

January 21, 1971

Warsaw Embassy Criticism of Radio Free Europe

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Summary:

In Warsaw Embassy Dispatch No. 192, Ambassador Walter Stoessel criticizes RFE's abusive personal characterizations of individual Polish leaders

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Department of State

TELEGRAM

SECRET 835

PAGE 01 WARSAW 00192 210824Z

79
23

16 12
ACTION EUR-12

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S E C R E T WARSAW 192

LIMDIS

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SUBJ: RFE BROADCASTS TO POLAND

REF: BONN 614

42 74-2945
16 JAN 8

1. WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT RFE BROADCASTS TO POLAND FOR SEVERAL REASONS:

- A. VICE FOREIGN MINISTER WINIEWICZ DEMARCHE JANUARY 6 (WARSAW 050) ONCE AGAIN REFLECTED SENSITIVITY TO USE OF VITUPERATIVE LANGUAGE CONCERNING POLISH POLITICAL PERSONALITIES.
- B. FRG FON MIN SCHEEL'S INTEREST IN A REVIEW OF RFE POLISH BROADCASTS REVEALS APPARENT FRG SENSITIVITY TO LIKELY POLISH PROTESTS.
- C. AT TIME WHEN IT IS NOT KNOWN HOW MUCH INFLUENCE MOCZAR MAY HAVE ON POLICIES OF POLISH PARTY AND GOVERNMENT, AND QUESTION OF POLISH ATTITUDE TOWARD U.S. IS NOT YET CLEAR, RFE ATTACKS ON POLISH PERSONALITIES MAY DAMAGE U.S. INTERESTS.

2. IN ADDITION TO SPECIAL PROGRAM BROADCASTS CITED: R FTTEL FACTS AND VIEWS NOS. 3318 (DEC 16), 3323 AND 3 26 (DEC 29) ALSO CONTAIN ABUSIVE LANGUAGE DIRECTED AGAINST MOCZAR. WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO LOCATE BROADCAST WHICH, ACCORDING TO WINIEWICZ, MENTIONED G. EREK'S TRIP TO MOSCOW "TO GET HIS ORDERS".

3. IT SEEMS TO US THAT GENERALIZED CRITICISM OF

74-2945/16/8

SECRET

Dept. of State, ISS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.

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Exemption (b)(), E.O. 13526, 25X() ()

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With concurrence of *SIA* Date *9/15/11*

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TELEGRAM

SECRET

PAGE: 02 WARSAW 00192 210824Z

MILITIA BEHAVIOR DURING RIOTS IN BALTIC COAST AREA WOULD HAVE BEEN SUFFICIENT WITHOUT USE OF MOCZAR'S NAME. REFERENCE TO MOCZAR AS MINISTER OF INTERIOR IN MARCH 1968 WHEN STUDENT RIOTS WERE PUT DOWN WOULD LIKEWISE BE AMPLY CLEAR TO POLISH LISTENER. CONCENTRATION OF FIRE ON MOCZAR WHILE PRESENT MINISTER OF INTERIOR SWITALA HAS VIRTUALLY ESCAPED MENTION ALSO APPEARS UNBALANCED, EVEN WITHIN CONTEXT OF ATTACK ON MILITIA ACTIONS.

U.S. W. HAVE PREVIOUSLY RECOMMENDED THAT RFE AVOID BITTER OR ABUSIVE LANGUAGE AND TONE IN BROADCASTS. FURTHERMORE, THERE SHOULD NOT BE SPECIAL BIAS SHOWN AGAINST SELECTED POLITICAL LEADERS. IN VIEW OF MOCZAR'S PROMOTION TO FULL POLITBURO MEMBER, HIS INFLUENCE IN AREAS OF INTEREST TO USG OR POLISH PEOPLE MAY WELL INCREASE. IT WOULD THEREFORE APPEAR TO BE DESIRABLE TO SHOW EXTRA CAUTION AND PRUDENCE IN TEXTS OF BROADCASTS. LIKEWISE, UNCOMPLIMENTARY REMARKS ABOUT GIEREK (SUCH AS THAT CITED BY WINIEWICZ), IF TRUE, CANNOT BUT MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT TO PROMOTE U.S. INTERESTS IN POLAND. REQUEST THEREFORE THAT RFE REVIEW BROADCASTS WITH AIM OF ELIMINATING HARSH ATTACKS ON PERSONALITIES AND, WHERE NECESSARY, MODERATING OVERALL TONE OF BROADCASTS.

GP-3.
STOESEL

SECRET
6