катыне 1940 года. Национальность и количество расстрелянных он рассказать не мог.

Каким образом жертвы подвозились туда, мне не известно. Можно предполагать, что на автомашинах т.к. по рассказам местного населения шоссе со стороны станции Гнездово и ст. Катынь закрывалось для проезда войсками НКВД.

Можно также думать, что по железной дороге т.к. от ст. Гнездово и ст. Красный Бор где находится военный городок т.н. „Холодильник" подходило много подъездных путей в „Карьеры" откуда брался песок на строительные нужды. Во время немецкой оккупации в этих местах я небыл. До сего времени никому не говорил, что эти места я очень хорошо знаю.

5.1948 г. Георгий Бесчуровский

TRANSLATION:

A Displaced Person of Camp Monchehof, Kreis Kassel, who does not want to state his name, but who is known to our informant, was formerly living in the town of SMOLENSK and states the following regarding the KATYN case.

He was sentenced by a Soviet court in WITEBSK on April 1940, according to par. 58, part II (political) of the Soviet Penal Army Code. At WITEBSK he was taken in a railway car with a group of captured Polish officers to the vicinity of SMOLENSK. During the trip, the Polish officers were complaining about their treatment by the Soviet authorities. They stated that they were badly treated and that if they should come out of the captivity alive, they would fight Communism to the end of their lives. When they arrived in SMOLENSK, the Polish officers were unloaded at a different point and our source does not know what happened to them afterwards.

After SOURCE was freed from a concentration camp by the advancing Germans, he returned to his native town of SMOLENSK. There was a rumor at the town that the Soviet troops had killed many Polish officers near the station of KRASNY by shooting them and had buried them in the vicinity. The German occupation authorities went to the bottom of this rumor and SOURCE claims that due to this the Germans found the bodies at KATYN. SOURCE further states that the Russian authorities had disposed of all unreliable persons from the little town of KRASNY BOR prior to 1939, so that it was very difficult to find out any details about the executions in the past from the people who remained in KRASNY BOR. SOURCE further states that the rumor was also that the Polish prisoners of war had been killed near KRASNY BOR partly by bursts from machine guns and partly by pistol shots in the neck.

Signature attached.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Incl 2

Übersetzung aus dem Russischen.

Ein Insasse des D.P.- Lagers MÖNCHENHOF bei KASSEL, der seinen Namen nicht nennen will, wohnte früher in der Stadt SMOLENSK (weitere Angaben über seinen Lebenslauf will er ebenfalls nicht machen) und berichtet über die Affäre von KATYN folgendes:

Der Betreffende gibt an, dass er im April 1940 in WITEBSK durch ein sowjetisches Gericht nach Paragraph 58, Punkt II. (politisch) des sowj. Strafgesetzbuches verurteilt wurde. Man verlud ihn auf dem Bhf. WITEBSK in einen Eisenbahnwagen, wo ausser ihm noch eine Gruppe polnischer Offiziere untergebracht war, mit welchen er die Reise von WITEBSK nach SMOLENSK in dem Gefangenenwagen vollbringen musste. Im Zuge sollen die polnischen Offiziere sehr auf die Sowjetregierung geschimpft haben. Sie erzählten den anderen russischen Häftlingen, dass die Sowjetregierung sich ihnen gegenüber sehr schlecht benimmt und wenn sie leben bleiben sollten, so würden sie ihr ganzes Leben dafür aufopfern um gegen den Kommunismus zu kämpfen. Bei der Ankuhft in SMOLENSK wurden die polnischen Offiziere an einer anderen Stelle ausgeladen und der Aussagende weiss nicht, was mit ihnen weiter geschah.

Der Betreffende gibt an, dass er von deutschen Truppen aus dem Konzentrationslager befreit wurde und in seine Heimatstadt SMOLENSK zurückkehrte. In der Stadt ging unter der Bevölkerung das Gerücht, dass die Sowjets bei der Station KRASSNY BOR viele polnische Offiziere erschossen haben sollen, die dort in der Nähe auch vergraben sein sollten. Diesem Gerücht schenkten die deutschen Besatzungsbehörden ihre Aufmerksamkeit und die Leichen wurden nach Angaben des Aussagenden später nur auf Grund dieses Gerüchts gefunden. Der Aussagende gibt weiter an, dass man unter der Bevölkerung erzählte, dass bis zum Jahre 1939 sämtliche "unzuverlässigen" (Nach sowjetischer Ansicht) Personen aus dem Städchen KRASSNY BOR entfernt wurden, so dass man von den Zurückgebliebenen nur schwer Genaueres über die Erschiessungen erfahren konnte. Weiter gibt der Betreffende an, dass in diesem Gerücht davon die Rede war, dass die Erie

Gefangenen in KRASNY BOR teilweise durch Feuerstösse aus MP. und teilweise durch Genickschuss mit Pistolen erschossen wurden.

gez. Unterschrift.

По сведениям одного бритвения лагеря Мейхенгоф/Кассель не решающего вскрывать своих автобиографических данных и своего фашизма, известно.

В апреле м-це 1940 года это лицо в гр. Витебске был осужден по политической статье, п. 58-8 и доставлен-ен по ф/с/д в арестантских вагонах из г. Витебска в Смоленск.

Совместно с ним в вагоне ехала группа польских офицеров-заключенных. Обращаясь к русским заключенным они (польские офицеры) говорили, что, если они встанутся фашистами, то всю свою жизнь посвятят борьбе против Коммунизма.

На ст. Смоленск польские офицеры выгрузили, а остальную группу заключенных повезли дальше.

—1—

Приказ Берии освободил это лицо из Советской тюрьмы и он немедленно отправился к себе домой (Почтово 1944 года, Чапаев - август).

Вот он услышал от местного населения, что у станции „Красный Бор" Советами в течении 1940 года были расстреляны тысячи офицеров. Тысячи офицеров подвозились к месту расстрела по железной дороге и на автомашинах.

Расстреливались до 110 человек в день из пистолетов в затылок и автоматов.

Это лицо считает, что на основании этих рассказов, вдовы и производимых фамилии, пропали тысячи братских могил.

Местное же население из таких мест, как „Красный Бор", „Гидрова" еще с периода капитуляции тщательно было „прозрачно" Советами и только „благонадежные" в Совет-

они пытались оставившись сами на
Политическо, поэтому узнать от них
подробности или невозможно или очень
трудно.

CONFIDENTIAL

7.5.48. Касаткин / Касаткину /

CONFIDENTIAL

Я бывший младший старший лейтенант авиации после ранения на Советско-Финском фронте еще в чине мл. лейтенанта авиации по моей личной просьбе был направлен в Военный лазарет в Смоленск, где находился мой старший брат подполковник авиации, командир авиа части. Там в лазарете я пробыл с февраля по май 1940 г. Брат, мой часто навещывающий меня, как-то в мае сообщил о крупном прибытии вдса М.В.Д в г. Смоленск. Причина прибытия их ему была неизвестна.

В мае месяце, по выздоровлении я был направлен в Орловский Военный округ, в 48 авиадивизию, 2го авиакорпуса, расположенного в гор. Курск. Здесь по состоянии моего здоровья я пребывал до декабря 1940 на должности помощника коменданта города одного из городков.

Имея широкие возможности в смысле отпусков я в октябре-ноябре посетил вновь брата в гор. Смоленск. Здесь на улицах города я обратил внимание на то, что многие из чинов М.В.Д, тогда Н.К.В.Д имеют на рукаве шин

Брянскаго Фронта полевого пункта хран-
ения. На мой вопрос почему брат
мне о том, что были ли эти подразде-
ления NKWD в оккупированной Со-
ветами части Польши — брат ответил,
что нет, эти части из резервов главно-
го командования Внутренних войск
НКВД. Помимо того брат сказал, что
примерно с августа 1940 года некото-
рые „свободные" грузовики уже с охран-
ой представлялись в распоря-
жение местного НКВД, где уже с
своими шоферами они выбывали из
Смоленска в направление на
Орша. Поездки такие продолжа-
лись от 3х до 13 дней.
В один из дней ноября 1940 г. брат
взял меня с собой на его автомаши-
ну и мы решили проехать экскурсии
по шоссе Смоленск — Орша.
Примерно в 15 км от Смоленска
мы были остановлены чинами
НКВД, которые потребовали у нас
специального пропуска. Пропуска у
нас не было.

Вернувшись из Смоленска фронт обратился за пропусками в Управление НКВД. Оттуда последовал отказ, т.к., якобы в этих местах и в тот день проводились „тактические маневры" войск МВД.

Мы еще раз в начале декабря попробовали поехать по этому шоссе на Оршу. На этот раз по шоссе мы проехали благополучно. Заинтересовавшись, что за маневры происходили здесь, т.к. корреспондентскому интересна тема проникновения захватчиков мы свернули на боковую дорогу в лес примерно в 17-19 км. от Смоленска. Сейчас же из-за кустов с винтовками наперевес перед нами появились чины НКВД, которые арестовали нас, доставили в Управление НКВД в г. Смоленск. И только вмешательство начальника гарнизона г. Смоленска устранило скандал, который подняли мой фронт, обнаруживший арестован.

— 2 —

1941 год июль месяц застал меня отступающим в пешем строю в составе колонны мотчиков из Орши на Смоленск. Нашу мот. часть мы потеряли от пешущих пакетов последовательно: в Рим, Минске, Витебске. Проходя через местность близлежащую у Смоленска, по-мо ни. (хорошей и полной) мы все обратили внимание на странную допущенность населения и ненависть к нам, выразившуюся тем. Даже невозможно было достать у населения даже куска стакана воды не говоря уже о хлебе. На все наши расспросы: большинство отвечало молчанием. Но находились единицы, которые открыто прямо-ли нас, говоря, чтобы мы уходили и никуда больше не возвращались, что мы все и продолжительно молчали. Мы отрицали, доказывали, что мы пока-ко мотчики-солдаты. Они же нам говорили, что это все равно-мы полны хранцуз-значит мы полны.

Некоторые из них задавали нам вопросы, что это были за военнопленные, которые в 1940 году, здесь в их местности расстреляны НКВД. Мы заявили, что это нам вообще неизвестно.

Позже в октябре 1941 года я узнал от брата, что на территории Катыни и Катынских лесов в братских могилах находились до 14000 зверски расстрелянных большевиками польских офицеров.

В сентябре-августе 1941 года я с своим звеном истребителей (в то время я принадлежал Московской противовоздушной обороне) барражировал (патрулировал) местность вблизи до Орши с высоты „бреющего" полета часто прощупывая эту местность Катыни и ее окрестности. Меня поразили едва заметные неровности почвы в покинутых карьерах, прикрытые бумажками. Но причин этих неровностей никто из нас не знал. Немцев же в это время и позже вплоть до января 1942 года, т.е. когда я был не [illegible]

фронта; ни с одной военной [illegible] мы никто из моих лётных друзей не наблюдали. Местность эта всегда совершенно глухая и пустынная.

Слышанное от брата я в свое время принял к сведению, но никогда никому не говорил, т.к. в Советском Союзе это грозило брату неприятностями, при нынешнем же положении никто не был застрахован лично от репрессий.

При нынешнем же я не имею никакого желания и возможности передавать вышеприведенное.

Я твердо уверен, что польских офицеров в Катыни расстреляли только Советские, как врагов Советского Союза известных и еще больших преступлений Советских палачей, которые несомненно история, когда-нибудь раскроет.

Достаточно напомнить о полуразрушенных сёлах и станицах Кавказа, Украины, Новгорода. Вспомнить о наблюдаемом мною в июле-августе 1943 г. марше военнопленных [illegible], лохмотьях

у гор. Нальчик (Северный Кавказ), где
советы практиковали зимнюю расстрела
категорий смертью, где люди, замученные
получили немедленно мороз со слуга-
ми кругозор называли человека довщего
ее своим спасителем. Где местному
населению категорически запрещалось,
что-нибудь давать, пленным — под
страхом ареста.

Несомненно, что, когда-нибудь Советские
палачи получат заслуженную кару
от свободолюбивых народов — любящих
правду — за все совершенные преступле-
ния.

К. 5.48. Касьян /Касьянов/

TRANSLATION:

I was formerly a 1st Lieut. of the Russian Airforce. While still a 2nd Lt., I was wounded in the Soviet-Finnish war. Upon my personal request I was taken to a hospital in SMOLENSK, where my brother, older than myself, was staying and who was a Lt. Colonel of an Airforde unit there. I stayed in the hospital from February till May 1940. My brother visited me very often and on one occasion told me that large units of the MVD (then NKVD) had arrived at SMOLENSK. He did not know why these troops had just come to SMOLENSK.

After I recovered, I was transferred to the 48 Air Force Division in May 1940. This Division was a part of the 2nd Air Force Corps, Headquarters at KURSK. Due to my poor health, I became deputy commander of a little town until December 1940. I had easy access to furlough forms. I went back to SMOLENSK during October and November to visit my brother. There I was struck by the fact that in the streets many officers of NKVD were wearing wrist watches and pocket watches of Polish origin. I asked my brother if those units were in the occupied zone of Poland, but he stated that they were members of the NKVD. My brother further stated that since August 1940, empty trucks had been placed at the disposal of the NKVD staff. The trucks left with NKVD drivers towards ORSCHA where they usually remained from three (3) to thirteen (13) days. On one occasion in November 1940 my brother took me for a ride in his car on the road from SMOLENSK to ORSCHA. About 15 km outside of SMOLENSK we were stopped by guards of the NKVD who asked for our identification papers. They informed us that in order to pass, we would have to have special permit papers. We returned to SMOLENSK and at the headquarters of the NKVD, asked for these special papers. We were refused due to the supposed fact that on that day the troops of the NKVD were performing "manouvers" in that area.

In the beginning of December we again went to ORSCHA on the same road we had taken before. We still were interested in the manouvers of the NKVD which, were supposedly still being held. About 17 km outside of SMOLENSK we turned into a small forest road. We had just turned off the main highway, when troops of the NKVD came out of the bushes and arrested us and took us back to the NKVD headquarters in SMOLENSK. My brother was very much upset by this arrest and the intervention of the Commanding Officer of SMOLENSK himself avoided a scandal.

In July 1941, I retreated with a group of flyers on foot on the road from ORSCHA - SMOLENSK. We had lost our planes through German attacks on MINSK, VITEBSK, and WITEBSK. 20 to 40 km before SMOLENSK we were struck by the sayness of the populace (I do not recall the names of the particular towns), who looked upon us with hatred. We were not even given water, much less bread. When we asked people about this behavior, they did not give us an answer. There were also people who told us that they did not want to have anything to do with us because they considered us and our government plain hangmen. We tried to tell them that we were only soldiers, aviators, but they told us that we were Red Stars and so we were hangmen. Some people even asked us if we knew what prisoners of war had been killed in 1940 in that region. We of course had to admit that we knew nothing of what they were talking about.

In 1941 during October, I heard from my brother that in the woods of KATYN, about 14000 Polish officers, that had been murdered by the Bolshevists, had been buried there.

During August - September 1941, I frequently had to scout with my group of three fighting planes, the area between MOSCOW and ORSCHA. At that time I was a

4 02

member of an anti-aircraft defense unit of MOSCOW. I often flew in a gliding flight over the region of KATYN. I could see only some rough spots of different sand pits that were partly covered by bushes. It looked like in those places, the earth had settled down (sunk down). Nobody knew the reason for this!

I would like to add that neither I nor my companion flyers ever noticed concentrations of troops or prisoners of war in this region up to January 1942, at which time I was transferred to another sector of the front. This area was always calm and empty of troops.

I never told anybody what I had heard from my brother, so as not to cause my brother any trouble. After the Germans occupied this area, nobody cared about this and I had no intention and no occasion to tell it to anybody anyway.

I am firmly convinced that the Polish officers were murdered by the Soviets in the KATYN forests. Moreover, as a citizen of the USSR, I have knowledge of even greater crimes that surely will someday become known to humanity. I just want to mention the death of masses in the villages of the Caucasus, the Ukraine and the Wolga country. In July - August 1940, I saw a camp of captured Latvians, Lithuanians, and Estonian officers and officials in the town of NALTSCHICK. Those peopel were not shot but starved to death and if someone threw them a carrot, they thanked him as if he saved their life. The populace was forbidden to give them anything at the risk of arrest.

Über[illegible]tzung aus dem Russis[illegible]en.

Ich bin ehem. Garde-Olt. der sowj. Luftwaffe. Im sowjetisch-finnischen Krieg wurde ich noch als U-Lt. verwundet und auf meine persönliche Bitte in ein Lazarett der Stadt SMOLENSK eingeliefert, wo sich zu der Zeit auch mein älterer Bruder befand, der Oberst-Lt. u. Kdr. eines Truppenteils der Luftwaffe war. Im Lazarett war ich vom Februar bis Mai 1940. Mein Bruder besuchte mich oft und erzählte mir mal bei einem dieser Besuche, dass nach SMOLENSK grössere Verbände des MWD. (damals NKWD) gekommen seien. Der Grund für diese Truppenansammlung, war ihm nicht bekannt.

Nach meiner Genesung im Mai, wurde ich zur 48. Lw.-Div. versetzt. Diese Div. gehörte zum II. Lw.-Korps, welches sich damals in KURSK befand. In Anbetracht meines schlechten Gesundheitszustandes, war ich dort bis Dez. 1940 stellvertretender Kdt. eines kleinen Stützchens. Da ich gute Beziehungen zu Urlaubscheinen hatte, fuhr ich Okt.- Nov. wieder zu meinem Bruder nach SMOLENSK. Dort fiel es mir auf der Strasse auf, dass viele Offiziere des damaligen NKWD. Handuhren, oder Taschenuhren polnischer Herkunft trugen. Ich fragte meinen Bruder, ob diese Einheiten vielleicht in der okkupierten Zone Polens waren, worauf er mir aber antwortete, dass das nicht zutreffen würde, denn diese Offiziere seien Angehörige der Reserve des Oberbefehlshabers der NKWD-Truppen. Ausserdem erzählte mir mein Bruder unter anderem, dass ungefähr seit August 1940 immer regelmässig leere Lkw. vom Flugplatz dem Stab des NKWD. zur Verfügung gestellt würden. Er erzählte noch weiter, dass diese Lkw. mit Fahrern des NKWD. in Richtung ORSCHA abfahren würden, wo sie von 3 bis 13 Tage blieben.

Eines Tages im Nov. 1940 nahm mein Bruder mich in seinen Wagen und wir wollten eine kleine Spazierfahrt auf der Strasse SMOLENSK - ORSCHA machen. Ca. 15 km hinter SMOLENSK wurden wir von Posten des NKWD. angehalten, die unsere Ausweise verlangten. Sie erklärten uns, dass wir für die Durchreise einen

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ur die Durchreise einen besonderen Ausweis haben müssten. Nach unserer Rückkehr nach SMOLENSK, wandte sich mein Bruder wegen eines Ausweises an die Dienststelle des NKWD. Die Dienststelle schickte aber eine Absage, mit der Begründung, dass an dem betreffenden Tage in diesem Raum von Truppen des NKWD. Manöver durchgeführt würden.

Anfang Dez. versuchten wir wiederum auf dieser Strasse nach ORSCHA zu fahren u. kamen auch auf der Rollbahn gut durch. Mein Bruder und ich interessierten uns aber über die Manöver der NKWD-Truppen, die angeblich dort stattgefunden haben sollen und wir bogen ca. 17 - 19 km von SMOLENSK in einen seitlichen Waldweg ab. Aber sofort kamen aus dem Gebüsch einige Soldaten des NKWD. mit Gewehren bewaffnet, die uns verhafteten und zur Dienststelle des NKWD. nach SMOLENSK brachten. Mein Bruder war über die Verhaftung sehr aufgebracht und nur die Einmischung des Kommandanten der Garnison SMOLENSK verhinderte einen Skandal.

Im Juli 1941 befand ich mich mit einer Gruppe anderer Flieger auf dem Rückmarsch zu fuss von ORSCHA nach SMOLENSK. Unsere Flugzeuge hatten wir durch deutsche Angriffe nacheinander in RIGA, MINSK u. VITEBSK verloren. 20 bis 40 km vor SMOLENSK (die Benennungen der Ortschaften kenne ich nicht mehr) fiel uns die Einschüchterung der Bevölkerung besonders auf, ausserdem betrachteten sie uns mit Hass. Es war dort nicht mal möglich von der Bevölkerung etwas Wasser zu bekommen, von Brot überhaupt nicht zu reden. Auf unsere verschiedenen Fragen antworteten die meisten überhaupt nicht. Es gab aber auch solche, die zu uns einfach sagten, wir sollten weggehen, dass sie mit uns nichts zu reden hätten u. dass wir zusammen mit unserer Regierung alle Henker seien. Wir versuchten den Menschen klarzumachen, dass wir nur Soldaten seien u. z. Flieger, aber sie antworteten, dass wir auch rote Sterne tragen und deshalb auch Henker seien. Einige fragten uns, was das für Kriegsgefangene gewesen sind, die im Jahre 1940 dort in der Gegend erschossen wurden, aber wir antworteten natürlich, dass uns derartige Vorfälle nicht bekannt sind.

Im Okt. 1941 erfuhr ich dann von meinem Bruder, dass im Raum der Fil-

der von KATYN, in Massengräbern ca. 14 000 polnische Offiziere vergraben sein sollen, die von den Bolschewisten bestialisch hingemordet wurden.

In August - Sept. 1941 musste ich mit meiner "Kette" (3 Flugzeuge - - "Jäger") öfters den Raum von MOSKAU bis ORSCHA aufklären, da ich zu der Zeit zur Luftabwehr von MOSKAU gehörte. Ich überflog zu der Zeit oft im Gleitflug den Raum von KATYN. Auf diesen Flügen konnte ich nur einige Unebenheiten verschiedener Sandgruben feststellen, die teilweise mit Sträuchern bedeckt waren. Es sah so aus, als hätte sich die Erde an diese Stellen gesenkt, aber den genauen Grund wusste niemand von uns.

Ich möchte nur noch feststellen, dass weder ich noch irgend einer meiner Flieger-Kameraden jemals in dieser Gegend bis zum Januar 1942 (in der Zeit wurde ich an einen anderen Frontabschnitt versetzt) Ansammlungen deutscher Truppen oder Kriegsgefangener gesehen haben. Die Gegend war immer ruhig und leer.

Was ich von meinem Bruder gehört hatte, erzählte ich niemandem weiter denn in der UdSSR. hätte das grosse Unannehmlichkeiten für meinen Bruder gebracht und als die Deutschen einmarschiert waren, hat sich niemand dafür interessiert, ausserdem hatte ich keine Lust und keine Gelegenheit dieses weiterzuerzählen.

Ich bin fest davon überzeugt, dass die polnischen Offiziere in den Wäldern von KATYN, nur von den Sowjets ermordet wurden. Ausserdem sind mir als Bürger der UdSSR, noch einige grosse Verbrechen der Sowjets bekannt, die die Geschichte bestimmt auch mal ans Tageslicht bringen wird. Man braucht nur an das Massensterben in den Dörfern und Stanitzen des KAUKASUS, der UKRAINE und des Wolgalandes zu denken. Ich sah im Juli - - August 1940 in der Stadt NALTSCHIK (Nordkaukasus) einen Lager für gefangene litauische, lettische u. estische Offiziere u. Beamten. Diese Menschen wurden nicht erschossen, aber durch Hunger zu Tode gequält und wenn ihnen jemand illegal eine Möhre zuwarf, so dankten sie diesem Menschen wie ihrem Lebensretter. Der Bevölkerung war unter Strafe der Verhaftung verboten diesen Menschen was zu geben.

Ich bin davon überzeugt, dass die sowj. Henker ihre verdiente Strafe von

verdiente Strafe von den Freiheits- und Wahrheitsliebenden Menschen eines Tages für ihre gesamten Verbrechen bekommen werden.

gez. Unterschrift.

SECRET

15 May

HEADQUARTERS
SUB-REGION ~~[illegible]~~ HERSFELD
COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS REGION III

APO~~[illegible]~~ 171

III-H-1718 CONFIDENTIAL 12 May 1948

SUMMARY REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

SUBJECT: Katyn Forest Murders

Cross Reference: Murder of Polish Army Officers

Case Classification: Personnel

1. Reason for Investigation: Pursuant to instructions contained in Ltr, Hqs 970th CIC Det., EUCOM, Subject: Katyn Forest Murders, File D-229548, dtd 18 March 1948 and 1st Ind, Reg III, 970th CIC Det., File III-5197, dtd 29 March 1948, the following information was obtained through [redacted] plus their sub-sources.

2. Synopsis of Previous Investigation: None.

3. Synopsis of Present Investigation:

a. According to sources, on 27 September 1939, Jozef CZAPSKI, reserve officer of the Polish 8th Cavalry Regiment, and painter by profession was taken prisoner by the Soviet Forces. After many adventures, CZAPSKI ended up in the Soviet Prisoner of War Camp in STAROBIELSK, USSR. CZAPSKI stated that prior to the disbandment of this PW Camp on 5 April 1940, 5,930 Polish Officers, a few score of civilian prisoners and some thirty Polish cadets and warrant officers were there. From among that comparatively large group, only seventy-nine people, CZAPSKI included, came out alive and the balance disappeared. After the Soviet assault on the rear of the Polish Army fighting against the Germans on 17 September 1939, part of the Polish troops were taken prisoner by the Soviets and brought into three big camps: STAROBIELSK, KOZIELSK and OSTASZKOW, USSR. There were in these three camps prior to 5 April 1940, 8,700 Polish Officers and some 7,000 Polish enlisted men. From among all these Polish POW's, who remained in the above mentioned camps between September 1939 and April 1940, only some 400 men could be traced later on. These were the Polish POW's, who in 1940 were transferred to GRIAZOWIEC, in the Wologda Area, USSR. Further certain Polish Officers and enlisted men, mostly Intelligence troops, Border Corps (KOP) and MPs (Gendarmerie), were saved, because prior to the disbandment of these POW

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~~SECRET~~ Page 1 of 15 Pages
Copy 1 of 7 Copies 18196

camps, they had been transferred into prisons in order to stand trial. The group of Polish POW's from GRIAZOWISC was liberated in August 1941, after the treaty between Poland and the USSR was signed and diplomatic relations were re-established. In reference to Soviet Polish POW camps in STAROBIELSK, KOZIELSK and OSTAAZKOW, USSR, during the period from October 1939 until May 1940, they were refered to as STAROBIELSK I, KOZIELSK I, and OSTAAZKOW I, respectively. Later on there was a fourth camp, STEROBIELSK, for political prisoners taken after May 1940, which included certain military personnel arrested in the eastern part of Poland, or caught while crossing the border into Rumania or Hungary. There was also KOZIELSK II, where certain Polish Officers were kept who had been interned in Lithuania in 1939, and who later on, when that country was occupied by the Soviets were transported into the USSR. Those Polish Officers, who happened to be in STAROBIELSK and KOZIELSK after May 1940, were later released and inducted into the army of the Polish General ANDERS, after September 1941. CZEPSKI stated that the bulk of the Polish Officers taken prisoner by the Soviets in September 1939, with the above listed exceptions excluded, disappeared and no traces whatsoever were left of them.

b. Among the prisoners of war in STAROBIELSK, who were never found later on, there were the following Polish Officers: General Stanislaw HOLLER, General Fnu SKIERSKI, General Fnu LUKOWSKI, General Franciszek SIKORSKI, General Fnu BILEWWIEZ, General Fnu PLISOWSKI, General Fnu KOWALEWSKI and General Piotr SKUNATOWIEZ. General Fnu JARUSZKIEWICZ, who in 1939-1940 was taken into the well known prison Lubianka in MOSCOW, USSR, came out alive. From the camp KOZIELSK I, General Fnu SMORAWINSKI, General Fnu MINKIEWICZ, General Fnu SCHATYREWICZ and Rear Admiral Fnu CZERNICKI also disappeared. General Fnu WOLKOWICKI left the latter camp for GRIAZIOWIEC, USSR, and escaped death. Total losses from the above mentioned Soviet Polish POW Camps were as follows:

Colonels and Lt Colonels	some 300
Majors	some 500
Captains	some 2,500
Lieutenants	some 5,000

These totals include some 800 medical officers and over 600 pilots. While prisoners in the USSR, all Polish Officers were questioned several times, mostly at night, and varied in form and intensity. Blackmail and bribery methods were commonly used. The form of questioning varied from the polite conversation type, on all current political and military events to conversations with high NKVD officials

sent from MOSCOW, to 72 hour uninterrupted interrogations accompanied by menaces and threats. CZAPSKI stated however, that no Polish POW's were beaten or tortured in STAROBIELSK, and is more than can be said concerning the situation in the prisons of LWOW, KIJOW, and MOSCOW, USSR. Sometimes these interrogations were conducted by primitive, stupid and unlearned individuals and the questions asked were not devoid of humor. Beginning in February 1940, there were rumors in the above mentioned Polish POW camps, to the effect that the Polish prisoners would be transferred. There was also news from Poland to the effect that these Polish POW's were to be brought back to Poland or through Poland into Germany and that representatives of the Polish Red Cross were awaiting the Polish POW's with thousands of parcels right on the border between the USSR and German occupation zones. Soviet officials in the Polish POW camps spread rumors to the effect that the USSR would give up all of it's Polish POW's to the Allies to be sent to France and there to be permitted to fight with the Germans. One day an official Soviet letter was found giving the route of the prospective Polish POW convoys through the province of Bendery, USSR. One night, a short while later, all Polish POW's were awakened and asked if they could speak Rumanian or Greek. Such activities inspired these Polish POW's with hope and when in April 1940, small groups of Polish prisoners were taken out of the POW camps, most of them believed that they were on their route to freedom. These Poles however, could not determine the key to the Soviet method of forming these small groups of departing POW's. These groups were mixed regardless of their ages, ranks, professions, social position and political opinions. Every other group was formed in a different way than the previous one, and every guess on the part of the Polish POW's involved, failed. The Soviet camp commanders in STAROBIELSK, Lt Col Fnu BEREZKOW, and Commissar Fnu KIRSZEK, guaranteed officially to the higher ranking Polish Officers that the STAROBIELSK POW camp was to be disbanded and that all the Polish prisoners would be shipped to control points and then further to their homes in the Soviet and German Zones of Poland, regardless of their places of residence. One of the Soviet POW camp commanders told one of the Poles in farewell, "You are going where I would be glad to go." Along with the process of disbandment of the above mentioned Soviet Polish POW camps, the intervals between shipments of Polish POW's became longer and longer (this disbandment started around the beginning of April 1940). When it came to CZAPSKI's turn on 12 May 1940, there were only several scores of Polish POW's left in the STAROBIELSK POW Camp. CZAPSKI left with a group of sixteen men and hoped to return home soon. This group of Polish POW's met

their first surprise at the Soviet railway station, where they were all packed into small prison cars. They found Polish inscriptions on the walls of these cars: "They unload us near SMOLENSK (USSR)". The Soviet convoying personnel appeared to be very brutal, and the Polish POW'S were let out to go to the toilet only twice a day. The prisoners rations consisted exclusively of water and small herrings. There was a terrific heat in the prison cars, prisoners fainted and the Soviet escort, well acquainted with it's job, was completely indifferent to the prisoners welfare. The route of the prison train led through CHARKOW, USSR, where two men from CZAPSKI's group were unexplainedly taken from the train. Then the train proceeded through TULA, USSR in the SMOLENSK Area to a small town by the name of BABYNIN. Here the Polish POW's of CZAPSKI's group were unloaded, beaten with rifle butts by their Soviet escort and placed on a large open truck which drove them out through some very rough country. At this time, these Polish POW's expected the worse. Small Soviet children, on their way home from school, called after the truck: "Polish gentlemen", and "Bloodsuckers". The prisoners truck finally arrived at the new POW camp which was located in a wood called "Pawliszczew Bor". There CZAPSKI found some 200 friends of his from KOZIELSK I, 120 from OSTASZKOW I, and sixty three from STAROBIELSK I. The group of sixty three Polish Officers from STAROBIELSK had left their old camp on 25 April 1940. These officers had been told several times by the Soviets to keep in a separate group as they were being transported under special conditions. Thus some 400 Polish POW's were gathered in the Camp Pawliszczew Bor. These prisoners remained there for a few weeks and then were transferred to the GRIAZIOWIEC Camp in the WOLOGDA, USSR, Area where they remained until August 1941. At this time, the Polish prisoners living conditions were better than they had been in STAROBIELSK and from the beginning, these GRIAZIOWIEC Polish POW's believed that all other Polish POW's had likewise been sent to various small camps all over the USSR. Soon however, the Polish Officers in the GRIAZIOWIEC camp began to wonder about what had happened to their fellow Polish prisoners from the other camps. All mail received from Poland by the GRIAZIOWIEC prisoners contained questions concerning the whereabouts of other Polish Officers from STAROBIELSK I, KOZIELSK I and OSTASZKOW I. Thus through information received from Poland, through their correspondence, CZAPSKI and his fellow Polish Officers imprisoned in the GRIAZIOWIEC camp, determined in the summer of 1940 that they were the only remaining group of Polish POW's from the above mentioned camps who had been heard from after April 1940. Following the Polish-Soviet agreement

of July 1941, when the so-called Polish amnesty was proclaimed by the Soviets, these GRIAZIOWIEC Poles began to suspect that something must have happened to these missing Polish prisoners. The GRIAZIOWIEC Poles therefore started collecting from memory names of missing Polish POW's of STAROBIELSK I, KOZIELSK I and OSTASZKOW I. This list of names grew gradually and by 1945 had reached some 10,000. At the present time this list is being kept by the Polish Historical Division of the LONDON Polish Government, in LONDON, England.

c. In September 1941, in TALISZCZEW near SARATOW, USSR, and between KUJBYSZEW (Samara) and CZEKALOW in the province of Tock, USSR, the Polish General ANDERS started to form a Polish Army within the Soviet Union. At this time, CZAPSKI was charged with the activation of an information bureau for the ANDERS Army. The purpose of this bureau was to check every Polish volunteer on the whereabouts of other Poles who might still be located in various Soviet prisons. When questioned, all of these Polish volunteers, arriving from the most distant point in the USSR, such as WORKUTA, MADAGAN, KAMCZATKA and KADAGANDA, spoke about two matters. First they asked about their families evacuated from Poland into Russia and then they submitted long lists of names of their Polish friends and acquaintances who were still in Soviet prisons and had not as yet been liberated. As soon as this ANDERS Army Information Bureau was opened, CZAPSKI and his co-workers asked every incoming Polish volunteer about the Polish prisoners from STAROBIELSK I, KOZIELSK I and OSTASZKOW I. The ANDERS Army Poles at that time still believed that these missing prisoners from the above mentioned camps would reappear and would join the ANDERS Army. The possibility was also considered that these missing men had been sent to distant points in the USSR by the Soviets, but that they would eventually turn up. This optimism on the part of the ANDERS Army Poles was due largely to the fact that at that time the Soviets were even releasing those Poles whom they (the Soviets) had previously sentenced to death. Even from KOLYMA, USSR, from where no Polish prisoner had ever before returned, and where Polish prisoners had been sent to die, a number of Poles came to join the ANDERS Army. None of the ANDERS Army Poles could at that time believe that the Soviets would retain in their camps and prisons some of the foremost staff members from the staff of the Polish Army Commander General Wladislaw SIKORSKI. However, none of General SIKORSKI's former staff members appeared as volunteers for the ANDERS Army, and no reliable information could be obtained as to their whereabouts. There were only several rumors uncovered to the effect that one shipment of STAROBIELSK prisoners had been sent to Franz-Joseph Land,

Siberia, USSR, and that 630 former KOZIELSK prisoners were working in a gold mine in KOLYMA, USSR. CZAPSKI's information bureau forwarded all of it's collected information to the ANDERS Army Headquarters in KUJBYSZEW, USSR. General ANDERS made a request to the Soviet authorities for the immediate release of missing Polish personnel. ANDERS however, succeeded only in getting several polite but very vague promises from the Soviets. At this time, the Polish Embassy in KUJBYSZEW also became interested in the fate of the missing Polish Army personnel. In November 1941, Polish Ambassador Fnu KOT, during an audience with STALIN, asked STALIN officially what had happened to the Polish prisoners of the above mentioned camps and when could they be expected to be released. STALIN appeared to be very astonished at KOT's question and pretended surprised and even indignation that these Polish POW's had not as yet been released. In the presence of Polish Ambassador KOT, STALIN telephoned the NKVD and inquired as to why the Polish POW's from STAROBIELSK, KOZIELSK and OSTASZKOW had not been released. STALIN at that time further reminded the NKVD that the Polish amnesty granted by the Soviets, included all Polish nationals and that these prisoners were to be released at once. That was the information brought the ANDERS Army from MOSCOW. The ANDERS Army then waited for the missing men and in the meantime added more names to it's list of missing personnel. A month went by after the Polish Ambassador's audience with STALIN and still none of the missing prisoners turned up.

d. Around the beginning of December 1941, the Polish Army Commander in Chief, General Wladyslaw SIKORSKI arrived in MOSCOW. The ANDERS Army Information Office submitted it's roster of missing personnel to SIKORSKI at that time which included some 4,000 names and also information gathered as follows:

(1) Polish Officers are being held by the Soviets in the far north of the USSR in KOLYMA and they can only be evacuated during the warm summer months.

(2) A Soviet pilot, after a number of drinks, assured the Poles that he was a messenger to Franz-Joseph Land, Siberia, USSR, and that more than 5,000 Polish Officers were still there.

(3) The Polish Military Attache in KUJBYSZEW sent a wire to NOWA ZIEMIA, USSR requesting the release of Polish military personnel held there. Quite unexpectedly an answer came to the effect that the Poles in NOWA ZIEMIA had been informed of the draft for the Polish ANDERS Army

in the USSR and that the Soviet chairman of this Polish POW Camp would do his best to ship the Polish prisoners out as soon as possible. This wire was signed by Fnu MOJZEZKOW, Soviet chairman of the NOWA ZIEMIA Soviet Polish POW Camp, and provided some proof to the effect that a number of missing Polish prisoners were still to be located in the far north of the USSR.

e. On 4 December 1941, STALIN granted an audience to General SIKORSKI and General ANDERS. These two generals, at that time, again requested the release of the Polish prisoners of war who had been located prior to April 1940 in STAROBIELSK, KOZIELSK and OSTASZKOW, USSR. General SIKORSKI also submitted the ANDERS Army Information Bureau's roster of 4,000 missing Polish POW's to STALIN. STALIN's reaction however, was different than it had been during his audience with Polish Ambassder KOT. STALIN did not appear to be surprised at the request to their statements concerning these POW's. He avoided a straight answer to their request and expressed the opinion that these missing Polish POW's might possibly have fled from the Soviet Union into Manchuria. General SIKORSKI, however, objected to STALIN's statement, stating that even if a part of the missing group of Poish POW's had appeared anywhere, even under the German occupation, that he (SIKORSKI) would have been notified. General ANDERS pointed out the fact to STALIN that he (ANDERS) had become too well acquainted with the efficiency of the Soviet NKVD to suppose that there would have been any possibility for any such large group of Polish POW's to have "flown away". ANDERS further mentioned to STALIN the possibility that these missing Polish POW's might have been held by the Soviets, regardless of orders given to individual Soviet commanders, in order that these Polish POW's could carry on some work projects which these Soviet commanders had been ordered to accomplish, but for which they had been furnished inadequate personnel. STALIN then stated that if ANDERS' later statement was true "He would break them (the Soviet commanders) to release the Polish prisoners". In the presence of Generals SIKORSKI and ANDERS, STALIN issued an order to the effect that the remaining Polish POW's in Soviet custody should be immediately released. One more month passed however, and still none of the missing Polish prisoners were heard from by the ANDERS Army.

f. By the end of December 1941, CZAPSKI received secret information from a bolshevist to the effect that "GULAG" (headquarters of the Soviet POW Camps) had been moved from MOSCOW to CZEKALOW, USSR (Formerly ORENBURG). Acting on this information General ANDERS appointed CZAPSKI as the ANDERS Army Chief of Missing Polish Prisoner of War Affairs. CZAPSKI was given letters from General ANDERS to the "GULAG" commander in CZEKALOW, Soviet General Fnu

NASIEDKIN, and the chief of the CZEKALOW NKVD, a certain Fnu BZYROW. In these letters, General ANDERS referred to the orders given by STALIN relative to the release of all Polish POW's still in custody of the Soviets which had been given in ANDERS' presence. These letters assisted CZAPSKI in gaining an audience with Soviet General NASIEDKIN, who was apparently "taken back" by this visit from General ANDERS' delegate and it was thus easier for CZAPSKI to gain his audience with NASIEDKIN. CZAPSKI told General NASIEDKIN the story of the above mentioned Soviet Polish POW Camps and called NASIEDKIN's attention to the fact that to keep Polish POW's in direct violation of STALIN's orders constituted sabotage. General NASIEDKIN, thereupon explained, that in April 1940 he (NASIEDKIN) had not been the chief of the Soviet POW Camps Administration and that at that time, only political and criminal prisoners had been under his jurisdiction and that he had no jurisdiction over prisoners of war. General NASIEDKIN further stated that it might have been possible that some of the missing Polish POW's might have been mixed up with the political and criminal prisoners but that if this was the case that he (NASIEDKIN), was not aware of it. NASIEDKIN promised CZAPSKI that he would obtain definite information for CZAPSKI by the following day and asked that CZAPSKI return at that time. Upon being asked whether or not any Polish POW's were still being kept in Franz-Joseph Land, Siberia, USSR, General NASIEDKIN replied that he had never sent anyone there and that if there were any camps there, they would not come under his (NASIEDKIN's) jurisdiction, however, that there was a possibility that there were POW Camps in Franz-Joseph Land. In the course of his conversation with General NASIEDKIN, CZAPSKI carefully looked over a map, which was pinned to the wall of NASIEDKIN's office, upon which all of the "GULAG" camps were indicated. CZAPSKI noted that there were no camps indicated in the northern part of the USSR, so that possibly NASIEDKIN's statement could have been true. At the end of CZAPSKI's conversation with NASIEDKIN, the latter issued a telephonic order for an immediate check on the situation concerning the POW camps in STAROBIELSK I, KOZIELSK I and OSTASZKOW I. In issuing this telephonic order General NASIEDKIN used the same wording that STALIN had previously used, as indicated in General ANDERS' letter to NASIEDKIN. Thus ended CZAPSKI's first visit to Soviet General NASIEDKIN in CZEKALOW (ORENBURG), USSR.

g. That same day, about midnight CZAPSKI was received by the Chief of the NKVD in CZEKALOW, Comrade Fnu BZYROW, in the presence of two witnesses. BZYROW was very polite and evidently wanted to impress CZAPSKI with

his (BZYROW's) readiness for cooperation. BZYROW mentioned that it would be impossible to obtain any information relative to the missing Polish POW's in the field and that CZAPSKI should contact only the central and highest Soviet authorities. BZYROW tried to make CZAPSKI understand that Fnu MERKULOW or Fnu FEDOTOW would be able to help him (CZAPSKI) with CZAPSKI's problem. CZAPSKI thereupon explained that the Chief of the NKVD in 1942 was Lavrenty BIERYJA, his executive was Fnu MERKULOW, and then in the NKVD hierarchy came Fnu KRIEGLOW, Fnu FEDOTOW, and Fnu REICHMAN. When CZAPSKI inquired about Franz-Joseph Land and NOWA ZIEMIA, BZYROW indicated no opinion or surprise but only pointed on a map to DUSINKA, USSR, a harbor on the Jenisej River and stated that DUSINKA was the place from where the largest transports of laborers for these northern Soviet lands were sent. BZYROW further stated that in his (BZYROW's) area, all Polish POW's had been released and that no Polish prisoners were then in Soviet custody.

h. On the following day, CZAPSKI again visited General NASIEDKIN. The element of surprise being over, however, the General then appeared well composed. NASIEDKIN at this time informed CZAPSKI that he would be unable to do anything for CZAPSKI and that only the highest Soviet authorities could furnish CZAPSKI with the information that he sought. NASIEDKIN took a copy of a roster then consisting of 4,500 names of missing Polish POW's from CZAPSKI, which had been compiled by the ANDERS Army Information Bureau and promised to forward this list to KUJBYSZEW, USSR (capital of the USSR during part of World War II). Following his second interview with Soviet General NASIEDKIN, CZAPSKI received the impression that NASIEDKIN must have received a reprimand of his (NASIEDKIN's) conversation of the preceeding day. When CZAPSKI again questioned NASIEDKIN about NOWAJA ZIEMIA, NASIEDKIN gave a different answer than he had given during the first interview. NASIEDKIN stated that it was possible that some of his units in the north of the USSR, might have sent some small groups to these lands, but not the thousands mentioned by CZAPSKI. This ended CZAPSKI's visits in CZEKALOW (ORENBURG), USSR. A few days after CZAPSKI's return to General ANDERS Headquarters, CZAPSKI was visited by an MVD man who informed him that in the future any such journey such as CZAPSKI's to CZEKALOW would be impossible within the Soviet Union and requested that it would not be repeated.

i. In the middle of January 1942, General ANDERS sent CZAPSKI with letters to the NKVD Generals Fnu REICHMAN and Fnu ZUKOW in KUJBYSZEW and MOSCOW, USSR. In these letters

General ANDERS stated that it was very difficult to organize his (ANDERS') Army without the Polish Officers that he had been looking for and that the fact that these Polish Officers were still missing, badly influenced the morale of ANDERS' troops and of ANDERS himself. ANDERS further requested that CZAPSKI be given all possible help as ANDERS himself was not able to attend to the problem personally. ANDERS further emphasized that both of these Soviet NKVD Generals had been given orders to cooperate with the reconstruction of the Polish (ANDERS) Army and that General REICHMAN had questioned several Polish Officers, therefore this problem should not be strange to him. Thus ANDERS hoped to obtain help for CZAPSKI in gaining audiences with the almighty BERIA and MERKULOW. REICHMAN and ZUKOW (this should not be confused with the Soviet Marshal ZUKOW) were not in KUJBYSZEW when CZAPSKI arrived there and so CZAPSKI was required to go to MOSCOW, where he had considerable difficulty in obtaining audiences with these NKVD dignitaries. CZAPSKI, being not very well acquainted with the situation in the USSR, thought that some of his (CZAPSKI's) non-official Soviet acquaintances could help him. CZAPSKI thereupon visited a very well known Soviet author, Elya ERENBURG, whom CZAPSKI had previously met in General SIKORSKI's quarters in BUZULUK, USSR. CZAPSKI had a sincere conversation with ERENBURG and gave him the full tragic aspect of the missing Polish POW situation and requested ERENBURG's help. ERENBURG told CZAPSKI quite openly that he (ERENBURG) could not believe that CZAPSKI would have success in accomplishing his (CZAPSKI's) mission, as CZAPSKI's rank and position were too insignificant. ERENBURG further stated that one telephone call from General ANDERS would mean much more than any visits or troubles on CZAPSKI's part in dealing with high Soviet officials and that now as never before, high rank and position meant much in present day Russia. Nevertheless CZAPSKI was finally received by General REICHMAN. While waiting for admission to REICHMAN's office, CZAPSKI noticed in REICHMAN's waiting room, a Fnu CHODASZ, former Soviet commander of the Soviet Polish POW Camp in GRIAZIOWIEC, USSR in 1941. REICHMAN received CHODASZ first and it was then evident that prior to admitting CZAPSKI, REICHMAN desired to obtain some information on CZAPSKI. General REICHMAN then received CZAPSKI in a cold correct manner, and as usual with the NKVD, in the presence of a witness. CZAPSKI told REICHMAN his entire story and requested an audience with BERIA or MERKULOW. REICHMAN politely refused this request. Then CZAPSKI gave REICHMAN a written memo containing all the details concerning the Soviet Polish POW camps in question and their disbandment in April 1940. Parts of CZAPSKI's memorandum ran as follows:

(1) "Six months have passed since the Soviet amnesty issued for all Polish prisoners of war and political prisoners was proclaimed on 12 August 1941. Polish Officers and enlisted men have reported in groups or individually to the headquarters of the Polish ANDERS Army following their release from Soviet prisons and camps. These arrivals have also included Polish Officers and enlisted men, who were caught by the Soviets while attempting to cross the Polish border after August 1939, and who were then arrested by the Soviets. Regardless of this "amnesty", regardless of the definite promise given by STALIN to our Polish Ambassador KOT in October 1941 concerning the promised release of our Polish prisoners of war, regardless of the second orders issued by STALIN in the presence of our Commander-in-Chief General SIKORSKI, and General ANDERS on 4 December 1941, concerning the missing Polish POW's from STAROBIELSK, KOZIELSK and OSTASZKOW. With the exception of the GRISZIOWIEC group and a few others released separately in September, nothing has been heard from these missing Polish prisoners of war. We questioned thousands of men concerning them and we have heard nothing as to their whereabouts but rumors; that 6,000 to 12,000 Polish Officers and NCO's had been sent to KOLYMA, through Buchta Nachodka province, USSR, in 1940; that more than 5,000 Polish Officers were sent to the mines in Franz-Joseph Land, NOWAJA ZEMIA, KAMCZATKA and CZUKOTKA, Siberia, USSR; that some 180 kilometers from PIOSTROJ DRESTWY (KOLYMA), 630 Polish Officers, formerly prisoners in KOZIELSK, had been working in the summer of 1940; that some 150 Polish Officers in uniform had been seen north of the Soswa River, near GARA, USSR; east of the Urals that Polish Officer POW's had been sailing on big barges over the North Seas (1,700 to 2,000 men on each barge); and that three of these barges had been sunk in the Barents Sea. None of these rumors are definite, however those concerning the northern lands (Siberia) seem the most probable. It is absolutely definite that every Polish POW was registered, and how carefully we know how every "case" with all statements, pictures and documents concerning it was well kept; how careful and through the NKVD work was. And so no one among us Polish prisoners of war may suppose for a minute that the whereabouts of some 15,000 Polish POW's, including 8,000 Polish Officers, would be unknown to the higher NKVD officers. With the promise of STALIN himself and with his order, would we not hope to obtain information as to the whereabouts of our friends, and if they are not living, how, when and where they died? According to the data given above, 8,300 Polish Officers are missing from STAROBIELSK, KOZIELSK and OSTASZKOW. Of the Polish Army Officers, interned in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, whose number amounted to 2,300 on 1 January 1942,

we have been unable to account for any others, with the exception of the GRIAZIOWIEC Camp Group of 400. We are unable to establish a definite total of all missing Polish POW's. We submit the number of those from STAROBIELSK, KOZIELSK and OSTASZKOW as such a number is considered correct. We are presently in the process of building up, according to the decisions of STALIN and General SIKORSKI, our Polish Army in the south of the Soviet Union, and every day we are in greater need of these missing men. It is not necessary to explain that the fact that these men are still missing, makes our job of building up confidence towards the Soviet Union among our men, that much more difficult."

j. General REICHMAN read CZAPSKI's memo very carefully, and to it's end, then answered calmly that he (REICHMAN) knew nothing concerning the fate of these missing men and that the matter did not come under his jurisdiction, however, that in order to please General ANDERS, that he (REICHMAN) would attempt to clear up the problem and would send the answer to ANDERS. REICHMAN then bade CZAPSKI an icy farewell and requested that CZAPSKI remain in MOSCOW to await REICHMAN's call. One week later CZAPSKI received a night call from REICHMAN which was unexpectedly quite polite. REICHMAN notified CZAPSKI that he would be unable to receive CZAPSKI, as REICHMAN had to leave MOSCOW the following morning. REICHMAN then advised CZAPSKI to return to KUJBYSZEW and to see a Fnu NOWINKOW, assistant to the Soviet Foreign Affairs Commissar Fnu WYAZYNSKI, as all of the documents connected with the matter that CZAPSKI was interested in had been forwarded there. CZAPSKI told REICHMAN that he (CZAPSKI) would get no information from WYSZYNSKI, as Polish Ambassador KOT had already made similiar inquiries of WYSZYNSKI eight times, and that for this reason, General ANDERS had sent him (CZAPSKI) to MOSCOW and expected help from REICHMAN because of REICHMAN's friendliness towards the Polish General (ANDERS) and the Polish Army. General REICHMAN gave a polite answer to CZAPSKI but said nothing further concerning the matter at hand. Thus ended CZAPSKI's visit to MOSCOW in February 1942.

k. There were no further developments on the missing Polish POW problem subsequent to February 1942. The Soviet Army Officers attached to General ANDERS' Army tried to maintain the hope that the missing Polish POW's would return. They stated that these missing men would possibly return in July or August 1942 and that it was possible that these men were so far north that their immediate return could not be accomplished and that warmer weather was needed for their evacuation. July and August 1942 passed, however, no Polish POW's returned.

l. In the spring of 1942, CZAPSKI discovered the following information: In October 1940, i.e. eight months prior to the outbreak of the war between Germany and the USSR, the Soviets brought a number of Polish Staff Officers to a special camp in MOSCOW, headed by a Polish Colonel, Fnu BERLING. The Soviets suggested to these Polish Officers at that time that they should organize a Polish Army to fight the Germans. BERLING accepted the Soviet suggestion on the condition that all Polish Officers and men, regardless of their political opinions be permitted to join this prospective Polish Army. BERLING mentioned this condition during a conference with BERIA and MERKULOW. The Soviets accepted the condition. BERLING then mentioned that the best Polish Army cadre could be found in the STAROBIELSK and KOZIELSK Camps. At this moment MERKULOW said carelessly: "No, not those, we made a great mistake there". CZAPSKI stated that this sentence of MERKULOW's, with exactly the same wording was repeated to him (CZAPSKI) by three different witnesses of the BERLING-BERIA conference in MOSCOW. To end his story CZAPSKI stated that since April 1940, no information as to the whereabouts or the fate of the missing Polish POW's had reached Poland or the ANDERS Army. During 1941-1942, when the Polish Army under General ANDERS was in it's formative stage in the USSR and when numerous Poles, young and old, from the furtherest ends of the USSR, from WORKUTA, NOWA ZIEMIA, NORYLSK, KOLYMA and the USSR-Chinese border, came to join the new Polish ANDERS Army, none of the missing Polish POW's arrived.

m. The information given above is mostly based on the story pertaining to Subject written by Josef CZAPSKI, who is presently residing in England, address unknown. CZAPSKI can be easily located among LONDON Polish circles. There are also presently in England over 400 Poles, former inmates of the KOZIELSK I, STAROBIELSK I and OSTASZKOW I Soviet Polish POW Camps, who were incorporated into the ANDERS Polish Army in the Middle-East subsequent to the Soviet-Polish agreement in 1941. These 400 Poles fought later in Italy with the 2nd Polish Corps and emigrated to England after the war. Other reliable sources of information pertaining to the Katyn Forest Murders are as follows:

(1) Office of Constitutional Documentation (Dokumentacja Konstytucyjna), attached to the Historical Division of the LONDON Polish Government Archives.

(2) Members of the Information Office of the Polish General ANDERS' Army most of whom are presently in England.

n. The only known eyewitness of the Katyn Forest Murders in the US Zone is Michal BIELA, a member of the Polish Guards in HOHENBRUNN (M49/Y94), whose Polish Guard Serial Number is 1941. Personal description of BIELA is as follows:

NAME: Michal BIELA
DATE OF BIRTH: 29 November 1917 in KOWALE, Poland
HEIGHT: 5'5"
WEIGHT: 170 lbs
HAIR: Dark blond
EYES: Gray
EDUCATION: 4 years Grammar School
PRESENT ADDRESS: Polish Guard Company No. 4023, HOHENBRUNN, APO 407-A, US Army

Michal BIELA survived the Katyn Forest Murders under very fortunate circumstances and was in the immediate vicinity of this event at the time of it's happening, which should enable him to relate many interesting facts concerning it.

4. Undeveloped Leads: Leads mentioned in pars 3m and 3n above.

5. Agent's Comments and Conclusions: All original sources of this report are Poles who were in the USSR at the time of the occurence of the Katyn Forest Murders and all sources are Polish nationals. This Agent could not locate any German sources who knew any more concerning Subject than what was published in the German newspapers. Attempts are being made by this Agent to collect information, as soon as possible, from Polish Officers who were POW's in Germany, at the time that the Katyn Forest Murders affair came to light, when both the Germans and the Soviets accused each other of these atrocities. At that time, the Germans sent a joint investigating commission to the USSR consisting of Germans and Polish Officers who were POW's in Germany. The Germans sent this commission to investigate Subject with the expectation of obtaining sympathy from these Polish Officers and to reinforce their hatred of the Soviets. P-90-III-H has offered his assistance in locating reliable persons who are well informed concerning Subject. Should higher headquarters be interested, such personnel for the most part are presently located in England.

6. Recommendations: Recommend that a copy of this report be forwarded to Region IV.

This report is evaluated B-3.

APPROVED: James E. Miller Leon Bainwol

JAMES E. MILLER
Special Agent, CIC
Commanding

LEON BAINWOL
Special Agent, CIC

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HEADQUARTERS
COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS REGION IV
970th Counter Intelligence Corps Detachment

JHH/em

APO 407-A
US Army

IV-759 18 May 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE:

SUBJECT: Katyn Forest Murders

1. Reference is made to letter, Headquarters 970th CIC Detachment, file D-229548, Subject as above, dated 18 March 1948, suspense date 18 May 1948, requesting all available information regarding the alleged murder of several thousand Polish Army Officers in the early part of World War II, in the Katyn Forest area.

2. No information of a specific nature could be ascertained during the present investigation in reference to the allegation cited in basic communication. However, reported the following:

a. One Rudolf PILVOUSEK, former colonel of a national Slovakian SS Division "Totenkopf", is believed to have been located at the time of the Katyn Forest murders, in KATYN, and might be able to furnish detailed information. PILVOUSEK's present address is unknown.

b. One Rudolf BLIESNER, former 1st Lieutenant, and former Aide-de-camp to PILVOUSEK, is believed to have lived, and may still be living at RIED, Austria, US Zone, (near BURGHAUSEN). BLIESNER may know the present residence or whereabouts of PILVOUSEK, and also may be able to give some information regarding the alleged murders.

3. Agent's notes, comments, and recommendations: For your information. In view of the suspense date, the present investigation has been discontinued. The information given in paragraphs 2a, and 2b, above, is evaluated as B-2.

John C. Van Reed
JOHN C. VAN REED Jr
S/A CIC

APPROVED:
Jack H. Holle
JACK H. HOLLE
S/A CIC
Case Officer

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HEADQUARTERS
COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS REGION IV
970th Counter Intelligence Corps Detachment

CSD/em

APO 407-A
US Army

IV-759 18 May 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE:

SUBJECT: Katyn Forest Murders

RE : Statement by Dr. Jerzy WROBLEWSKI

1. Reference is made to letter, Headquarters 970th CIC Detachment, file D-229548, Subject as above, dated 18 March 1948, suspense date 18 May 1948, requesting all available information regarding the alleged murder of several thousand Polish Army Officers in the early part of World War II, in the Katyn Forest area.

2. Dr. Jerzy Kwasny WROBLEWSKI, Polish national, born 21 November 1915 in WEJHEROWO, Poland, presently a DP residing in GABLINGEN (M49/Y87) near AUGSBURG (M49/Y85) was contacted by this agent and the following information was obtained from him:

a. Dr. WROBLEWSKI was employed in 1943 by the Polish Red Cross in the city of KRAKAU, Poland. On 15 May 1943 a story appeared in Polish newspapers stating that a large number of murdered Polish Officers was found in the forests near KATYN, by the Germans who were occupying Poland at that time.

b. On 21 May 1943 the German Military Administration requested that a delegation of nine (9) Polish Physicians, members of the Red Cross, participate in investigations being conducted by an International Red Cross Delegation to determine whether the atrocities were committed by the Russians or by the Germans.

(1) A close friend and associate of Dr. WROBLEWSKI served as a member of the Polish delegation. Both WROBLEWSKI and his friend were members of the Polish Underground Resistance Movement (AK). Dr. WROBLEWSKI stated that his friend was requested by the Resistance Movement to submit a true report in case the Germans gave a false one.

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(2) Upon completion of the investigation the International Red Cross Delegation made an official statement establishing the fact that the killings had been committed by the Russians. By that time the Katyn Forest Murders had become an international issue, and the Russians accused the Germans of the murders stating that the communique was false and had been issued under pressure of the Nazi authorities.

c. In a private interview, Dr. WROBLEWSKI was told by his friend who had participated in the investigation, that the communique was authentic. Approximately 9,000 Polish officers had been found murdered in the forests near KATYN, and the condition of the corpses indicated that the killings had taken place 4 to 5 months prior to the investigation. At that time KATYN was still occupied by the Russians, for the Germans did not advance and occupy the village until the end of April 1943.

(1) The murdered Polish officers, dressed in Polish Army uniforms, had been shot through their heads from behind. A letter found amongst the personal belongings of one officer, and seen by Dr. WROBLEWSKI, indicated that the would-be sender was on a Soviet transport from KIEV toward Poland. The letter was dated 19 December 1942.

(2) When interviewed by the International Red Cross Delegation the residents of the village of KATYN stated that at the end of 1942 the Soviet Army built a single track railroad to the forests. The end station was called "The Blind Station". Several persons stated that at the end of 1942 and beginning of 1943 many trains passed KATYN and disappeared into the forests from where shooting was heard daily.

d. On 30 May 1943 Dr. WROBLEWSKI was arrested by the Gestapo as a suspect in a plot to assasinate the SS General, SCHMIDT, who was a close friend of FRANK, the German Governor General of Poland. WROBLEWSKI was sent to the AUSCHWITZ Concentration Camp. While there he received a food package from his mother, through the Polish Red Cross, in which he found a note stating that his father a General, was among those found murdered in the forests of KATYN.

e. Dr. WROBLEWSKI was later transferred to the BUCHENWALD Concentration Camp from where he was liberated by the American troops. Approximately a year ago, while on a train between HEIDELBERG and AUGSBURG, WROBLEWSKI met an old friend from Poland. This friend, a

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Polish Jew, told WROBLEWSKI that in the beginning of the war he had been an officer in the Polish Army stationed near the Polish-Russian border. When the Soviet Army advanced into Poland, in accordance with the stipulations of the Russo-German Friendship Pact, all Polish officers found on the Soviet side of the Demarkation line were to be sent to the Soviet Union as prisoners of war. Large PW camps for Polish officers were established in KIEV, KITCHINEV and STALINGRAD.

(1) This Jewish officer was sent to KIEV. At the end of 1942 the inmates of this camp were put on a transport to be sent to KATYN, Poland. A Soviet officer of Jewish origin, learning that this officer was also Jewish, helped in having him released. The other prisoners were handcuffed to one another and sent to KATYN.

f. Dr. WROBLEWSKI further stated that more bodies were later discovered in the KATYN forests. These later discoveries were persons in civilian clothing and WROBLEWSKI believes that they also were murdered by the Russians. In WROBLEWSKI's opinion there is little possibility that the murders of the Polish officers could have been committed by the Germans. However, he stated that similar killings occurred very often during the German occupation.

3. Agent's notes, comments and recommendations:

a. Dr. WROBLEWSKI made a sincere impression, and it is believed, by this agent, that his statements are the true version of the story.

b. It was noted that Dr. WROBLEWSKI showed an ill feeling toward the Germans, and under these circumstances special emphasis or consideration should be placed upon his statements which free the Germans of the responsibility of the murders.

EVALUATION: F-3

Erick J. Talvia
ERICK J. TALVIA
S/A CIC

APPROVED:
Charles D. DiMarino
CHARLES D. DiMARINO
S/A CIC
Case Officer

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HEADQUARTERS
COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS REGION IV
970th Counter Intelligence Corps Detachment

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JHH/em

APO 407-A
US Army

IV-759

18 May 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE:

SUBJECT: Katyn Forest Murders

1. Reference is made to letter, Headquarters 970th CIC Detachment, file D-229548, Subject as above, dated 18 March 1948, suspense date 18 May 1948, requesting all available information regarding the alleged murder of several thousand Polish Army Officers in the early part of World War II, in the Katyn Forest area.

2. The following information was received from

a. The following personalities were witnesses to the KATYN Forest Murders:

(1) LOCHNER, fnu, correspondent of the Associated Press in BERLIN (N53/Z75), at that time, and now is said to be in NEW YORK, New York, USA

(2) Professor BURCKHARDT, fnu, at that time, President of the International Red Cross, and now is said to be living in ZURICH, Switzerland.

(3) NOTZNY, fnu, ex-Colonel of Abwehrstelle KONIGSBERG, is said to be residing in TUTZING (M48/Y62), and to be working for CIC.

(4) Reinhold KIEP, ex-Colonel of Abwehrstelle KONIGSBERG, now residing at Bergstr 7, HEILIGENHAFEN (M55/D13).

b. The following named person was of great interest to the German Abwehr as a witness:

Frl. Vera SCHWARTE, former chief secretary to the late Admiral CANARIS, is said to be residing in BERLIN, either in the US, or British sector.

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c. A sub-source, who had studied the files concerning this case, at Abwehr Headquarters in BERLIN, Tirpitzufer, stated that the three (3) Commanding Officers of the Abwehr departments must also have been witnesses to the affair:

(1) PIEKENBROK, fnu, ex-General, (Chief Abw I), now ~~thought to be a~~ Russian prisoner of war, in Russia.

(2) von LAHOUSEN, fnu, ex-General, (Chief Abw II), thought to be in Austria at the present time. von LAHOUSEN was a witness in the first NURNBERG (M50/040) war crimes trials.

(3) CARTELLIERI, fnu, ex-General, (Chief Abw. III) is said to be living in the British Zone of occupation.

3. Agent's notes, comments, and recommendations: For your information. The content of paragraph 2, above, is given the overall evaluation of B-2.

Albert F. Werner
ALBERT F. WERNER
S/A CIC

APPROVED:
Jack H. Holle
JACK H. HOLLE
S/A CIC
Case Officer

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HEADQUARTERS
COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS REGION IV
970th Counter Intelligence Corps Detachment

JHH/em

APO 407-A
US Army

IV-759 18 May 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE:

SUBJECT: Katyn Forest Murders

1. Reference is made to letter, Headquarters 970th CIC Detachment, file D-229548, Subject as above, dated 18 March 1948, suspense date 18 May 1948, requesting all available information regarding the alleged murder of several thousand Polish Army Officers in the early part of World War II, in the Katyn Forest area.

2. A records check of the fragebogens on file in the Military Government offices of Landkreise GUNZBURG (L49/X88); NEU-ULM, (L49/X67); KRUMBACH (M59/X96); and DILLINGEN (M49/T00), revealed the names of the following listed persons who were in the general vicinity of POLAND and Western RUSSIA prior to, and during the German occupation:

a. KLEIBER, Anson, residing presently at Marktplatz #1, HOCHSTADT (M49/T00), formerly residing at Rosenbuschstrasse #3, MUNICH (M49/Y85). SUBJECT served as an AMTSLEITER in a governmental office in WARSAW, POLAND from 5 June 1940 to 31 September 1943.

b. VON DER LEYDEN, Ulrich (?), presently BEHLINGEN (M59/X97) #86. SUBJECT served as a Lieutenant General, WEHRMACHT Occupational Forces, under General BLASKOWITZ in POLAND in 1940.

c. TAUSENPFUND, Alfred, presently of the Forestryamt in AMSBACH (M50/T08) Beitenthalstrasse #1 (Residence). SUBJECT served in the Forestry Office in POSEN, POLAND in the capacity of Forestmeister from 1942 to 1945.

d. HARTMANN, Aetur or Artur, presently of Oberermarkt #25, [illegible] (M59/Y06). SUBJECT served as a GERMAN Governmental Clerk in POSSEN, POLAND from 1 November 1942 to 31 May 1943.

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e. SCHULER, Lisolotte presently of NIEDERRAUNAU #96 (M59/X96). SUBJECT served from 1 September 1942 to 15 January 1945 as a GERMAN Government employee and teacher in LITZMANNSTADT.

f. KUBSCH, Edith, presently of WEINRIED (L49/X85) #8. SUBJECT resided permanently in POLAND from 1920 to 1939. SUBJECT was employed as a clerk in GERMAN-POLICH office in LODZ, POLAND from 1 July 1938 to 1 March 1939.

3. Agent's notes, comments, and recommendations: Since the information contained in paragraph 2, above, has been obtained from records of Military Government, the overall evaluation is placed as C-3. For your information.

Charles J. Nesbitt
CHARLES J. NESBITT
S/A CIC

APPROVED:
Jack H. Holle
JACK H. HOLLE
S/A CIC
Case Officer

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B/L - Hqs, 970th CIC Det., EUCOM, APO 757, US Army, 18 Mar 48, subj: Katyn Forest Murders

D-229548
VI-1097.2 1st Ind js

HEADQUARTERS, COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS REGION VI, 970TH CIC DETACHMENT, APO 139, US Army, 13 May 1948

TO: Commanding Officer, 970th CIC Detachment, European Command, APO 757, US Army (Attn: Mr. OLIPHANT)

Attached are Summary Reports of Investigation from Sub-Regions NURNBERG and BAYREUTH, and a letter from Agent PATTON on Subject of basic letter. Regional Technical Specialist adds that while very little positive information is now available in this area, the ANDERS group in LONDON very likely has as complete information on the Katyn Forest murders as it is possible to obtain at this time. Therefore he suggests that the British should have the complete story. Agent MOSS of this Region states that two American Officers, while imprisoned as POW's at ROTENBURG, were forced by the Germans to go to Katyn to view the mass graves and they were told by the Germans that the murders were committed by the Soviets. The names of these American Officers are Colonel John Van VLIET and Major Donald STEWART. Colonel Van VLIET was reported to be on duty at the Command and General Staff School at Leavenworth in 1947. No further information could be obtained in this Region at the present time.

For the Commanding Officer:

Stannard K. Short

STANNARD K. SHORT
Special Agent CIC
Regional S-3

Capt JOHNSON/js
3 Incls:
1 - SRI, Bayreuth S/R, 26 Apr 48, subj as above (trip)
2 - Ltr., Nurnberg S/R, 12 Apr 48, subj as above (trip)
3 - SRI, Nurnberg S/R, 12 May 48, subj as above (trip)

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CIC BAMBERG REGION
Date 14 5 48
Time 0900
No 10232
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28 Apr

HEADQUARTERS
970th COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS DETACHMENT
EUROPEAN COMMAND
REGION VI (BAMBERG)
APO 139 U.S. ARMY

D-229548
VI-10922

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Bayreuth Sub-Region Office
28 April 1948

SUMMARY REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

SUBJECT: KUSHEL, Franzisek (Colonel of the Polish Army)

CROSS REFERENCE: Katyn Forest Murders

1. Reference is made to letter, Headquarters, 970th Counter Intelligence Corps Detachment, EUCOM, dated 18 March 1948, file D-229548, subject: "Katyn Forest Murders", requesting information concerning these murders.

2. SYNOPSIS OF PREVIOUS INVESTIGATION: None in this area.

3. SYNOPSIS OF PRESENT INVESTIGATION: The following information was given by [redacted]

a. Former Colonel of the Polish Army Franzisek KUSHEL, residing in MICHAELSDORF DP Camp near CHAM (N50/U58), was a member of the investigating committee appointed by German authorities to investigate the murders in the Katyn Forest.

4. UNDEVELOPED LEADS: None.

5. AGENT'S COMMENTS AND CONCLUSIONS: The information contained in this report is evaluated at B-2.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS: It is recommended that a copy of this report be furnished Region V for investigation and exploitation.

a. Recommend that case be considered closed in this area.

Peter Sawchuk
PETER SAWCHUK
Special Agent, CIC

APPROVED:

Stannard K. Short
STANNARD K. SHORT
Special Agent, CIC
Operations

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HEADQUARTERS
SUB-REGION NURNBERG
COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS REGION VI

12 Open

APO 139
12 April 1948

D-229548
VI-N-1097.2

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SUBJECT: Katyn Forest Murders

TO : Commanding Officer
970th CIC Detachment EUCOM
APO 757 US Army

THRU : Channels

1. In compliance with request for information concerning Subject Incident contained in Letter, Headquarters, 970th Counter Intelligence Corps Detachment, EUCOM, APO 757 US Army, Subject and file as above, dated 18 March 1948, the undersigned submits the following:

a. In February 1945, the undersigned, a prisoner of war, was sent by the Germans to a P.W. Hospital located at MEINIGEN(M51/H82) in Thuringia, Germany. This hospital was staffed by PW Officers of the British Army Medical Service.

b. In this hospital, the undersigned was assigned a bed next to that of a Lt. Col. F.P. STEVENSON, Division Signal Officer of the British South African Division. Lt. Col. STEVENSON stated that he had been captured by the Germans in North Africa, date unknown to the undersigned.

c. From statements made by Lt. Col. STEVENSON and other British Officers in the hospital, the undersigned gathered that Lt. Col. STEVENSON had earlier been taken from another British Officer P.W. Camp by the Germans and escorted to the scene of the Katyn Forest Murders on the occasion of a German Army investigation of the incident.

d. It was the further understanding of the undersigned that Lt. Col. STEVENSON, in company with an American Air Corps Officer, name and rank unknown, also a P.W., was forced to attend the investigation as witness to the findings of German surgeons and investigators, who exhumed the bodies of Polish Officers buried in mass graves in the forest.

e. According to statements of Lt. Col. STEVENSON and other officers to undersigned, Lt. Col. STEVENSON was provided with photographs and documentary evidence by the Germans purporting to prove that the Katyn Forest Murders could not possibly have been perpertrated by German troops but were committed by the Soviets during their occupation of Eastern Poland. To the best of the memory of the undersigned, German findings were based on dates of letters and publications found on the bodies; these dates were alleged to prove the impossibility of German complicity.

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f. Undersigned personally examined numerous photographs of the mass graves, exhumed bodies, and German investigators in action at the scene of the incident which were in the possession of Lt. Col. STEVENSON.

g. It is believed by the undersigned that, subsequent to his trip to Katyn Forest, Lt. Col. STEVENSON was taken by the Germans to BERLIN(N53/Z75) where high German officials offered to repatriate him to Great Britain if he would agree to make public the findings of the investigation then in his possession. As a result of his refusal to do this, Lt. Col. STEVENSON had suffered extensive solitary confinement and extreme pressure by the Germans in an effort to make him carry out their proposals.

h. Lt. Col. STEVENSON, in a debilitated condition, was repatriated by the Germans via LISBON, Portugal on the Steamship "GRIPSHOLM" to Great Britain in February or March 1945. From statements to the undersigned, the impression was created that Lt. Col. STEVENSON was in considerable quandry as to what to do with the documents then in his possession, since he steadfastly refused to comply with the German proposals and was more or less in the position of a forced repatriate.

2. The only other information concerning the American Air Forces Officer alleged to have been present at the Katyn Forest investigation by the Germans, known to the undersigned, is that he was reported by Lt. Col. STEVENSON to be a graduate of the United States Military Academy.

3. It is the opinion of the undersigned that as a witness to the German investigation, Lt. Col. STEVENSON could provide considerable valid information as to the circumstances surrounding the murders.

4. Names and addresses of other British Officers of the staff of the P.W. Hospital at MEINIGEN are known to Helmut SCHNEIDER, Luisenstr. 41 BAD NAUHEIM(L51/M79) who as an enlisted man of the German Army, served as interpreter at the MEINIGEN Hoppital.

5. It is believed by the undersigned that various of these British Officers are in possession of information concerning the German investigation of the Katyn Forest Murders and the forced repatriation of Lt. Col. STEVENSON in that investigation.

Oliver B. Patton
OLIVER B. PATTON
Special Agent CIC
Commanding

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HEADQUARTERS
SUB-REGION NURNBERG
COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS REGION VI

12 may

APO 139
12 May 1948

D-229548
VI-N-1097.2

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SUMMARY REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

SUBJECT: Katyn Forest Murders

CROSS REFERENCE: Responsibility: German or Soviet

1. Reference is made to Letter, Headquarters, 970th Counter Intelligence Corps Detachment, EUCOM, APO 757 US Army, Subject and file as above, dated 18 March 1948. Information from persons in a position to make reliable statements concerning the actual happenings at Katyn Forest was requested.

2. SYNOPSIS OF PREVIOUS INVESTIGATION

a. There was no previous investigation by this office.

3. SYNOPSIS OF PRESENT INVESTIGATION

a. Sometime in 1946, during the War Crimes Trials at the International Military Tribunal in NURNBERG(M50/040), the question of the Katyn Forest Murders was brought before the court by the Soviet representatives at the trials. All the evidence which the Soviets were able to bring forward was refuted by German defense witnesses, and as a result, the Soviets demanded that the entire matter be stricken from the court records. (It was considered by this office however, that evidence prepared for court presentation would probably be the most desirable type of information available in this case. Consequently all material presented at the War Crimes Trials concerning this Subject was carefully reviewed and the following pertinent information extracted.)

b. The first news which the world at large received of the Katyn Forest Murders came to light in the spring of 1943 from German sources. The German news release at that time announced the discovery of ten to twelve thousand corpses of Polish Officers in uniform in a mass grave in the little woods of Katyn.

c. The exact location of the graves was in a small woods, about one kilometer square which forms part of the greater forest of Katyn. It is situated 200 - 300 meters south of KRASSNY-BOR, 15 kilometers west of SMOLENSK on the SMOLENSK - WITEBAK highway in Russia. At the time of the discovery, the area was occupied by German troops.

d. Advance units of the German Army, consisting of about 30 to 50 men arrived in the Katyn district around 20 July 1941. In August 1941, Signals Regiment No. 537, attached to "Heeresgruppe Mitte"(Army Group Cen-

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Page 1 of 9 pages
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ter) established its Headquarters in "Dnieper Castle", which was located at the southern edge of the Katyn Woods. The "Castle" was actually some 600 meters distant from the nearest grave. The first two German Officers who commanded the Signal Unit in July and August 1941 respectively are unknown. However, in September 1941, the post was taken over by Colonel (fnu) AHRENS. Col. AHRENS remained in command of the station from that time until August 1943 when advancing Soviet troops forced the retreat of the German forces in the area.

e. Col. AHRENS testified and the story was substantiated by other evidence, that he first observed the graves in 1941, shortly after his arrival in the area. His attention was drawn to them by several crosses which had been erected over the graves. Appearances indicated that the crosses had been erected by some Poles prior to the arrival of the German troops. Whoever erected the crosses however, apparently never officially reported the discovery of the graves. Col. AHRENS at the time he noticed the graves in 1941 paid no special attention to them, thinking they were ordinary soldiers.

f. Around March 1942, Col. AHRENS first heard the rumors of shootings in the woods during Soviet occupation discussed among the local populace. Because of his own military duties at that time he made no investigation. In February 1943 a concerted drive was made by the local populace to kill a large wolf which had committed many depredations among livestock in the area. While tracking the wolf, its diggings in Katyn Forest were discovered which had exposed to view several bodies in Polish Army uniforms. A cursory inspection showed that the graves were very extensive. Actual exhumations were begun in April 1943 and continued until June of that year. During that time 4,143 bodies were removed from their shallow graves. The majority of these bodies could be identified from papers which were found in their clothing.

g. The identity of the bodies has been ascertained to be a group of Soviet Prisoners of War, mostly Polish Officers, who were detained in three camps situated near SMOLENSK. The Camp most frequently mentioned was at KOZIELSK. The important question of guilt quickly resolved itself as to the time of death. German allegations place the time of the killings in the spring of 1940. Soviet counter charges allege the time to have been September 1941. Both countries appointed investigative commissions for the incident.

h. In 1943 the German Foreign Office published a "White Book" giving the history of the case and details of findings of the German commission. From the German "White Book" the following information was presented:

(1) On 16 April 1943, Polish Lt. General KUKIEL issued a public statement linking the bodies in the mass graves with the complete disappearance of thousands of Polish Officers captured by the Soviets in 1939. These Officers had been confined in three prisoner-of-war Camps near SMOLENSK. Early in 1940 the prisoners were told that the camps were being soon disbanded and the inmates allowed to return to their homes. The dissolution began on 5 April 1940. Large numbers of prisoners were taken away daily by rail in the direction of SMOLENSK. The Officers were never seen alive again.

(2) This statement by the Polish General Officer is substantiated by evidence found on the corpses and by the testimony of witnesses. Private diaries found in the clothing of the corpses contain notes showing that they were being transfered from prisoner-of-war camps by rail in the direction of SMOLENSK. The diaries continue that they were loaded into trucks and driven into a woods, searched, and their valuables taken from them. At this point all entries cease. The latest diary entry found was dated 20 April 1940. One Pole, still living, who had been confined in KOZIELSK was found and confirmed the story about the dissolution of the camps in the spring of 1940.

(3) Large numbers of Soviet citizens from the area were quoted giving names and transcripts of their testimony. This testimony agreed that:

(a) the Katyn Forest area was fenced off and closely guarded from 1940 till the arrival of German troops.

(b) in March and April 1940 train-loads of prisoners in Polish Army uniforms arrived daily at the GNIESDOWA (a small town near Katyn) station from direction SMOLENSK.

(c) these prisoners were loaded onto trucks and driven off in the direction of Katyn Forest.

(d) Shots and screams were heard daily in the woods.

(e) Signs of diggings were visible even from a distance.

(4) Gerhard BOEHMERT, Adjutant to 1st. Det. Signals Regiment 537 testified that in September 1941 the locality of the graves was already overgrown with a conifer plantation. A forestry

expert was called in to examine the trees growing on the graves at the time of the exhumation in 1943. He found that the trees were about five years old and that the rings on their bark were positive evidence that they had been transplanted to their present location three years earlier. The demonstration of this fact by the forestry expert was witnessed by several people to their satisfaction.

(5) Of the mass graves discovered, seven were opened by the Germans. In the first there were about 3,000 corpses. The total number in all graves has at various times been estimated at about 11,000. The findings of the exhumation commission, headed by (fnu) VOSS, and analysed by the medical expert, Dr. BUHTZ brought out the following important points.

(a) The corpses were all fully clothed, mostly in uniforms and all in winter garments. The detailed descriptions mention military overcoats, leather or fur jackets and woolen sweaters. This is taken to indicate that the victims were killed at a cold time of the year.

(b) None of the documents, letters, newspapers, periodicals etc. found on the bodies bore a date later than mid-April 1940.

(c) Many of the victims had their hands bound behind their backs. The statements of numerous witnesses indicate that the same is true of bodies disinterred from much older indisputedly Soviet graves found in the same neighborhood.

(d) The cause of death was a bullet fired into the nape of the neck. Bullet exit was mostly in the forehead.

(e) The bullets used were a German type manufactured in KARLRUHE(L50/R44) by the firm "Geco". Records of this firm showed that the bullets were produced in the years 1922 - 1932. Large shipments of this ammunition were made to Poland, the Baltic States and other countries including Soviet Russia.

(6) The medical report was extremely extensive. The net conclusions drawn from it however were: that the bodies had lain in the ground for at least three years. This was supported by:

(a) the degree of decomposition.

(b) wax formation of body fats.

(c) partial mummification.

(d) the formation of at least one case, authenticated, of "pseudo callus" in the brain.

(7) An International medical commission consisting of twelve pathologists or professors of forensic medicine from Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Croatia, the Netherlands, Bohemia, Moravia, Roumania, Switzerland, Slovakia and Hungary investigated the graves on 28, 29 and 30 April 1943. In the summary of the commission's findings added to the detailed report and signed by all members of the commission, it is stated: "The documentary evidence, the testimony of witnesses, and the results of the autopsies show conclusively and in complete agreement that the shootings took place in the months of March and April 1940."

i. The first Soviet reaction to the German report was to call the bodies "archaeological remains". This statement was made on 16 April 1943. However, on 26 April 1943, Foreign Minister MOLOTOV, in a statement to Polish representatives in KIUBYSCHEW, accepted the discovery as authentic and accused the Germans of having perpetrated the massacre themselves.

j. In January 1944, when the territory in question was again in the hands of the Soviets, they appointed a special (all Soviet) State Commission to investigate the shootings in the Katyn woods. A large portion of this Commission's report is taken up with statements from witnesses who testify that they were beaten and otherwise tortured by the Germans until they gave evidence, reported in the German "White Book", relating to the disposal of the Polish prisoners in the spring of 1940. The Soviet report asserts that of the other witnesses quoted by the Germans, "two had died, and the rest must have fled with the Germans or have been carried off with them."

k. The Soviet report also includes a copy of a proclamation issued by the Germans, dated 3 May 1943 in which a reward is offered for information from the public on any events during the spring of 1940 bearing on the transportation or the shooting of Poles. The Soviet report regarded this as proof that the Germans were willing to pay for false information. In support of its charge that the Germans committed the crime, the Soviets brought out the following points in the Commission's report:

(1) When the Germans overran the district, the Soviets were unable to evacuate the Poles from the prisoner-of-war camps near SMOLENSK and the prisoners had been seen working on the roads near the town of SMOLENSK until September 1941. Eye-witnesses declare that the Germans carried out raids and searches for hidden Poles and the same witnesses heard shots in the woods at about that time.

(2) Professor BASILEWSKY testified that a certain MENSCHAGIN told him at the beginning of September 1941 that the Germans had given orders to exterminate the Poles and that two weeks later, MENSCHAGIN told him that the Poles had been shot in the vicinity of SMOLENSK on German orders. BASILEWSKY stated further that the Polish prisoners were still in the camps in 1940 and were seen by some of his students in 1941.

(3) There was free access to the Katyn woods before the Germans came. The Germans guarded the woods closely and issued warnings that all who entered the woods without permission would be shot.

(4) The Germans destroyed all documents bearing dates later than April 1940. 500 Soviets were used to do this work and these people were never seen alive again. Actually some documents dated November 1940 and one dated June 1941 were discovered in the graves.

(5) The method of inflicting death by a bullet through the nape of the neck is the standard method used by the German "Einsatzgruppen".

(6) The bodies had not lain in the ground longer than one and one half years. They were too well preserved. Those bodies which are obviously in later stages of decomposition were clothed in Polish uniforms and placed in the graves by the Germans to confuse the actual date of the massacre.

(7) The Soviet report either agreed or made no comment on the following points of the German "White Book":

(a) number of graves and bodies.

(b) the fact that the victims were in winter clothing.

(c) the fact that the victims hands were tied behind their backs.

(d) the fact that the corpses were buried at a cold time of the year.

(e) the bullets used were of German origin.

l. All of this material above was repeated before the International Military Tribunal in NURNBERG in 1946. It was during the attempt of the I.M.T. to clarify the accuracy of statements made by both sides that the German defense counsels scored their heaviest points against the Soviet allegations, resulting in Soviet demands that the evidence be stricken from the court records.

m. (fnu) MENSCHAGIN, the alleged source of BASILEWSKY who was the main witness for the Soviets, could not be brought forward, and there was reason to believe that such a man never really existed except in the mind of BASILEWSKY. Several opportunities were offered the Soviet Delegation to produce MENSCHAGIN none of which they were ever able to accept.

n. Colonel AHRENS was called as a witness by the German defense counsel and maintained under cross-examination that he had neither heard nor seen any Polish prisoners during his tour of duty at Katyn Forest. He had never heard of any order that Polish prisoners were to be shot, despite the fact that he was in command of the area during the time the Soviets alleged that the killings had been carried out.

o. Lt. von EICHBORN, also stationed with the 573 Signals Regiment, was called before the court and testified that he was with the first contingent of German troops to enter the area and that he was present at Katyn Forest during the month of September 1941 in a security capacity. His reply to the allegation that the Polish prisoners were executed during that time was: "Impossible! I should have been bound to know about it."

p. Lt. General OBERHAUSER, of German Army Group Center, who arrived in Katyn Forest also in September 1941 was called before the court. As Army Group Commander for the area, he testified that never had he heard of three Soviet camps of Polish prisoners having fallen into the hands of the German forces in that area.

q. The Soviets, despite all possible opportunities, were never able to produce any documents or even witnesses to support the allegations of the existence of the German order to exterminate the Poles. Also no witnesses to the alleged German shootings themselves could be produced, despite the fact that the incidents happened in Russia.

r. The defense counsel for Herman GOERING pointed out that the German commanders could not concievably have established their Headquarters in "Dnieper Castle" so close to the mass graves intentionally. Likewise, since the Germans at no time restricted travel in the area, the location of the graves, less than twenty meters from the main highway, could not possibly have escaped detection had they been prepared in September 1941.

s. Soviet representatives did not produce any medical evidence whatsoever to support the statement that the bodies had not lain in the graves more than one and one half years. This statement was made categorically. To the charge that the Germans had clothed older bodies in Polish uniforms to confuse the actual date of the massacre, German defense counsel proved to the satisfaction of the court that all the uniforms fitted the bodies, and that a large portion of the corpses adherred to oneanother by decomposition. The guarding of the woods carried out by the Germans consisted of routine patrols whose mission it was to prevent the cutting of timber for firewood. These patrols never consisted of more than five men and were entirely inadequate to secure the entire area covered by the mass graves. Patrols were sporadic.

t. The "witnesses" which the Soviet identified in their report as those whom the Germans had tortured to obtain testimony were, with two exceptions, not the actual ones quoted in the German "White Book". The statements concerning tortures were also only circumstantial, even in the official Soviet report.

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SRI, Nurn S/R - dtd. 12 May 1948 - Subj: "Katyn Forest Murders"
file: VI-N-1097.2 D-229548

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4. UNDEVELOPED LEADS

a. Through the cooperation of Mr. Paul A. JOOSTEN, Deputy General Secretary at OCCWC, a statement was obtained from R. Christoph Freiheer von GERSDORF, presently residing at Scheibenstr. #40, COLOGNE-MERHEIM(K51/F45), former Inspector of the General Staff of German Army Group Center. (See Incl. "1".) GERSDORF was actually in charge of the German investigation of the Katyn Forest incident. As such he may be in a position to answer specific questions regarding the findings of the investigative commission not covered in this report. JOOSTEN's evaluation of GERSDORF is B.

5. AGENTS NOTES AND CONCLUSIONS

a. Although every effort was made to present the information contained in this report in an unbiased form, it is fully realised that the general content of the report definitely indicates Soviet guilt for the massacres. This general impression is concurred by the Allied members of the International Military Tribunal in NURNBERG before whom the evidence in the case was presented. The Soviet insistence that the testimony be stricken from the record, after their representatives had brought the matter forward, created a general bad impression. The fact that the German investigative commission invited the assistance of practically an international board, while the Soviet State Commission limited its membership to only Soviets, also added weight to the German allegations of Soviet guilt.

b. No evaluation was made of the information contained in this report, because of the nature of the source. It is the opinion of this Agent that a "B" evaluation for the entire report except those statements of the Soviet commission which were refuted, would be the nearest correct.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

a. It is recommended that GERSDORF, mentioned in paragraph 4 above be contacted for whatever further detailed information he may be able to furnish.

b. It is recommended that this case be closed in this area.

Robert Simpson John M. Hoffman
ROBERT SIMPSON JOHN M. HOFFMAN
Special Agent CIC Special Agent CIC

Joseph T. Helling
JOSEPH T. HELLING
Special Agent CIC
Operations

APPROVED:
Oliver B. Patton
OLIVER B. PATTON
Special Agent CIC
Commanding

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SRI, Nurn S/R - dtd. 12 May 1948 - Subj: "Katyn Forest Murders"
file: D-229648 VI-N-1097.2

INCLOSURES:
"1" - Statement of GERSDORF (English translation) (in 7)

DISTRIBUTION:
6 forward
1 file - Nurn S/R.

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SECRET Page 9 of 9 pages
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R. Chr. Frhr. v. Gersdorf

Koeln-Merheim, lrh. April 1948
Scheibenstrasse 40

At the direction of Mr. JOOSTEN from the International Military Court in NURNBERG, I am forwarding the following account of the discovery and investigation of the Murders of Katyn. I have submitted a previous report in the year 1946 in the form of a sworn declaration to the Military Court in NURNBERG, actually to the Historical Division of the War Department.

I served as a General Staff Officer from April 1941 till September 1943 with the Army Group Center. The Army Group established its Headquarters at KRASNI-BOR in the neighborhood of SMOLENSK in the end of August or beginning of September 1941, very shortly after the fall of SMOLENSK. KRASNI-BOR lies on the connecting highway between SMOLENSK-MINSK-MOSCOW. The nearest village, about one kilometer distant, was GNIESDOWA, and the second closest, about five kilometers distant, a somewhat larger settlement and on the same road, was KATYN. Between these two villages, actually very much nearer to GNIESDOWA, there was located immediately on the highway, a small woods. In this grove there was a small forest lodge called "Dnjepr Castle". Here the Regimental Staff of the Army Group Signal Regiment set up its Headquarters. The villa was known as the former Rest Center of the SMOLENSK G.P.U.

As "Ic" (Inspector), I had assigned for my use a small group of "Geheime Feldpolizei", (Secret Field Police) whose function it was to insure the security of the Headquarters and the persons of the higher commanders. Since the Army Group remained for two years in the same place, consideration for safety had to be taken, since the Headquarters was probably known to the enemy and as a natural consequence, the Russian Intelligence would be set to penetrate it. Therefore I charged the chief of the little Police Commando, Field Police Secretary VOSS with the responsibility to check all new arrivals in the surrounding villages and hamlets. Through this duty VOSS had a continual contact with the population.

Around February 1943, VOSS reported the following incident to me.

Accompanying the Army with the divisions just returned from the front, there had been a Polish Volunteer Aid Corps who had inquired concerning the disposition of the Polish soldiers taken prisoner by the Soviets in 1939 among the local populace, as was their usual function everywhere. In answer to these questions, the local populace told them that in the beginning of April 1940, several train loads of Polish prisoners of war were unloaded at the train station in GNIESDOWA. The prisoners were then allegedly taken in trucks to the woods described above. Reportedly thereafter, long bursts of shots could be heard in the woods which was closely sealed off, and then nothing more was ever seen of the thousands of Polish prisoners. The Polish Volunteer Aid Corps thereupon went into the woods where fresh tree growths were visible and dug up the area. They quickly discovered the corpses in Polish uniforms buried there. Because they must move on the next day with their division, they closed the graves again, offered a prayer over them, and errected a large wooden cross on the spot. The Russian populace had also observed that the woods was well known as a gathering place of the SMOLENSK G.P.U. i.e. N.K.W.D.

After reporting the matter to the Chief of the General Staff and the Commander, Field Marshall von KLUGE, I issued the order that the testimony of the Russian populace should be taken in the form of a report. The compilation of testimony, which I witnessed myself in large part, was done without the slightest force or pressure. The testimony supported everything which had been reported to me.

There was with the Army Group, a registered court pathologist, Professor Dr. BUTZ from the University of BRESLAU whose function it was to investigate and establish violations of the Haag Convention Rules of War, that is those in violation of the Geneva Convention. He now received the order from the Army Group to investigate this probable murder, brought out by the testimony of the populace.

The next step was opening the graves which resulted in the discovery of a large mass grave. The grave was about 80 to 100 meters long, and 15 to 20 meters wide. Twelve layers of corpses one on top of another were lying therein. The bodies were packed like oil sardines. They all wore Polish officers' uniforms. The bodies were in advanced stages of decomposition but were held together well by the uniforms. Without exception there were one or two bullet holes in the back of each head with the bullet exit in the forehead. The investigation disclosed that the bullet hole at the point of entry was the calibre of the Russian pistol "Nagan". During the identification of the bodies it was determined that there were two Generals, severl Staff Officers and the majority, Captains and Lieutenants. A few were enlisted men, probably Officers' Aides, including Chaplains' Aides and Medical Aides. Except for the two Generals there was nothing of value on any of the bodies, except for keep-sakes which were found under their shirts next to the skin. However, papers were found on all the bodies, including paper money, Zlotys. In the further course of the digging two more mass graves were found. In the one grave all corpses were bound with cord or wire. A part of the bodies had a sack or sometimes a uniform jacket bound over their heads. The total of all graves was estimated at about ten to twelve thousand bodies.

The investigation disclosed the following.

The forensic investigation determined that the death occurred at least three years previously. This placed the time of the killings in the spring of 1940.

The tree growths upon the graves were determined by both German and Russian forestry experts to be at least three years old.

The documents and letters found on the bodies furnished the following reconstructed picture of the crime.

The persons involved were the group of Polish Officers taken prisoner by the Russians in the Eastern Campaign in 1939. Several entries show in the diaries that they were held in a lager in KOSIOLSK in a former Cloister. From the entries it appears that they were not especially mistreated.

Every diary however expressed an urgent desire to return home. The letters which they had received from Poland were dated at the latest, the end of the first month of 1940. In the diaries containing the most complete data, it showed that in the end of March 1940 the prisoners were taken from KOSIOLSK by train. They all expressed great hope that they were being taken home since the trains were passing through SCUCHINITSCHI-ROSLAWL which lay to the west. After a long wait at the "Guterbahnhof" station in SMOLENSK, the trains proceeded to GNIESDOWA and there the prisoners were unloaded. In a few diaries, the last entries show that the prisoners were taken to the referenced woods and there their valuables, watches, rings, cigarette-holders, etc. were taken away. Here the prisoners found out for the first time what was awaiting them.

Already in the beginning of the investigation, the Polish Red Cross was brought from WARSAW, in order that more doctors would be available to assist in the investigation. The woods, during the course of the investigation, was sealed off and guarded by a unit of the Polish Volunteer Aid Corps. A t the suggestion of the Propaganda Ministry, orders were issued that there should be present at the investigation, British, American and Polish P.W.'s and church dignitary JASINSKY from KRAKAU, journalists and physicians from neutral countries. All of these persons ordered there, were taken to the scene of the crime and showed the situation without the slightest propaganda. They were given the possibility to interview the Russian population and to view the documents uncovered. The doctors were permitted to carry out whatever autopsies they desired in their own manner. Constantly I was able to observe that the members of these delegations came to the scene in a skeptical mood, and as soon as they had seen the deed, quickly agreed that this was a baleful crime of the Soviets lying before them. I have personally had a thorough discussion with the church dignitary JASINSKY, also Professor de NAVILLE, from Switzerland, and Professor MARKOFF, Bulgarian. They were all firmly convinced as a result of the findings of the doctors that only the Russians could have begun this crime. Even a short review of the circumstances of the crime indicated that the crime could not have been carried out by German soldiers or the "SS". By the very proximity of the Headquarters of the Army Group, about two kilometers, it appears impossible that the crime could have been carried out without the knowledge of someone in that Headquarters. The scene of the crime lays immediately on the large cross highway between SMOLENSK and the Autobahn where there is continual traffic day and night. Unquestionably the "SS" would have chosen a more seculded place for such a crime. In the time immediately after the fall of SMOLENSK there were no "SS" troops in this area, since the so-called "Einsatztruppen" were at this point called back.

In light of this, there is no possibility for any conclusion by an objective reporter but to state that these crimes were committed by the G.P.U. i.e. NKWD.

I declare, without limitations, that the "White Book" issued in the year 1943 by the German Foreign Office was correct and truthful in every point. The documents reproduced in the "White Book", I have seen personally.

- -

TRANSLATED TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY FROM THE ORIGINAL ON 11 May 1948.

Joseph T. Helling
Special Agent CIC

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HEADQUARTERS
SUB REGION BADEN
970TH CIC DETACHMENT, REGION I
EUROPEAN COMMAND

JAR/gef

APO 154

File: I-B-1056

3 June 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE

SUBJECT: Katyn Forest Murders

RE:

1. Reason for Investigation:

This investigation is submitted in compliance with Secret letter, Headquarters, 970th CIC Detachment, EUCOM, APO 757, dated 18 March 1948, Subject: Katyn Forest Murders, File: D-229548.

2. Results of Investigation:

a. The undersigned was given the following information concerning the Katyn Forest Murders: On 17 September 1939, according to the secret arrangements between the Russians and the Germans the Soviet Army crossed the Eastern border of Poland and by quick marches reached the Bug Line, and surrounded the rest of the Polish Army in the Soviet occupied areas. During the disarmament of Polish Detachments, the Russians assured them that all military personnel would be released shortly. In reality only a part of the enlisted men were released; most of the non-commissioned officers and almost all of the Commissioned officers were interned in PW Camps. The officers were confined in three camps, Starobielsk, Kozielski and Ostaszkow. At the end of 1939 the population of those camps was about 8,500 officers of whom 14 were generals, 300 Colonels and Lt. Colonels, 500 majors, 2,500 Captains, 5,000 1st and 2nd Lieutenants, as well as about 7,000 non-commissioned officers and privates. Prisoners in those camps were allowed to correspond with their families in Poland, and all took advantage of this to let their families know they were alive. The last of these letters to be received from the prisoners in these camps were dated April 1940, and no further news has been heard of them to the present date. Before April 1940, about 400 - 500 persons were taken from these camps, some for reasons of illness and others to be tried in Soviet Courts and sent to prison. A small part of these were saved, and in July 1941 became members of the newly formed Polish Army of General ANDERS in Russia. They presented General ANDERS lists of the names of thousands of Polish officers and non-commissioned officers who were still imprisoned in Soviet Camps. Endeavoring to find and release these persons General ANDERS writes; "In 1941, after the outbreak of the German-Soviet War, I was released from a Soviet prison and named Commander of the Polish Armed Forced in the USSR (Polskich Sil Zbrojnych w ZSSR). From the first conversation with Soviet Representatives to the last days of my stay in the USSR the finding of many thousands of prisoners, who disappeared at the

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Hqs, Sub-Region BADEN, MOIC dtd 3 June 1948, File I-B-1056, Subject: Katyn Forest Murders

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hands of the Russians, was the continual object of my troubles and greatest efforts, however futile, the reason for my carefulness as a Pole and Commander."

b. In April 1943, the Germans announced that they had found in the Katyn Forest, near Smolensk, mass graves with Polish soldiers who were murdered by a pistol bullet in the back of the head. The Germans blamed the Russians and in turn, Radio MOSCOW blamed the Germans. Investigation by the International Doctors' Commission revealed without doubt that the murdered people were Polish prisoners from the PW Camps in Starobielski, Kozielski and Ostaszkow. In the opinion of this Commission, this crime was committed during the time when Katyn was in the hands of the Soviets. The Russians were asked by General ANDERS and fnu KOLTA, Polish Ambassador for the Polish Government in LONDON, about the whereabouts of the 15,000 Polish prisoners, but gave only evasive answers. Attempts of the Polish Red Cross (PCK) and of the International Red Cross (MCK) to locate the missing prisoners also failed. As a result of this, diplomatic relations were broken off between the Polish LONDON Government and Russia.

c. In October 1940, before the outbreak of the German-Russian War, a few Polish Regular Army Officers were called to MOSCOW from Soviet PW Camps. Among those was Colonel BERLING, later promoted to General and Commander of the 1st Polish Division (Tradensz Kosciuszko) which fought with the Russians. A proposition was placed before these officers to form a Polish Army under the command of the Russians. Colonel BERLING, at a conference with BERYA and MERKULOW (Minister of NKVD and his executive), asked that all Poles be able to join this Army regardless of political beliefs. BERYA agreed to this. "Good" stated BERLING, "we have excellent Army cadre in the PW Camps of Starobielska and Koziekka". At that time MERKULOW stated "No, not these. We have made a grave mistake with them".

3. Agent's Notes, Comments and Recommendations:

a. Source of this information is a Polish DP official who is strongly anti-Russian.

b. Evaluation: B-6

c. Source also mentioned a book that appeared in LONDON in April 1948, the title of which was "Katyn Crimes in the Light of Documents", published by Gryf Publications, Ltd, LONDON, 59-61 Hatton Garden.

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John P. Zund for
JOSEPH A. RUKOWICZ
Special Agent, CIC

Contents and Evaluations Approved:

Carl H. Rank
For C. GUY LEE
Special Agent, CIC
Operations Officer

Heidelberg 6490/FORD

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Page 2 of 2 Pages
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24 June 48

AGENT REPORT

RHS/pcc

1. NAME OF SUBJECT OR TITLE OF INCIDENT
KATYN FOREST MURDERS
Re: BIELA, Michal

2. DATE SUBMITTED
24 June 1948

3. CONTROL SYMBOL OR FILE NO.
IV 759
D 229548

4. REPORT OF FINDINGS

1. Investigation conducted to gather information, reference the murder of several thousand Polish Army Officers during the early part of the War. Propaganda stories released by the Germans accused the Russians of these atrocities, while the Russians stated that the Germans performed the murders.

2. Investigation consisted of an interview with BIELA and a check of files at 4023 Labor Service Company, MUNICH (M49/Y85) Ammo Depot, APO 407-A, US Army.

a. Following is personal history data of BIELA:

FULL NAME: ~~Michal BIELA~~
ALIASES: None
WHEN, WHERE BORN: 29 Nov 1917, KOWALE, Poland
RESIDENCES: PAST & PRESENT: KOWALE, Poland from birth - 1920 KUSLANY, Poland from 1921 - 1939. Present - 4023 Labor Service Company, 1897 Labor Sup. Company, HOHENBRUNN/MUNICH Ammo-Depot, APO 407-A, US Army.
DESCRIPTION: Height 5'5" - Weight 155 lbs - Eyes grey green ; Hair dark brown straight - Build medium - Face bony-angular, scars: across forehead and at joint of thigh and hip.
OCCUPATION: Farmer
EMPLOYMENT: Polish guard by 1897 Labor Supply Company at HOHENBRUNN/MUNICH
NATIONALITY: Polish
RELIGION: Catholic
MARITAL STATUS: Single
IDENTITY CARD: 1897 Labor Supply Company Pass No. 1941
PARENTS: Father, Martin BIELA born 1857 died 1929, Mother, Franziska ROWNICKA, born 1891 taken to Russia in 1940.
BROTHERS & SISTERS: Stefan, born 1914 now somewhere in Russia. Josef, born in 1908 now somewhere in Germany. Sister, Bronislawa, born in 1912 now in Russia.
POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS: None
NAZI RECORD: None
CRIMINAL RECORD: None
MILITARY RECORD: Went into Polish Army in 1938. Was in 88th Infantry Regiment of 3rd Division. Taken prisoner by Russians on the 26 Sep 1939. Prisoner until 15 May 1943, when he was allowed to join Polish Army being formed in Russia. BIELA was in division "KOSIUSKO" commanded by Col. Fnu BERLING. Went into action

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5. TYPED NAME AND ORGANIZATION OF SPECIAL AGENT
J.J. JOHN, S/A, CIC
7970th CIC Gp, Reg. IV, APO 407-A

6. SIGNATURE OF SPECIAL AGENT
John J. John

SECRET

AGENT REPORT: SUBJ: Katyn Forest Murders, Re: BIELA, Michal, 24 June 1948, File No. IV 759 D-229548

between KHARKOV and HORKI on 12 Nov 1943. On 12 Dec 1944 taken prisoner by Germans, THORN, Poland. Went to prison-camp at ALTENGRABOW, Poland, moved from here to one camp after another. Was in camp at DESSAU, Germany, when liberated by Americans on 8 May 1945.

SOURCE: Interview with SUBJECT
Files 1897 Lab. Sup. Co. at HOHENBRUNN F-3

3. BIELA was interviewed during the evenings of 9 and 10 June 1948, in the administration building of the MUNICH Ammo Depot at HOHENBRUNN. On 26 Sep 1939, BIELA was taken prisoner by the Russians and held for two months at an airbase being used as a prison camp at BARANOWICZE, Poland. From here he was transported to a camp in the KATYN FOREST of POLAND. While at BARANOWICZE, the Enlisted men were separated from the Officers. Many soldiers did not have identity papers so the Russians determined who was an officer by looking at the hands of the men. If hands were calloused the man was an EM, if not he was an officer. Many transports of prisoners left BARANOWICZE before BIELA did. The one that carried him to KATYN had approximately eighty cars each loaded with fifty men. At KATYN, the officers and non-coms were in one part of the camp and the PFC's and privates in another. Because of the large number of privates in his transport, one of the first things they had to do at KATYN was build an addition to the camp. His transport was the last to reach KATYN. In the camp there were about 12,000 officers and non-coms and about 2,500 privates and PFC's. The highest ranking officers, from Captain to General were quartered in a large three-story, stone, building near the main gate. Junior grade officers were in a two-story building built of log and plaster or stucco covered, located next to the three-story building. Other junior officers and non-coms werein the other one-story, log barracks, of which there were eight of varying sizes in the officer's section of the camp.

a. Routine of the camp was as follows: Prisoners were awakened at 0600; breakfast at 0700; roll call formation at 0730; doctors make check at 0800, after which men go to work; lunch is from 1200 to 1230; work from 1230 to 1700; supper is 1700; Men clean up after evening meal; 1900 all men are locked in barracks and all windows are shuttered and locked from the outside. To go to latrine during night, prisoner must knock on door and allowed to go by the guard.

b. Health of prisoners was not bad. Among the 2,500 privates, each morning about fifty were on sick call and from 3 to 4 of these were hospitalized. BIELA could not give figures for officers.

c. Food consisted of 200 grams of bread per day. Tea or coffee in the morning. A soupy stew of potatoes, vegetables and a small portion of horse-meat in the stew was served at the noon and evening meals.

d. Clothing consisted of uniforms worn when taken prisoner and whatever castoff clothing such as old bits of uniforms and worn fatigue suits the Russians supplied.

e. Work for the prisoners consisted of camp maintenance, KP; etc., and cutting, loading and transporting wood to a railhead in the KATYN FOREST. All this work was done by the PFCs and privates excepting when larger quotas had to be met. Then officers and non-coms were used as well. This was quite

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frequently done.

f. All camp administration was handled by the Russian military, plus two civilian cooks for the prisoners in the Privates section. BIELA did not know if there were any civilians in officer's section.

g. Guard duty was handled by a company of Russian troops. There was a guardhouse at each of the two double gates. In each guardhouse were something like fifty men. Four guards and checkers were at each gate. A machine gun tower was at each corner of the enclosure with two men in each. Four patrols were on the outside of enclosure each covered a quarter of the fence line. Guards were stationed at different points in the camp and at night a patrol was maintained inside the enclosure. Flood lights were at each gate and machine gun post and at the centerline of enclosure there were two searchlight towers one on each side. Guards on night patrol had large flashlights. Weapons used by guards were machine guns of about 8mm caliber, machine pistols and rifles, On entering and leaving camp, prisoners go through first part of double gate and is checked off by one of guards by name and number, then second part of gate is opened to allow him to pass through. Only one part of gate is open at one time except when vehicles must pass through. For work outside of enclosure there was one guard to five men.

h. Guards wore a uniform which was greenish in color. Jacket was similar to American blouse in length, had four pockets and leather belt. Shirt was also greenish in color. Both shirt and blouse had high tight collar. No tie was worn. Privates wore wrap around leggings of same color as uniform. Noncoms wore black boots. Helmet worn by privates was similar to the American helmet and was dark green in color. Helmets of non-coms and gate guards and checkers had a blue band 5cm. wide painted all the way around. Officers while on duty wore same uniform as non-coms. Off duty officers wore officer's cap with insignia instead of blue banded helmet.

4. The camp was about 600 meters by 450 meters in size. It was about 7km from the village of KATYN which BIELA believed was in a North-easterly direction from camp. Camp KATYN was divided into two parts, an old part where the officers were quartered and a new part where the PFCs and Privates were kept. The old section had a three-story stone building near the main gate, next to it was a two-story building built from logs and covered with stucco or plaster. There were eight one story barracks plus a hospital, kitchen, and outside latrine. A road circled the central part of camp. The new part of the camp where the PFCs and privates lived contained eight one story barracks of various sizes, an outdoor latrine, a kitchen and hospital & administration building. A road circled the inside perimeter of the camp and ran down the center of itwards the officers section. The two sections were divided by a double barbed wire fence. The barrack in which BIELA lived contained thirty rooms with about fifteen men in each room. The entire camp was surrounded by a double 10 ft. barbed wire fence.

The two fences were about 1 meter apart and three coils of barbed wire placed one on top of the other filled the space between the two fences. Heavy oaken posts were about fifteen feet apart. On top of the inside fence was a barbed wire addition which angled inside at about forty-five degrees. There was also one on the outside fence which was outside to an angle of forty-five degrees. At the base of the outside fence was raised barbed wire entanglement about eighteen inches off the ground and about four feet wide which a person going over the fence would have to drop into. There was a double gate built of wood and stone for each section of the camp. There was approximately two meters of space inside the gates. A guardhouse was at each of the gates.

a. BIELA was unable to identify any of the units which guarded the camp or were near by. The highest rank he saw was a Russian major and captain who were at KATYN on an inspection of the camp. He did not know the name of/or rank of the camp commander. The only identifying marks he ever saw were the numbers 2 and 3 which he saw on the shoulders of the guards. It was impossible to get the names of any of the guards.

b. Railhead for the camp was located in the forest of KATYN about eight kilometers away. This was used to bring in supplies and haul away lumber cut by prisoners.

c. BIELA could give the name of only one person he ever knew at the camp but does not know what happened to him. This officer was Fnu TAWSZYCKI, a Major in the Polish Army whose regiment was stationed at WILNO, Poland. The Major told BIELA all officers were picked up in WILNO and brought to KATYN after all Polish soldiers there were forced to register.

5. BIELA arrived at Camp KATYN in the latter part of November 1939. While here he worked as most of the prisoners did in the forest. This work continued until 29 Mar 41, when he and a majority of the prisoners were put to work digging trenches which they were led to believe were bomb shelters. These excavations were about 1 meter deep over 100 meters long and about five meters wide. This digging began about three kilometers from camp and extended to a point about five kilometers away. About one third of the diggings were covered with logs and dirt and camouflaged with bushes and small trees. Some of the walls of the excavations were lined with logs. The excavations were believed by BIELA to be North or Northeast of Camp KATYN. Officers as well as enlisted men were forced to dig. At the same time, work went on as usual in the forest. Some days BIELA would dig, on others he would chop wood. On the 14th of April 1941, at about 0400 hours, BIELA was awakened by the sound of trucks moving about the officers section of the camp. Others who had awakened said this activity had been going on since 0300 hours. Shortly after this, shooting could be heard in the forests from the direction of the excavations. There were the sounds of machine guns, machine pistols and single shots being fired. This went on until 0500 hours, then all was quiet. The men were talking nervously about what could be going on until 0600 hours when a guard opened the door and told them to quiet down and reassured them that nothing was wrong. The daily routine continued as usual except no one went to work at the excavations, but went to another part of

the forest and cut wood. However, from this day on, the guard strength was doubled. On the night of the 14th the activity in the officers section began at midnight and continued until about 0500 of 15 April 1941. Shooting could be heard coming from the direction of the excavations from shortly after midnight until 0500. The routine of the workday went on as usual but the prisoners were very nervous and there seemed to be considerable confusion in the officers section of the camp. On the night of the 15th, the activity began 2200 hours and continued until 0500 of the 16th of April 1941. On the 16th it could be easily seen that the officers were far fewer in number athan on the 13th. BIELA asked a guard where all the officers were and was told they had been transported to RUSSIA. On the 16 April 1941, the activity in the officers section began at 1600 hours. There was a gread deal of confusion and rushing back and forth of the trucks. Shooting could be heard from the forest during most of the night. In the meantime the EMs had been going to work as usual. BIELA learned from a corporal who came over the fence and went back over when guards approached, that all would be killed and many officers had committed suidide with there pocket knives and by hanging themselves. On 17 April 1941, when the activity began again, many officers and non-coms refused to leave their barracks and were fired upon and killed there. BIELA did not see this but was told about it when he returned to camp. Menof the EM section had to go over and load the dead on trucks. The next day, 18 April 1941, the EM worked in the woods until late in the evening. At 1800 hours, a Russian officer came out and lined them up in three ranks. BIELA being in last rank did not fall into group which were taken away on nine trucks. Six trucks went in one direction and three in another. Later shooting could be heard from direction of the camp and different parts of the forest. BIELA and group left behind got back to camp and barracks at about 2100 hours of the 18th. BIELA was so exhaurted he slept through the entire night and could not say what went on. At roll call next morning, he noticed that there was virtually noone left in the Officers section and two-thirds of the EM in his section were gone. At muster one of the guards called for fifty volunteers to work in coal mines. BIELA was one of the first to rush up to the guard and be put on the list. The fifty men packed their belongings, were loaded on trucks and brought to the rail station in the forest. They were given food, loaded in freight cars and traveled for days until they reached the URALS. BIELA worked in coal mines here and in SIBERIA from May 1941 until May 1943.

6. On 16 May 1943, as a result of a pact between Poland's General SIKORSKY and Marshall STALIN, BIELA was able to join a Polish Army being formed in Russia. He was in the division KOSCIUSZKO commanded by a Col. BERLING, Fnu. This unit went into action on 12 Nov 1943 between KHORKOV and HORKI. On 12 Dec 1944, BIELA was captured by the Germans at THORN, Poland. He went from one prison camp to another until liberated by Americans at a camp near DESSAU on 8 May 1945.

7. After being released, BIELA did not wish to go to Russian occupied Poland. In February 1946, BIELA was in Belgium where he worked on a farm for nine months. In November 1946, he went to DARMSTADT. Here he joined a Polish Guard Company and was stationed at MANNHEIM, KORBACH, ALLENDORF and now in HOHENBRUNN (M49/Y94).

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AGENT REPORT: SUBJ: Katyn Forest Murders, Re: BIELA, Michal, 24 June 1948
File No. IV 759 D-229548

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8. Agent's Notes:

a. BIELA was very much afraid to talk about his experiences for fear of reprisals against family in Russia and for fear of the possibility of someday being returned to Poland.

b. BIELA very likely knows other persons who were at KATYN but denies knowing the names of anyone else there. BIELA is a simple appearing person, typical of the Polish peasant type, and in the opinion of this agent, not equipped with the imagination necessary to devise such a story with so great detail.

c. No comment.

d. Evaluation of this agent report is F-3. Source of information was gathered through an interview with Michal BIELA, and from files of 1897 Labor Supply Company at HOHENBRUNN (M49/Y94).

APPROVED:

RAY H. SUMNERS
S/A CIC
Case Officer

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SECRET 27 June 48

AGENT REPORT

1. NAME OF SUBJECT OR TITLE OF INCIDENT
Katyn Forest Murders

RE: MIKASINOWICZ, Milan

2. DATE SUBMITTED
24 June 1948

3. CONTROL SYMBOL OR FILE NO.
IV-759
D-229548

4. REPORT OF FINDINGS

1. Investigation conducted to gather information reference the murder of several thousand Polish Army Officers during the early part of the war. Propaganda stories released by the Germans accused the Russians of these atrocities while the Russians stated that the Germans performed the murders.

2. The current investigation consisted of a personal interview with MIKASINOWICZ and T/Sgt George MANCE, AFN Reporter. A records check was made at the File Section, Headquarters, Region IV, 7970 CIC Group.

a. A records check at the File Section, Region IV, 7970 CIC Headquarters, revealed that MIKASINOWICZ was a Yugoslav War Correspondent during World War II and was now an assistant Associated Press Correspondent, working with AP, MUNICH (M49/Y85). MIKASINOWICZ was said to have been at the scene of the Katyn Forest Murders in 1942.

3. T/Sgt George MANCE, US Army, AFN Reporter, MUNICH, was contacted and stated that he knew MIKASINOWICZ fairly well; that he was very intelligent and very good news reporter. MANCE stated that MIKASINOWICZ was now residing in RIEDEN near FUESSEN and that he could be contacted there.

4. Milan MIKASINOWICZ, Yugoslav, Subject of the case, assistant AP reporter MUNICH, was contacted and stated that he had lived in RIEDEN near FUESSEN for the last two years and sometimes worked for the AP, MUNICH. He is mostly occupied by a book he is at present writing on the World Situation. MIKASINOWICZ stated the two main objectives of writing this book are to write about his experiences before and during World War II and what he thinks of the world situation now, and also to get money because he lost all his personal possessions when he left his home in YUGOSLAVIA during the war. MIKASINOWICZ stated that he was in BERLIN in 1942 when he first heard about the Katyn Forest Murder of 10,000 Polish Officers. At the time he was working for the STOCKHOLM Tidingen Newspaper together with the chief reporter of this paper, who was Christer AJEDERLUNT. MIKASINOWICZ and AJEDERLUNT, together with about 20 other news reporters, immediately obtained passes from the German Administration to see the scene of the murders. As soon as the news of murders became public, GOEBBELS, German Propaganda Minister, immediately started a propaganda campaign on the topic. The reporters traveled from BERLIN to SMOLENSK, Russia, and thence to KATYN, which is a small town about 5 Kilometers from SMOLENSK. The reporters were accompanied by several high German Army Officers and the German Officials, who had been placed in charge of the city of SMOLENSK, when the Germans captured it a few days previously. The front was at this time 80 kilometers East into Russia.

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- Region IV - file

5. TYPED NAME AND ORGANIZATION OF SPECIAL AGENT
ERVIN M. BAUMANN
7970 CIC Group, Region IV

6. SIGNATURE OF SPECIAL AGENT
Ervin M Baumann
ERVIN M BAUMANN

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AGENT REPORT - dtd 24 June 1948, Subj: Katyn Forest Murders, RE: MIKASINOWICZ, Alan

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MIKASINOWICZ did not know the exact date that he and the other reporter saw the graves, but he believed it was 1942; that the smell from the graves was noticed before they could see them. The graves were located on a small hill on the outskirts of the town of KATYN. It is a wooded area and the reporters did not go all the way to the graves because the smell was too strong. They got their ideas of the scope of the murders from three things: a. Uniforms of the murdered officers; b. The passes, correspondence and miscellaneous papers taken from the uniforms; c. By talking to the Russian farmers who lived in the vicinity of KATYN. There were also some POLISH people and a POLISH priest present when the reporters saw the graves of the murdered POLISH Officers. From the RUSSIANS (farmers) present, MIKASINOWICZ was told that when the Russian Army over-ran Poland and took all the Polish Army personnel prisoners, that Polish Enlisted Men were treated very good by the Russians, but the Polish Officers were all thrown into concentration camps and in all ways treated very badly. The Russian farmers also told MIKASINOWICZ that on the day of the murders the Russian Army Officers brought Polish Officers to KATYN. The farmers knew that the Polish officers would be shot and presumed it was because the German army was advancing so rapidly that the Russian Army did not have time to take the Polish officers back into the Interior. They were putting them to death so that the Polish officers would not fall into German hands and then fight against the Russians. The Russians had treated the Polish Officers very badly and knew that they would fight viciously against the Russians. Another theory advanced by the Russian farmers was that the Germans had paid Russians to take the Polish officers out and liquidate them. However, the farmers were fairly certain that the Russians had done it so the Polish officers would not fall into German hands. MIKASINOWICZ stated that he could not give a good opinion on the truth of statements of the Russian farmers because they could have been intimidated by the German Army officers or the German officials in charge of the town of SMOLENSK and KATYN. MIKASINOWICZ stated that from the uniforms, they estimated that there were 12,000 Polish officers put to death at KATYN. The uniforms of the Poles were there, but the reporters could find only one (1) shoe among all the clothing. The evening of the same day when news of the murders was published and the reporters saw the graves, the Russian newspaper TASS put out a report saying that the Germans did it. All the reporters wrote reports of the murders, but neither they or the German news reporters could write that the Russians had committed the crime. MIKASINOWICZ stated in his articles, as most of the reporters did, in fact, that this was an atrocious crime against humanity, against all International Law and against mankind in general. MIKASINOWICZ said that it might have been easier for him to ascertain for sure whether the Russians or the Germans had perpetrated this crime if the German Army officers and the German Officials had not been present the day he saw the graves,

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since the farmers present would have talked more freely. None of the reporters would advance an opinion whether the Russians or the Germans did it, then, or later, according to MIKASINOWICZ.

a. MIKASINOWICZ stated that a Russian General, George KILENKOV (maybe SHILENKOFF), NKVD, told him in 1943 that the Russians had committed this crime at KATYN. JILENKOV later deserted and became a General in the German Army. JILENKOV remarked to MIKASINOWICZ that the Russians were afraid the Polish Officers would fall into German hands and fight against the Russians. JILENKOV is now reportedly residing in SWITZERLAND.

b. A Russian Colonel (NKVD) Jurij KAWERIN, who was General JILENKOV's adjutant at the time reportedly said also that the Russians had committed the crime at KATYN.

5. AGENT's NOTES:

a. The following leads were given by MIKASINOWICZ:

(1) Christer AJEDERLUNT, chief reporter for STOCKHOLM Tidingen Newspaper, whereabouts now unknown, but presumably still in STOCKHOLM. MIKASINOWICZ was with AJEDERLUNT when they visited KATYN in 1942.

(2) The Russian Colonel, KAWERIN is rumored to be in Germany now. It is possible that he is in the American Zone posing as an old immigrant.

(3) The following four reporters were also present at KATYN with MIKASINOWICZ:

(a) Egon GALLINGER, Swiss, in 1942 working for the Swiss Neue Zeitung, now residing in the British Press Camp, BERLIN.

(b) Dr. Max SCHNEITZER, reporter, residing British Press Camp, BERLIN.

(c) Adolph BENZ, reporter, Dutch, residing British Press Camp, BERLIN.

(d) STOFFLS, fnu, reporter, supposedly residing in British Press Camp, BERLIN.

b. It is recommended that leads be forwarded to 9790 CIC Headquarters, BERLIN, for further investigation.

APPROVED:

ROY H. SUMNERS
S/A CIC
Case Officer

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2 July

HEADQUARTERS
SUB REGION BADEN
7970TH CIC GROUP REGION I
EUROPEAN COMMAND

JPF/cla

APO 154

File No: I-B-1056 CONFIDENTIAL 2 July 1948

SUBJECT: Katyn Forest Murders

Re : Miscellaneous

TO : Commanding Officer, Headquarters, CIC Region I, 7970th CIC Group, European Command, APO 154, US Army

1. As the reports from which these translations were made had neither headings nor signatures, and were obviously not originals, photostats were not made. However, the reports are available and photostats can be made if it is desired.

2. Attention is invited to the similarity of the information contained in paragraph 2-a-(1) of this MOIC to the information contained in paragraph 2-a of MOIC, Sub-Region BADEN, Subject and File as above, dated 3 June 1948. The sources of the two MOICs are not the same.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

C. Guy Lee
C. GUY LEE
Special Agent, CIC
Operations Officer

Log No. 23

1 Incl: MOIC, S/R BADEN, dtd 1 Jul 48, File & Subj a/s (6 Copies)

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1 July

HEADQUARTERS
SUB REGION BADEN
7970TH CIC GROUP REGION I
EUROPEAN COMMAND

SAW/CGL/cla

APO 154

CONFIDENTIAL

File No: I-B-1056

1 July 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE

SUBJECT: Katyn Forest Murders

Re: Miscellaneous

1. Reason for Investigation

a. The following accounts are translations from reports of Polish Army Investigation Committees in the investigation of the disappearance of approximately 10,000 Polish officers from the Russian PW camps STAROBIELSK, KOSIELSK and OSTACHKOV.

b. Reference is made to letter, Headquarters, 7970th CIC Group, dated 18 March 1948, Subject: Katyn Forest Murders, File: D-229548.

2. Results of Investigation

a. The following is a loose translation of reports of Polish Army investigators:

"Report and eyewitness account about the Polish prisoners in STAROBIELSK, KOSIELSK and OSTACHKOV."

(1) The Polish PWs interned from October 1939 until April 1940 in the above named camps, numbering approximately 15,000 men, about 8,700 of them officers. These people have not returned and we do not know their whereabouts. From this group about 400 officers were released a year later at camp GRIASOVIETZ near VOLOGOLA.

(a) Camp STAROBIELSK:

The prisoners arrived in camp during the time between 30 September 1939 and 1 November 1939. The number of prisoners in camp on 5 April 1940 was 3920. In this number were several dozen civilians and thirty (30) officer candidates. The others were officers, half of them professional. The breakdown, according to rank, is as follows: eight (8) Generals, over one hundred (100) Colonels and Lt. Colonels, approximately 350 Majors and about 3500 Captains, 1st and 2nd Lieutenants. Also in the camp were about 380 medical officers and some college professors.

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Page 1 of 7 Pages
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(b) Camp KOSIELSK:

On 3 April 1940 the number of interned were 5000, of which 4500 were officers of all ranks.

(c) Camp OSTACHKOV:

On 6 April 1940 the number of interned were 6570, of which 380 were officers.

(2) Evacuation of the camps: On 5 April 1940 the first group of 195 officers left camp STAROBIELSK. The Russian camp commander, Col. BERESCHKOV, and the camp commissar, KIBSHINE, assured the prisoners that they were going to a collecting point and from there back to Poland. During the evacuation a special list of sixty three (63) names was published; the persons on this list left about 25 April 1940. Another group was sent to PAVLISHTEV-BOR near SMOLENSK where they again met the special group. Both groups together numbered seventy nine (79), plus eight (8) officers from other camps. In PAVLISHTEV-BOR they also encountered two hundred (200) officers from KOSIELSK and one hundred twenty (120) officers from OSTACHKOV. After a month's stay in PAVLISHTEV-BOR they were all moved to GRIASOVIETZ near VOLOGOLA, where they remained until the proclamation of the amnesty for all Polish PWs. Into this camp came another 1250 officers and men from camps in Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia. The camp existed from June 1940 until September 1941. After the STALIN-SIKORSKI pact and the subsequent establishment of a Polish army, most camp inmated joined the new army.

b. The report continues:

(1) Nearly six months have passed since 12 August 1941, the day the amnesty for the Polish PWs was proclaimed, but despite the amnesty and the formal promises given by STALIN to General SIKORSKI, none of the prisoners from STAROBIELSK, KOSIELSK and OSTACHKOV have so far returned. Except for the four hundred (400) men in GRIASOVIETZ, none have been heard of since.

(2) After the interrogation of thousands of former PWs, we still do not know the whereabouts of these officers, nor do we have any idea what could have happened to them. On the other hand, we know exactly how thorough the NKVD worked, how carefully every prisoner was registered and photographed, and the files securely locked into iron lockers. For that reason we can not understand how 15,000 prisoners, officers and men could vanish. We therefore request that this organization be notified of the whereabouts of these people.

c. The report concluded with an exact account of all the officers missing and an added request for release of these people so they could serve in the new Polish Army.

d. "Report of the Polish Embassy to the London Government, pertaining to the missing Polish officers."

(1) Statement made by Professor

The professor, who was released from camp in July 1942, stated the following: He was interned as an officer in the STAROBIELSK PW camp, and in April 1940 was moved with a group of three hundred (300) officers to a rail station near SMOLENSK. He was separated from his group and taken into a house, from the window of which he noticed how trucks came alongside the train and the officer mounted them. The trucks then moved on in the direction of the SMOLENSK Forest.

(2) Statement made by Mr.

The above mentioned man who was arrested on his farm after the occupation of Poland by the Russians, was taken to camp KARGAPOL. In this camp he met one IWANOV, a former Russian soldier. During conversations with IWANOV, he found out that IWANOV participated in the shooting of several thousand Polish officers in the SMOLENSK Forest. The shooting was done from tanks which surrounded the prisoners. IWANOV did not know where the prisoners came from.

e. Conversations between STALIN, MOLOTOV, General SIKORSKI, General ANDERS and Ambassador KOT:

(1) Conversation on 4 December 1941:

Gen. SIKORSKI: Mr. President, I note that your directives pertaining to the amnesty and release of Polish prisoners have not been fully executed. Many of our valuable people have not returned, to this date.

STALIN: That is impossible because the amnesty pertains to all Poles, and all Poles are free.

Gen. ANDERS: That is not so. I have people in my army who have only recently been released and who stated that many thousands of Poles are still in prison camps.

Gen. SIKORSKI: I have here a list of about 4000 Polish officers who have been forcibly removed and are stillin various Russian camps and prisons. This list is by no means complete; it contains only names of persons we could remember. I have also ordered that investigations be conducted in Poland to determine if anyof these have returned. None of them have so far returned to their homes, nor are they in German captivity.

MDIC, Sub-Region Baden, CIC Region I, File: I-B-1056, Subject: Katyn Forest Murders, dated 1 July 1948.

STALIN: That is impossible, they must have run away.

Gen. ANDERS: Where could they go?

STALIN: Perhaps to Manchuria.

Gen. ANDERS: It is impossible that so many could run away. A great many of these officers I know myself; some of them served on my staff.

STALIN: I am certain they are free. They just have not gotten home yet.

Gen. SIKORSKI: Russia is large and, confronted with many difficulties, perhaps some of the camp commanders have not complied with orders yet. Every prisoner who returns states that many of his comrades are still left in camp.

STALIN: Don't you know the Russians have no reason to hold even a single Pole back?

Gen. ANDERS: We receive continuously witnesses' statements, giving us the exact jail and cell number where Polish prisoners are being held.

MOLOTOV: Perhaps some are being held who have committed some crime such as underground movements, or the establishment of secret transmitters. I don't believe you are talking about these people; you certainly could not be interested in them.

KOT: Of course not, but I have requested many times to be given lists of these people. Very often people are convicted of crimes they never committed.

Gen. SIKORSKI: Mr. President, it would be of advantage if you would publish an official statement pertaining to the Poles; perhaps it would result in improving the present situation. After all, these people did not come here as tourists, but have been forcibly deported and are suffering greatly.

MOLOTOV: It is impossible that your people are still in our camps.

Gen. ANDERS: I insist that it is so.

MCIC, Sub-Region Baden, CIC Region I, File: I-B-1056, Subject: Katyn Forest Murders, dated 1 July 1943

STALIN: We are going to correct this situation. I will give the necessary orders. You should not forget, though, that we are at war.

(2) Conversation on 18 April 1942:

Gen. ANDERS: There are still a great many Polish prisoners in Russian camps. Every day people report to me, who only recently have been released. So far we have not received any news about the officers from STAROBIELSK, KOSIELSK and OSTACHKOV. They must be in your hands. Where could they have vanished?

STALIN: I have already given orders for the release of all Polish prisoners. Why should I hold your people? Perhaps they were in the camps taken recently by the Germans, and have fled?

f. "Consolidation of facts collected by the Polish Military Administration in Russia, referring to the occurances in the Katyn Forest."

The story of Katyn Forest, where the Germans found the graves of thousands of Polish officers, is known all over the world. What is not known are the facts collected by the Polish Army Administration, long before the Germans ever found the graves. The conversations between the highest Russian and Polish authorities pertaining to the disappearance of all these officers are not known either. The Polish-Russian discussions about the lost officers started in the fall of 1941 after the Russian amnesty of all Polish prisoners. The first evidence on the lost officers reaches back as far as the spring of 1940. Additional material on the officers comes from the investigating committee of the Polish Army under Capt. Josef CZAPSKI, who investigated the disappearance of the officers until summer 1942, the time when the Polish army left Russia for the middle east.

(1) The evidence on hand revealed the following:

(a) After the signing of the Russo-Polish pact in July 1941 and the subsequent amnesty of Polish military and civilian prisoners, approximately 10,000 Polish officers from the PW camps in STAROBIELSK, KOSIELSK and OSTACHKOV did not report to the Polish authorities.

(b) That in April 1940, groups of Polish officers were taken from the above mentioned camps and transported to the cvicinity of SMOLENSK. Only about four hundred (400) of these officers were taken to Camp GRIAZOVIETZ near VOLOGOLA.

(c) That not even one Pole in all the other camps has ever seen or met any of the officers who were transported to SMOLENSK.

MOIC, Sub-Region Baden, CIC Region I, File: I-B-1056, Subject: Katyn Forest Murders, dated 1 July 1948

(d) That after the transfer, the families of the officers did not receive mail from them, although they did so regularly before the transfer.

(e) The preparations for the transfer of the officers to SMOLENSK, from where they were promised to be sent home, and the removal of a small group to GRIAZOVIETZ, point to the conclusion that this operation was planned carefully beforehand and was known to the highest Russian authorities.

(f) That the Russian authorities including STALIN would not give a clear and precise answer to the whereabouts of the officers.

(g) On the strength of news received from home by prisoners in GRIAZOVIETZ, and hints made by BARIA of the NKVD to Polish officers in the MOSCOW jail, it can be clearly seen that something must have happened to the officers as early as 1940.

(h) That after the publication of name lists of the dead officers found by the Germans, it could be determined that the officers were the same who were missing since 1940.

(i) That at the time of the publication of the list, the Russians never mentioned that the officers were working on defense projects near SMOLENSK. Only after the Polish government in LONDON requested the International Red Cross to investigate did the Russian news-agency TASS come out with a statement that these officers must be the same ones who were working on defense projects and taken prisoner by the Germans. If it is true that the officers were working on defense projects and taken prisoner by the Germans, why did the Russian government never mention this in answer to the many Polish inquiries? On the other hand, it is known how through the NKVD was in evacuating its prisoners; it is further known that the NKVD even managed to evacuate prisoners from the Polish territory.

(j) We should not forget the rules of warfare of the HAAGEN Convention, which stated in Articles 16, 17, 18:

(aa) Article 16. Prisoners of officer rank receive the pay of officers of equal rank in the country in which they are prisoners.

(bb) Article 17. The State can put the PWs to work, with the exception of officers. The work may not be too hard, and in no way is to be connected with the front.

(cc) Article 18. The PW has religious freedom, but must obey the rules and regulations of his captor.

None of the above articles were applied to the Polish officers, who were used for defense work. Others were court martialed for belonging to the army of a capitalistic nation and participating in the Russo-Polish War

of 1920. All the above points to the conclusion that the officers were taken to SMOLENSK and about eight (8) months before the war started were murdered.

(2) The information collected was not published at an earlier date for the following reasons:

(a) Because Poland upheld diplomatic relations with Russia and intended to preserve the unity of the Allies by all means.

(b) The answers from highest Russian authorities were so vague that hope still existed that the officers were alive and would be released at a later date.

3. Agent's Comments and Recommendations

a. The information contained in the report above is composed of parts of the original report submitted. The translation is free, but an attempt was made to maintain the gist of the reports. None of the reports had a heading or signature and for that reason had to be given a F-6 evaluation. Nevertheless, they sound rather authoritative, and the person who wrote them must have known his business.

b. Evaluation: F-6.

c. Source: Informant being carded.

John P. Ford
SAMUEL A. WINTERS
Special Agent CIC

Contents and Evaluation Approved:

C. Guy Lee
C. GUY LEE
Special Agent, CIC
Operations Officer

Heidelberg 6490/Ford

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HEADQUARTERS
SUB-REGION HERSFELD
COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS REGION III

6 July

III-S-1718

APO 171, US Army
6 Jul 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE:

SUBJECT: The KATYN Murders

Re: Article Appearing in WESPENNEST (German Magazine)

1. Reason for Investigation: This report is forwarded pursuant to verbal request received from Counter Intelligence Corps Region III Headquarters for information concerning the murder of Polish officers at KATYN.

2. Results of Investigative Activity: The following is a translation of an article appearing on page 6 of the May 1948 issue of the monthly German magazine WESPENNEST concerning the mass murder of Polish officers at KATYN:

"No one hears anything more about KATYN; since the Russians put the blame for the murder of ten thousand (10,000) Polish officers on the Germans. Switzerland has the following comment on this matter.....

'The opening of the graves in 1943 proved the fact that death had taken place less than three (3) years before.'
(BASLER NACHRICHTEN)

'Prior to the NÜRNBERG trials German counterintelligence agents compiled an expose' on the KATYN case which was turned over to their "American comrade" Colonel DONOVAN. Colonel DONOVAN was Chief of the United States Secret Service during the war and later received the assignment of preparing for the NÜRNBERG trials. On the basis of the above-mentioned expose' Colonel DONOVAN advised that KATYN be dropped from the charges at NÜRNBERG.'
(DIE TAT)

'The murders at KATYN played an important part in the trial of the German war leaders. During the trial facts were uncovered which forced the Russians to drop this point of accusation. When the findings against the Nazis were announced, KATYN was not mentioned. The well-known Polish lawyer, Roman MARTINI, was murdered by two (2) Communists in his home on 12 March 1946. MARTINI was able to prove at the time of the opening of the graves at KATYN that all of the Polish officers murdered in the forests of KATYN were killed during the months of March, April, and May 1940. At that time the Russians were in possession of the area around KATYN.'
(BASLER NACHRICHTEN)"

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III-H-1718, Subject: The KATYN Murders, dtd 6 Jul 48

3. Agent's Notes, Comments, and Recommendations: This Agent has no knowledge as to the leanings of the BASLER NACHRICHTEN or DIE TAT. The information contained in the quotations from these two (2) papers, however, for the most part is substantially that which has already been made known concerning the murders at KATYN.

This report is evaluated F-2.

APPROVED: James E Miller
JAMES E MILLER
Special Agent, CIC
Commanding

Steven W Mainczyk
STEVEN W MAINCZYK
Special Agent, CIC

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AGENT REPORT

1. NAME OF SUBJECT OR TITLE OF INCIDENT

SUBJECT: Katyn Forest Murders

Cross Ref: Murder of Polish Officers

2. DATE SUBMITTED

28 July 1948

3. CONTROL SYMBOL OR FILE NO.

III-H-1718

4. REPORT OF FINDINGS

1. The following information concerning the Katyn Forest Murders was obtained from [redacted] and from casual conversations with Polish ex-officers.

2. Between March and May 1943, several German officers from the German Army Headquarters (Oberkommando der Wehrmacht) approached the Polish PWs in the NEU BRANDENBURG (N54/U66), GROSS-BORN (P54/R88) and WOLLDENBERG (O53/R31) PW Camps with a proposition that if the Poles, who were all officers, would form a delegation, they would be allowed to go to the scene of the Katyn Forest Murders and investigate for themselves in order to definitely determine the responsibility for the massacre. The Poles accepted this offer and nominated a delegation which consisted of the following officers:

a. Lt Col Fnu MOSOR, and an assistant, name unknown, were selected from the PW Camp at NEU BRANDENBURG.

b. Capt Fnu KLEBAN and Lt Fnu GOSTKOWSKI from PW Camp at GROSS-BORN.

c. Major NOWOSIELSKI and a Lieutenant, name unknown, were selected from the PW Camp at WOLLDENBERG. The Lieutenant was formerly a District Attorney in civilian life.

3. Upon the arrival of this delegation in BERLIN (N53/Z75), Lt Col MOSOR emphasized to the other members that, from that time forward, he would be the only one to deal with the Germans so far as making agreements was concerned. All other members of the delegation agreed to this.

4. During the time immediately after the delegation's arrival in BERLIN, the German Army representatives held several meetings with the Polish PWs. During these meetings the Germans attempted to replace MOSOR as chief of the delegation because they thought another man might be more amenable to their suggestions for publicizing the investigation. However, the Germans had little success with their idea and in the end an agreement was reached that the following conditions would be observed:

a. The travels would be kept secret.

b. The Polish delegation would not have to sign or make any verbal statements which would be publicized in the newspapers or used over the radio.

Page 1 of 4 Pages
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5. TYPED NAME AND ORGANIZATION OF SPECIAL AGENT

LEON BAINWOL, JOHN G. LAPHAM JR.,
7970th CIC GROUP, S/R HERSFELD Reg III

6. SIGNATURE OF SPECIAL AGENT

Leon Bainwol
John G. Lapham Jr. HHC

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c. No pictures of the delegation would be taken before, after, or during the investigation.

Source states that the Germans lived up to their promises regarding these conditions.

5. The delegation was transported in two airplanes from BERLIN to SMOLENSK. The trip tired Major NOWOSIELSKI and he became ill and was left in WARSAW. Upon the delegations arrival in SMOLENSK, the Poles were billeted in the officers quarters and from there were transported by car to the various spots where the executions allegedly took place. These localities were all in the nearby Katyn Woods. The delegation was shown the mass graves where the Polish PWs supposedly had been buried. These graves were mostly open ones. German experts in nature studies and associated subjects, and doctors explained such things as the length of time the bodies had been there and how long before that death had occured. Evidence was also revealed to attempt to place the approximate time of the murder. This evidence consisted of the following:

a. Documents such as food ration cards, appointments for interviews, etc.

b. Identification tags of the deceased.

c. Letters, with dates on them.

d. Pictures, some with dates on the back of them.

e. The caliber of the ammunition used in the shootings.

f. Strands of rope with which the victims were supposedly tied.

This evidence was all taken from the victims. None of the letters or notes revealed dates later than May 1940. The delegation was also left to investigate on their own and could take any evidence with them that they desired.

6. Upon the request of Lt Col MOSOR, the delegation was flown back to BERLIN upon completion of their investigation. Major NOWOSIELSKI was picked up in WARSAW and taken back to BERLIN with them. Upon arrival in BERLIN, the German representatives again attempted to convince the Polish officers that the proper thing to do would be to make a statement, at least verbally, of what they had seen and done in the vicinity of the Katyn Forest. Finally an agreement was reached that the Polish delegation would make a report on the facts that they had observed only, and leave out all comments. The report was to be published only for distribution among the Polish PWs in the prison camps in Germany.

7. Source reported that the Polish delegation did not want to make public their findiings as they thought it would cause embarrassment to the London Polish Government, if it was proven that Poles were cooperating with the Germans against the USSR at a time when the USSR, in name at least, was an ally of the Poles. However, the delegation did desire that all Poles know the truth about the murders and the murderers. Therefore, all Polish PWs were informed about the results of the Katyn investigation, not through German channels, but verbally or by the clandestine communications such as existed between all PW camps in Germany.

8. Source reported that when he asked Lt Col MOSOR as to the perpetrator of the massacre, he received the reply, "The Bolsheviks". He received the same answer from other members of the delegation with whom he conversed. The general opinion among the PWs was that the Soviets murdered the Poles, leaving alive only a small minority group composed of radical leftists.

9. Source stated further that upon the arrival of the Soviet forces in 1945, Lt Col MOSOR was "liberated" and returned to Poland. He was promoted to Colonel shortly thereafter and in 1946 was promoted to Brigadier General. A short time after MOSOR received his Generalship he made an official statement pertaining to his part in the investigation of the Katyn massacre. He absolved the Soviets of all responsibility in the murders and laid the blame squarely on the Germans.

10. In 1943, the Germans also organized other groups to investigate the Katyn massacre. These groups consisted of the following:

a. Voluntary Polish workers, working in Germany.

b. Poles who were residents of pre-war Polish territory and who, after the German occupation were proclaimed to be German citizens.

These Poles were taken to the scene of the massacre and were allowed to view all evidence pertaining to the shootings. These groups were not forced to make any written or oral statements. Apparently, the Germans felt that these people would take away with them the impression that the Soviets were responsible for the massacre and would communicate that impression to other Poles by word of mouth, thereby accomplishing more than any written statements, since these statements later could be described as having been written under duress.

11. The description of one of these journeys was revealed by source as follows:

"At 0800 hours, 20 March 1943, the Gestapo picked up five Poles from the streets of POZNAN, Poland and transported them to the POZNAN airport. There the five men were placed aboard a German

military plane which transported them to SMOLENSK. The party of five was then taken to the "Soldatenheim" (Soldier's Home) where they were fed and provided with quarters. Before the party left the airport they noticed eight persons wearing American Army uniforms, who were waiting for transportation, destination unknown. The following morning a German officer appeared and briefed the party on the Katyn massacre. The party was then taken to the locality where the murders were committed and proof was offered to them as to the actual participants in the massacre. They were then taken to a nearby village where a labor unit (Todt) was quartered. There the party met several Polish workers who had been there since the early days of the German occupation in the SMOLENSK area. The Poles employed by Todt told the party that they were informed by the Soviet population residing in the Katyn area that in April 1940 the population had observed the arrival, on trucks, of large shipments of Polish military personnel, mostly officers. The Polish officers were then taken into the Katyn Forest. Shots were heard a short time later and the Polish officers were not seen again. After hearing this, the party was taken to the scene of a mass grave where, it was explained to them, the trees covering the graves were three years old. Since this was 1943, it was obvious that the graves had been closed since 1940. (This was explained by a German porfessor, Col Fnu BUTZ). Col BUTZ showed other graves to the Polish party and told them that the trees that grew there were ten to fifteen years old. The inhabitants of these graves were Soviets, proven by their clothing. BUTZ pointed out that the Katyn Forest was a favorite spot for the Soviet executions and had been since 1928. The party was then returned to POZNAN by air where they were released and informed that they were free to talk to whoever they wished about what they had experienced and observed."

12. AGENT'S NOTES:

a. From all evidence in this report it seems to point to the Soviets as the perpetrators of this massacre. It follows their policy of making a country ready for Communist dictatorship by "removing" most of the intelligentsia of the country, leaving only the Communistic elements and others not capable of organizing resistance.

b. This report is evaluated B-3.

APPROVED: Norman T. Woods
for JAMES E. MILLER STA, CIC
Special Agent, CIC
Commanding

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Katyn Massacre Still Unsolved

D-12598. N.Y. Herald-Tribune of 13/9/49.

Germans, Russians Accuse Each Other of Killing Ten Thousand Polish Army Officers

This is the first of two articles on the massacre of Polish officers in the Katyn Forest early in World War II. The author, a journalist in Europe for many years, served in the Office of War Information.

By Julius Epstein

NEW YORK.

DESPITE a multiplicity of war crimes trials since the end of World War II and the conviction of hundreds of defendants, no court as yet has fixed responsibility for what may have been the greatest single crime of the war—the mass killing of many thousands of Polish Army officers in the Forest of Katyn, near Smolensk. Officially, at least, it is as much a mystery today as it was when it first came to light six years ago.

Investigation and research during the last year led me to believe, however, that responsibility for this atrocity may still be placed where it belongs if the case is reopened and submitted to an impartial body. To that end, an American Committee for the Investigation of the Katyn Murder might be organized. Composed of experts in the law and in forensic medicine and given enough money to obtain all necessary witnesses and documents, such a group should be able to get to the bottom of the matter.

Here are the facts as known to the public and the results of my further investigation:

On April 13, 1943, the German radio announced that troops in the Smolensk area had discovered mass graves of "about ten thousand" Polish officers in the Katyn Forest. The Germans asserted that these officers had been killed, while prisoners of the Russians, in April and May of 1940. Two days later the Soviet radio branded the Nazi story as "vile fabrications."

Red Cross

The Polish government in exile in London had been trying to locate a large number of missing Polish officers, however, and took immediate cognizance of the German accusations. On April 16, General Wladyslaw Sikorski, head of the government, suggested that the International Red Cross investigate the matter. At the same time his Minister of National Defense, Lieutenant General Marjan Kukiel, issued a statement reviewing his government's efforts to locate the missing officers and confirming that the Red Cross had been approached.

This brought a delayed but violent reaction in Moscow. Foreign Minister Vyachesl'av Molotov handed to Tadeusz Romer, the Polish Ambassador, on April 25, a note which concluded: "The Soviet government has decided to sever relations with the Polish government."

World attention was next attracted to the Katyn murders when the International Tribunal was convened at Nuremberg to try German war criminals. General R. A. Rudenko, Russian chief prosecutor, handled the prosecution for alleged atrocities in eastern Europe. His indictment of the Nazi leaders included the charge that "in September, 1941, 11,000 Polish officers who were prisoners of war were killed in the Katyn Forest, near Smolensk." But when the tribunal handed down its verdict on September 30, 1946, no mention whatsoever was made of this charge.

Last Official Notice

That was the last—and only—time that any except the governments directly concerned took official note of the case. The only available additional information is that resulting from investigations during and after the war by individual governments acting unilaterally.

The Germans, of course, were the first to stage a full-dress investigation. Immediately after discovery of the mass graves, a twelve-man commission was appointed. Its members, doctors and scientists, were drawn mainly from universities in countries occupied by Hitler's troops but there were apparently no out-and-out Nazis among them.

On April 28, 1943, this commis-

[illegible] you signed in Smolensk on April 30, 1943? (2) Are you ready to testify before an American Congressional committee or before an American organization investigating the murders of Katyn?

Dr. Helge Tramsen, of Copenhagen University, Danish member of the commission, replied in part: "I hope that a strong, hard-working commission of good American scientists in close connection with the Congress and never barred by any diplomatic care would work in the name of humanity to unveil totally the motive and reason for this horrible mass murder of absolutely defenseless prisoners of war. It might open the eyes of many blindfolded in a certain political faith. I should gladly offer my help." . . .

Professor Palmieri, of the University of Naples, answered the three questions categorically. He wrote that "I noticed no pressure at all from the German government, either before or after our investigation," that "even today there would not be any modification of the protocol signed at that time" and that "I have no objection to testify before a restricted committee of experts as to the object and results of our investigation."

A completely neutral member of the commission was Dr. F. Naville, a member of both the medical and juridical faculties of the University of Geneva, in Switzerland. For that reason I quote from his reply at some length:

"1. No government, neither the German nor any other, has exerted any pressure upon me in connection with the investigation of the Katyn case. I could freely exercise my rights as a forensic physician.

"2. I have not changed my opinion and therefore continue to believe in the correctness of the protocol I have signed in April, 1943, at Smolensk.

"3—I am ready to give all the information in my possession to an American committee which would conduct a hearing with me at Geneva and to which I could show my documents." (Dr. Naville explained that he does not speak English and that, therefore, he would prefer not to come to the United States except for "very exceptional reasons.")

"I further want to call your attention to the dossier deposited in Sweden which establishes the Russian guilt and even gives the names of eight Russian colonels of the NKVD who organized the massacre." . . .

The hint in this last paragraph of Dr. Naville's letter proved invaluable in my further research, as I shall show.

A second article will appear tomorrow.

that the evi[illegible] but the Russian[illegible] have [illegible] mitted the mass murders at K[illegible] Among the salient points upo[illegible] which this conclusion was based were the following:

1. Because of an unusual soil composition, the bodies, as well as clothing and other personal effects, were well preserved when exhumation took place. It was possible to establish, therefore, that there was not a single document, letter, newspaper or other paper dated later than April and May of 1940.

Winter Uniforms

2. The men were clothed in heavy winter uniforms as they might have been in that area in April or May but not in August, 1941, when, according to a Russian charge, they were shot by the Germans. A Russian claim that the latter month was unusually cold was disproved by meteorological data which showed it to have been a normal summer month.

3. There were no insects or traces of insects on the bodies, a fact which pointed to cold-weather burial.

4. When one grave lower than the others was excavated, water welled up. The commission pointed out that no grave could have been dug at that point in warm weather.

5. Microscopic investigation proved that spruce trees planted on the graves were five years old and that they had been transplanted when they were two years old. The three-year difference coincided with the interval between April and May, 1940, and April, 1943, when the investigation was made.

6. Rope used to tie the hands of the dead men was of Russian manufacture and the knot was one used by the NKVD. Wounds in some of the bodies corresponded to those made by Russian bayonets, of four edges.

7. All of the men had been shot through the back of the head, the official Russian method of "liquidation."

Commission

In the course of my research I decided to try to get the present opinions of the members of the German commission. Letters were sent to each one asking three questions: (1) Did the German government exercise any pressure upon you before or during your investigation? (2) Do you still hold the same opinion as expressed in the protocol

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FOLDER BEGINS

ECA Office in Great Britain

Ex-Under Secretary of Navy May Accompany Hoffman to London

By the Associated Press

WASHINGTON, July 12—John Kenney, former Under Secretary of the Navy, was appointed today chief of the Economic Co-operation Administration mission to Great Britain.

Mr. Kenney was sworn in immediately. He planned to leave Friday for Britain, but may delay the departure to accompany ECA Administrator Paul Hoffman.

Mr. Hoffman said he will not leave until Congress approves the ECA appropriation.

Mr. Kenney, forty-five, succeeds Thomas K. Finletter, who resigned recently. He said: "The British situation is in no sense a hopeless one. I am sure. I have great admiration for the fortitude and strength of character of the British people. People who stood as they did at Dunkerque will not let a minor crisis like this get them down."

Mr. Kenney declined to discuss Great Britain's dollar plight.

Mr. Hoffman also reserved comment on Great Britain's situation.

He said on the 10 per cent cut in Marshall-plan funds voted by the Senate Appropriations Committee yesterday.

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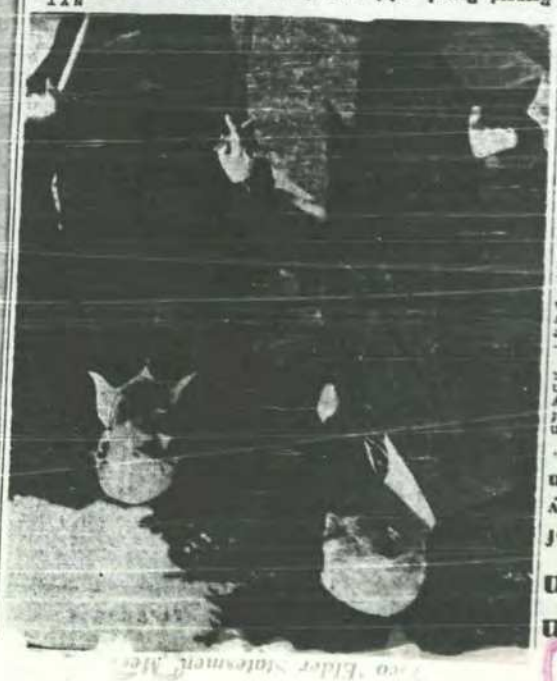

NYT

Bernard Baruch, adviser to American Presidents, and Winston [illegible] of Great Britain, walking in the [illegible] Eaterham, Kent. Mr. Baruch [illegible] visit to Europe.

[illegible] h Inquiry Set

UN Check on Katyn Killings Urged

D-249548 — NY Herald Tribune 1/4/7/49.

Neutral Investigation Is Demanded of Evidence Indicating Russians, Not Germans, Massacred 10,000 Polish Officers

By Julius Epstein

This is the second of two articles on the massacre of Polish officers in the Katyn Forest early in World War II. The author, a journalist in Europe for many years, served in the Office of War Information.

NEW YORK.

THE STILL unsolved mystery of the mass slaying of many thousands of Polish officers in the forest of Katyn, near Smolensk, during World War II had its beginnings long before the Germans announced discovery of their graves in April, 1943. The Polish government had been trying for at least two years earlier to learn the whereabouts of the missing officers.

To understand the situation, it must be remembered that the Russians held about 250,000 Polish prisoners in 1939. These were in more than 100 camps in eastern Poland and the western districts of the Soviet Union. In the latter part of October of that year three of these camps were transferred into special concentration points for officers. Population of these camps was approximately 15,000.

Stanislaw Mikolajczyk, former Premier of Poland, gives one reason for this shift in his book, "The Rape of Poland." Referring to a clause in the Nazi-Soviet agreement of September 28, 1939, which called for an exchange of nationals of the two countries, he says that the Soviet government sought the return, early in 1940, of 30,000 Ukrainians in Hitler's training camps. They offered the captured Polish officers in exchange, but the Germans refused to accept them. Thereafter, according to Mikolajczyk, the officer camps were evacuated.

Stalin

By 1941, the Polish government began to press for an explanation of the disposition of this officer group, but was never able to obtain a satisfactory answer. Molotov and Vishinsky insisted that all Poles had been released. Premier Stalin suggested to General Sikorski on December 3, 1941, that they might have escaped to Manchuria, but told General Anders some four months later that "I do not know where the officers are." A fourth Russian answer was that the men might have been captured by the Germans.

An earlier incident seems now to have been more significant. Ambassador Stanislaw Kot broached the matter to Stalin on November 14, 1941. The latter telephoned the NKVD and inquired about the release of the officers. After listening for a few moments, he hung up and dropped the subject entirely.

Mikolajczyk now fills in this part of the story on the basis of information received from a Russian officer attached to the Soviet Embassy in London. This man says that a general in charge of the camps was afraid to take any steps on his own initiative and sent an aide to the Kremlin for advice on what to do with the Poles. Stalin heard the officer's story, then took a piece of his personal stationery and wrote the single word "liquidate."

Upon receipt of the one-word order, army officers decided that this was a matter for the NKVD. The Russian officer in London said later that "liquidate" could have meant "release" in this case, or even the transfer of the Poles to camps in Siberia. To play safe, the NKVD took the most usual meaning and had all the Poles shot.

NKVD

Later, according to the story, Stalin remembered his order but did not know how it had been carried out. Approached by Ambassador Kot, he called the NKVD, was informed of the executions and then refused to discuss the matter further.

"This is as much of an admission as probably will ever come from the mouth of a Russian of any importance," writes Mikolajczyk. "It confirms the Russian guilt. . ."

The former Premier points out that the Russians have never presented "convincing evidence" of their innocence in the Katyn murders. He says that the only investigation was made by a commission composed exclusively of Soviet citizens and that no scrutiny by a neutral or international board has been permitted.

He describes also an occurrence in post-war Poland when he returned there in 1945. He was approached by Polish General Prosecutor Sawicki with a query as to whether it might not be a good idea to stage a hearing on the Katyn case in order to clear the Russians of any guilt for the murders. When Mikolajczyk outlined the testimony which he would give at such a hearing, however, Sawicki was visibly taken aback. This was especially noticeable when Mikolajczyk told him that there was indication that documents concerning the case had been recovered by American forces.

A more recent effort on the part of the present Polish government to "whitewash" the Russians was disclosed when I followed the hint of Dr. F. Naville, of the University of Geneva, a member of the German investigation commission, that there was a dossier on the Katyn murders in Sweden. I found what I sought in an article in the Swedish paper "Dagens Nyheter" for February 13, 1948.

Lawyer's Findings

Early in 1947, according to this article, a lawyer by the name of Reman Martini, from Cracow, was commissioned by the Polish Minister of Justice to carry out an investigation which would be the basis for a trial in Warsaw to establish definitely the guilt of the Germans in the Katyn massacre. Martini was given permission to reopen the graves and was given access to documents and witnesses.

"Soon it was obvious to him," the article continued, "that the investigation would lead to an entirely different direction from what the man who had given him the assignment thought, but he continued just the same and by fitting together the many divers pieces of information he had received, he succeeded in establishing the fact that all the officers who were killed in the Katyn woods were shot during March, April and May, 1940, when the Russians still held the Katyn territory." . . .

The article went on to describe how Martini identified six NKVD officers who were in charge of the executions and described the condition of the bodies, many of which bore stab wounds typical of those made by Russian bayonets. The NKVD men were from Minsk, Martini said, identifying them as Lew Rybak, Chaim Fineberg, Abraham Bomsovich, Boris Kutsov, Ivan Stekanov and Osip Lisak. In charge was a seventh NKVD man named Burianov.

Martini established also that the men had been shot by German-made pistols of a type—GECO, caliber sign 7.65D—which were shipped to the Soviet Union under the terms of the Rapallo agreement of 1926. He pointed out that the Germans, then in possession of large stores of Russian arms, would scarcely have used German weapons if they wanted to pin the massacre on the Russians.

Murder

"Reman Martini's fears when he presented his report to Minister Świątkowski proved to be not unfounded," said the Swedish newspaper. "A few days after. . . he was murdered at his home by two fanatic Polish Young Communists. . . The murder created too great a sensation to go unnoticed even in Russian-controlled Poland. The perpetrators of the atrocity were arrested, but slipped away after a few days by 'escaping' from the St. Michael penitentiary in Cracow, one of the most heavily guarded prisons in Poland."

It is important to note that Martini, connected in a friendly way with the Communist Polish government, came to the same conclusions as the earlier commission appointed by Hitler to investigate the murders. Furthermore, he added further proof of Russian guilt by establishing the names of the NKVD officers who organized the massacre.

It is on the basis of these disclosures that a reopening of the entire case seems necessary. An American Committee for the Investigation of the Katyn Murders, composed of legal and medical experts, should be appointed to sift the case thoroughly. If its conclusions are the same as those of earlier investigations, the Soviet government should be called upon to permit an on-the-spot study by the International Red Cross, as the Poles in London proposed in 1943. The latter phase of this proposal might well be handled through the United Nations.

This is the only way to clear up one of the greatest crimes ever perpetrated. #