

MJTP/PD/1159

PDIA
17th April, 1945

Dear

With reference to the questionnaire which you passed to us for our use in interrogating repatriates from Poland, I attach coalition of information obtained from men we have interviewed.

Of these answers I suggest that the most reliable are those of Lieut. Col. Boughey, the Preston Party, F/Lt. Anderson, P/O Brooks and W/O Ward. Anderson, Brooks and Ward all speak Polish and were in a position to obtain reliable information from sources which would not normally be available to either Col. Boughey or Col. Hudson's party.

The information provided by the Polish officers and other ranks whom we have interrogated, to a very large degree bears out that from the other sources.

Copy of your questionnaire is attached for easy reference.

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Major.

Denis Allen, Esq.,
The Foreign Office,

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONNAIRE

The answers to the appended questionnaire are derived from the following sources:-

(a) Returned ex-Allied Prisoners-of-War:-

F/Lieut. P. J. Anderson, R.C.A.F.

W/O. J. Ward, R.A.F.

P/O. H. Brooks, R.C.A.F.

Sgt. F. R. Smith, U.S. Army

Cpl. D.S.F.B. Durston, R. Sussex Regt.

F/Lieut. Schoffer, Polish A.F.

Lieut. Col. Boughay, M.O.I. (S.P.) War Office.

(b) British Mission to Poland:-

O/C., Colonel W. Hudson.

(c) Poles smuggled out from Odessa with Allied ex-Prisoners-of-War:-

2/Lieut. Luty-Lutowski

2/Lieut. K. Zyluk

T. Siehen

Wezyk. W.

M. Lichtenstein (probably Polish Jew)

I. (a) ANDERSON: The Polish people want the "London Government". This opinion was expressed by all classes of people. Within my experience, I believe the preference was unanimous. The former Government under Mr. Mikolajczyk was held in higher esteem than the present. This opinion, also, was expressed by a cross section of people.

WARD: The Polish people, excluding only the political party P.P.R. (Communists) recognise only the Polish Government in London. The Poles are completely loyal to Great Britain and the U.S.A. They are under the impression that when the war with Germany is over they will be in a stronger position to bring pressure to bear on Russia to give Poland better conditions.

BROOKS: Nearly 90% of the Polish people want a Polish Government coming from London. For them it does not matter whether Arciszewski's Government or Mikolajczyk's Government return back to Poland. Everybody wants to see freedom without any Lublin or A.K.V.D. help. All Polish Home Parties regard the present Polish Government in England as the right one, and don't want anything to do with the new Lublin Government. P.P.R. is the only one that I know of that have admitted the new Lublin Regime. P.P.R. was created by the Russians many years ago. In Poland today it is a very weak party. Many members of the Lublin Government are unknown to the Poles. Several of them have been in Russia since the Russian Revolution, and have now returned to Poland to help to create the new Lublin Government.

DURSTON: During a period of 170 hours which I spent in the country lying in the triangle Czenstochowa-Cracow-Kattowitz, checking figures given me by the A.K., I found complete support for the following percentages and consider them as generally indicative of the feelings of the population:-

Towards <u>Russia</u> - Industrial Area	30% afraid	45% lukewarm	25% for
Country Area	60% "	35% "	5% "
Towards <u>England</u> - Industrial Area	5% "	10% "	85% "
& U.S.A. Country Area	- "	10% "	90% "

The only real alterations in the figures I obtained from A.K. being the people who are indifferent and the comparison with Russia and England.

BOUGHEY: Mr. Adamowicz, second-in-command of the political department of the Delegatura, expressed the following views at the beginning of March in Krakow:-

At a meeting of the Underground National Committee held at the beginning of March, the intransigent attitude of the Government in England was condemned. It was unanimously agreed that Poles must accept the loss of Eastern territory and co-operate with the Russians; the following conditions, however, were demanded before co-operation were possible:-

- (a) The withdrawal of Russian troops except along lines of communication.
- (b) The arrival of an Anglo-American commission which would permit the real leaders of the political parties, under the commission's safeguard to go to Moscow to participate in discussions regarding elections and the formation of a representative Government.
- (c) An election on free democratic lines.

The above opinion was confirmed in conversations with numerous educated Poles (bankers, Army officers, etc.)

There is little support for the London Government, but it is felt that the inclusion of some of its better members into the Lublin Government might act as a check to Russian control, which is at present complete. The name of Mr. Mikolajczyk commands respects, and it is hoped that he will also be included in the new Government, as it is believed that he is on good terms with Moscow.

FRESTON: Farmers and educated Poles whom we met took little interest in the personalities of the present London Government. Nobody with whom we talked had heard of Arciszewski's New Year's speech. They regarded the London Government in the nature of a publicity agency, which might eventually prove useful if the Anglo-Americans should fall into violent disagreement with the U.S.S.R. They look upon the London Government as a symbol of what they desire rather than as a body capable of having any effect on the internal affairs of the country. They feel, however, that the London Government is the one to which they owe allegiance; irrespective of its position this Government is felt to be the legitimate one and to be more representative than the Lublin Government.

LUTY-LUTOMSKI: The Poles in Poland fully support the Government in London. Mikolajczyk is a symbolic figure.

TYLUS: I never heard other than favourable comments on the Polish Government in London and on Mikolajczyk's policy.

REZYK: Very friendly.

SIEHEN: In general, the London Government is supported. This applies to Poles coming from all classes of society with whom I spoke.

LICHTENSTEIN: In general, favourable.

ANDERSON

1. (b) The Poles do not regard the present Government in London as being representative of the Poles here.

WARD: The situation in Poland today is so critical that people have forgotten their political differences, excepting, of course, the P.P.R. They are willing and even anxious to support anyone who will give them a peaceful and ordered life.

BROOKS: Incorporated in 1. (a)

LUTY-LUTOMSKI: The population is united and has full confidence in our parties in London. The eyes of Poles in Poland are directed towards Britain and the U.S.A. because they see in them their liberation.

ZYLUX: Only, the P.P.R. is opposed to the London Government. I did not hear the views of other parties on this matter.

BEZYK: Also very friendly.

SIEMEN: Attitude favourable.

I. (c) ANDERSON: The Polish people desire the friendship of Great Britain and the U.S.A. They hope for financial assistance from U.S.A. and political guidance from Great Britain.

WARD: The general opinion is that Great Britain and the U.S.A. have beaten Germany, but in doing so they have created a much more formidable enemy - Russia.

BROOKS: As regards their attitude towards Great Britain and the United States, the Poles would rather be slaves in Britain or the U.S.A., instead of being under a Lublin Government which is controlled by the Russians. If a Pole knows that you are British or American he will give you anything, even his last "shirt". The Russians get nothing.

FREESTON: Britain and the United States are still held in high esteem.

TYLUK: The Poles are confident that Britain and the U.S.A. will not allow Poland to be destroyed. They expect help from these countries and consider them to be their only friends.

SEZYK: Britain and the U.S.A. were never more popular than they are now.

SIMHEN: The people were very well disposed towards Britain and the U.S.A. and had confidence in their policies.

LICHTENSTEIN: The entire population is very well disposed to Britain and the U.S.A. They would prefer British or American occupation to their present condition.

I. (d) ANDERSON: Specific details of Crimea Conference were not available, but the people did know that the London Government had refused to accept the terms and were bitterly disappointed and downcast. The men I was living with at this time were ex-professional men and university professors. They believed the London Government was being stubborn and playing party politics. Even with this class of men, Mr. Mikolajczyk would have been acceptable in preference to some present members of the London Government.

WARD: Mr. Mikolajczyk's name was mentioned as probable Prime Minister.

BROOKS: The Poles were entirely displeased about the Crimea Conference. Poland has lost to Russia half of her agricultural country. Many Poles would be pleased if Arciszewski would create this new Provisional Government. He is very highly thought of among the members of the A.A. (Polish Home Army).

BOUGHEY: The Poles were resigned to the loss of their Eastern territories, although they did not consider this to be either just or right. They were most anxious to see the formation of a new Government and were eagerly awaiting the arrival of Mr. Mikolajczyk and other members of the London Government in Poland.

FRESTON: It is realised that the Western Democracies are not in a position to give effective help to Polish claims, and the Poles would support the Crimea decisions unconditionally if they could thereby have real freedom. They feel, however, that the Russians have no intention of giving any freedom to Poland, and certainly no intention to allow them to form an independent and truly representative Government; on these grounds they consider allied policy, as expressed in the Crimea decisions, as being unrealisable.

E/Lieut. Kazimierz ZYLUR: Nothing.

II. (a) ENDERSON: There were six arrests in Tarnow on January 20th by N.K.V.D. - two were later released. These men were of the professional class. Later there were reliable reports of arrests of partisans by N.K.V.D., both in Tarnow and Krakow. In Lublin I heard of one aristocrat being arrested on the street, but most other arrests were made in homes. Most of those arrested were taken to local prisons. The Special Tribunals, if any, were closed door investigations.

BARU: Many of my friends have been arrested, mostly Polish officers from the Home Army. These arrests take place during the night at their homes. I have not seen or heard of any armed clashes between the Poles and the Russians. All arrests of a political nature are made by the N.K.V.D. The victims just simply vanish. This is due to the fact that there is a curfew between 20.00 hrs and 05.00 hrs. I have never heard of anyone having any sort of a trial. The Lublin Militia deal only with criminal cases. The general opinion is that all political prisoners are sent straight to Russia.

BROOKS: Many members of the A.K. have been arrested by the N.K.V.D. Here is one example which occurred in Nowy Sacz to Lieut. Tatar, whom I knew very well. Tatar was held by the Russians for nearly two and a half weeks. The Russians knew that he was a member of the A.K. They were trying to find out the whereabouts of his C.O. and officers of the 1st P.S.P. He was offered a very high rank with the new Polish Army if he would help the Russians. Tatar refused to give them any help whatsoever. Later on he was "rough handled" and suddenly disappeared from Nowy Sacz. Nobody knows where or what has happened to him.

From Lwow 25,000 were sent to concentration camps. In the nearby villages of Wilno every cellar is a prison for the members of the A.K. Men who refuse to join the new Polish Army may be shot or sent to Siberia. Many persons have already been shot because they don't want to give up their own wrist watch.

SMITH: While in Poland I met a man of Polish origin, who was with his unit in the Rebellion of Warsaw. He fought until the Russians started disarming partisan bands and killing or putting into prison all officers. He is in hourly danger of his life. For example, on "Helen's Day" (early March) at 2 a.m., a knock came at the door of the house I was stopping at, and a voice demanded in Polish - "Does Mr. X live here?" The answer was given that he lived next door - they went away. In the morning we found the body of the man they were looking for the previous night. He had been shot three times, all from the back. Fourteen others were killed that night. They were all prominent citizens and members of an organisation from the so-called "London Government" of Poland. Without a doubt, a man like my friend, who goes under the code name KANAREK (Canary) and with false papers, is very much in danger.

SCHOFFER: The N.K.V.D. behaves quite correctly and politely to the Poles, but does its stuff which consists of making innumerable arrests, nearly always at night. Those affected are judges, lawyers, policemen, any Poles who worked in any official capacity for the Germans, such as clerks, messengers, etc., village headmen, and all members of the A.K. However,

II. (a) Cont. SCHOFFER:

Schoffer, did not hear of any mass deportations to Russia or executions.

Schoffer was informed by a girl in Lwów that about 25,000 Poles were arrested there following a demonstration which took place at the cemetery, and in which the Poles shouted "Long live England and Long live America". This girl was asked why she had not shouted "Long live the Red Army" to which she answered that she had not had time to get round to that when she was arrested, although it was her full intention to do so. She was released after this interrogation. During the interrogation she heard frequent bursts of Tommy-gun firing, which seemed to come from a room nearby, together with heart-rending groans. However, since the groans were obviously faked she assumed that this was merely staged for impressing the person being interrogated, and she took no notice of it.

BOUGHAY:

There is no evidence of physical torture by the M.K.V.D. but moral pressure is applied through long hours of interrogation and the condition under which prisoners are housed and fed. For example, under guise of constructing aerodromes, cells have been dug in the fields, covered over with wood and turf and prisoners are confined singly or in groups in these underground prisons.

Up to the present, the arrests have been made chiefly amongst members of the Secret Army and the landowning class, and although it was impossible to obtain any accurate figures, it is certain many thousands have been arrested and many more are going about in genuine fear that they will quickly disappear at any time. The distressing feature is that for six years many of these persons have gone about in fear of arrest from the Gestapo, and now find that they are still in the same predicament.

PRESTON: While in prison (ex-Gestapo prison used by M.K.V.D. in Orestchowa) we saw three A.K. members, known to us, being led in. These officers (one woman and two men) were brought in by the Russians. The entire staff and administration of the prison was Russian.

LUTY-LUTOMSKI: I saw Poles being deported to Russia and Polish officers being arrested and executed by the Russians and by the Lublin Militia.

ZYLUK: I read in the Lublin Press and also heard from civilians of the existence of three camps in Poland for officers returning from captivity. Arrests and executions of A.K. members took place.

WEZYK: Members of the A.K. are being arrested.

SIEHEN: Immediately after the entry of the Red Army arrests, deportations and executions by the M.K.V.D. and the Lublin Militia began. In those cases known to be the persons were arrested in their homes or in the street.

LICHTENSTEIN: While travelling from Cracow to Lwów, I saw a

train standing in some junction containing Poles from Lwow who were being deported by the Russians to Cracow. In conversation with one of the deportees I was informed that the Russians regarded the Lwow area as being Ukrainian.

-II. (b) ANDERSON: I believe former Home Guard soldiers were instructed to enter the Polish Army. I knew several men invited to take civil administrative posts, but refused because of lack of confidence in the Lublin Government. I have been told by reliable authority in London that instructions have been sent to Poland for these men to take such posts. I believe Trojan Horse tactics are being carried out in the Polish Army. Former officers of Home Army were instructed to join new Polish Army.

WARD: At first on a fairly large scale, but the H.A.V.D. is gradually weeding them all out. They use the members of the P.P.R. as spies to help them do this.

BROOKS: Many members of the resistance movement are now employed in offices as clerks. Many officers and men are in the Army who have been sent by the resistance movement to be ready to take in due time the part of the "Trojan Horse".

DURSTON: The rank and file of the A.K. who were officially disbanded were advised by their leaders to join the P.P.S. In the opinion of the A.K. General Staff, the P.P.S. may be relied upon fully. The pit-head manager of the Hrabia Renard Mine, Sosnowice, is an A.K. member, aged 34, directed into the P.P.R. for special duty.

LUTY-LITOMSKI: In order to save their lives officers and H.C.O.'s joined the Militia as ordinary policemen.

ZYLUK: Members of the Independence Movement of 1939/1944 are not employed by the Lublin Committee. Such persons are forced to take up any employment under false identities.

WEZYK: During the first days of Soviet occupation, many young Poles volunteered for service in the Militia, hoping thus to evade military service.

SIEHEN: During the first days of Russian occupation many A.K. members volunteered for service in the Militia. After a certain time some of them were dismissed and replaced by A.L. members.

III. (a) ANDERSON: No. There was no sign of acquiescence to the Lublin Government. The director of the "Improvisation Committee" in Krakow, told me there was no real authority given to him and no stable organisation or co-operation between departments. Later he resigned his post.

WARD: There is no belief in the permanence of the Lublin Government. There is only one political group represented - the P.P.R. I heard the opinions expressed that it is only a puppet Government acting under direct orders from Moscow. These opinions were expressed by General Bor Komorowski, The Polish Delegate and the Chief of the Peasant Party, The present C-in-C of the Polish Home Army, the Chief of the Polish Intelligence Service, and leaders of other political parties. The population grows more hostile every day to the Lublin Government.

BROOKS: Everyone in Poland thinks that the Lublin Government is a temporary one, and in due course a new Government will arrive, after which will be created a more definite administration. The members of the Lublin Administration are mostly Poles, who have spent a great deal of their time in Russia, and now are sent back to create a new Government helped by the P.P.R.

BOUGHNEY: Officially, the Lublin Government is composed of representatives of four parties, the P.P.R. (The Communist Party), the P.P.S., the Christian Democrats and the Peasant Party. Under the German occupation these parties survived underground and still survive now under the Russians; the Communist Party, however, is the only one which has dared to come to the surface. The Russians, therefore, reformed the other three parties themselves nominating obscure persons with Communist views as leaders. The representatives of these parties in the Government are therefore, in reality, Communists with another party label round their necks. The real leaders of these other parties, however, do exist underground. The present Lublin Government is held in almost universal contempt by all classes as most of the Ministers are mere cyphers under Russian tutelage. Three, however, do carry weight, GOMOLKA, the Vice Prime Minister, BERMAN, the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and DROBNER. Of these three BERMAN is the key figure and flies regularly between Moscow and Lublin with orders from Moscow.

DORSTON: In spite of consistent mass meetings and demonstrations held by the P.P.R. in Sosnowice, after two months of Russian occupation the P.P.R. membership among the workers from a mine employing over 5,000, numbered only 70 men and 14 women.

FRESTON: The Lublin Government is universally despised and is considered to be merely an instrument of Russian policy, which has no independence of action.

LUTY-LUTOMSKI: The People do not believe that the Lublin Government will last.

ZYLUK: The civilian population, from peasants to officials, with whom I came into contact, have no faith in the Government and hope for the arrival of the Government from London.

WEZYK: People have no confidence in it.

SILHET: There is no confidence in the permanency of the Lublin Government.

LICHTENSTEIN: In general, a compromise solution would be welcome.

III. (b) ANDERSON: The land reform policy was acceptable to the peasant class but not to the white collar class. The monetary policy was held responsible by their people for their hardship and was decidedly unpopular. There did not appear any real effort to get industry going again except in those lines necessary for the Russian Army. Included were flour mills, directed by Russian engineers.

WARD: The peasants who have been offered land under the new reform scheme have refused it. There is very little effort being made to get industry working. Most machines of any value are being taken to Russia. Towards all promises made by the Lublin Government the general public have an attitude of distrust.

BROOKS: The land problems in Poland are very serious for this coming year. The advancing Russian Army took every horse and killed all the cattle for military use. The Russians have allowed only 500 Zls of old money to be changed for the new Lublin money. With 500 Zls you can buy 2 1/2 pounds of butter. Many stores in Poland do not like to take the Lublin money for it has no gold backing. Industry today is at a standstill. The Germans removed most of the machinery. It will take the Russians quite some time to reorganise the Polish industry.

BOUGHBY: Under the new land reform decrees, no person is permitted to own more than 50 hectares of agricultural or forest land. Where a person owns more than this area, the total land and house is confiscated and the former owner is not permitted to reside in the same Voivodstvo or county. Further, all clothes and furniture must be left behind. The only course open to the ex-land-owner, therefore, is to endeavour to find some lodging in a town where he can live as inconspicuously as possible. The shortage of accommodation in the towns is making this increasingly difficult. The ex-landowner is compensated by a monthly allowance of 200 Zlotys. Many have already been arrested and deported to a Russian concentration camp at Kaluga, south of Moscow. For example, all the RADZIWILL family have been arrested with the exception of Prince Michael and deported to Kaluga. The family of Count Potochi, Polish Ambassador in Madrid, have all been arrested and sent to KALUGA.

The confiscated land is divided amongst the peasants by a local committee composed of the Communist elements from the village and the local Russian commandant. Where the manor house has not been burnt it is first pillaged by the Russian soldiers and then turned over to the village committee.

The land is parcelled into areas of 7 hectares and allocated to the peasants, who receive it with such distrust and misgivings, as in most cases it is impossible for the peasant to farm this area economically, if at all. It appears, therefore, that the immediate result of the reform will be that the peasant will be unable to obtain a livelihood much less pay the land taxes, and

will, therefore, be forced to relinquish the holding to some system of collective farming from which he can support himself and his family.

PRISION: The land reform policy, as carried out on an estate near ZITNO, did not inspire the confidence of the peasants. The peasants were given holdings taken from the estate, but since they were not in possession of any livestock or farming machinery, they realized that they could not farm this land, and asked the Farm-owner to continue as before. It seems most probable that this method of land reform has, as its ultimate object, the collectivisation of holdings.

Although the peasants are not, in principle, opposed to the parcellation of land in practice, they realized that they would not benefit therefrom, and for this reason they distrust the Lublin administration land reform policy.

In practice, the monetary policy amounted to confiscation of accumulated wealth and savings, and the amount left per head (300 to 500 Zls) was barely sufficient to provide subsistence for one day. The Lublin monetary policy was definitely unpopular.

LUTY-LUTOMSKI: The Monetary and Agrarian policies of the Lublin Government have been received with distrust and bitterness by the Polish population.

ZYLKA: The Agrarian Reforms inspire no confidence.

WEZYK: The Lublin reforms were received with distrust.

SIEHEN: The administration acts of this Government did not inspire the confidence of the people.

LICHTENSTEIN: Nothing to report.

III (c) ANDERSON: There is some blame attached to General Bor for the defeat at Warsaw. The reason given was that he had not advised the Russians of his plans. The majority of people believe Russia deliberately withheld assistance.

WARD: The blame for the failure of the Warsaw rising is put on to the Russians. The people think that Russia could have liberated Warsaw, and in any case could have given bases to Allied aircraft.

BROOKS: Every man, woman, and child in Poland today knows that General Bor was not responsible for the fall of Warsaw. They all blame the Russians for not continuing their march on to Warsaw. They also know that our Air Forces were prepared to fly supplies to Poland, and the Russians never gave permission for our planes to land in Poland. They also know that General Bor was acting upon instructions from London.

BOUGHLEY: There appears to be no bitterness towards either England or Russia concerning the Warsaw Rising. It is

genuinely felt that this was a great mistake, largely due to the personal ambition of General Bor. Once it had started, however, there was no turning back, even though people knew after the first few days that the position was hopeless.

FRESTON: There is no general tendency to institute recriminations in connection with the failure of the Warsaw Rising. General Bor is blamed for an error of judgement. Opinions are divided as to the responsibility of the Russians. It is generally realised that the Western Allies could not have intervened effectually.

LUTY-LUTOMSKI: The Warsaw Rising was a never-to-be forgotten example of courage and devotion to the Fatherland.

ZYLUK: General Bor is sometimes blamed for the Warsaw Rising but public opinion in general blames the Russians for its failure.

WEZYK: The majority of the population blames the Russians for the failure of the Warsaw Rising.

SIGHER: An overwhelming majority of the Poles has ascribed the failure of the Warsaw Rising to the lack of Russian support.

III. (a) ANDERSON: Some - but largely when someone is attempting to regain land or property confiscated by Germans. Otherwise the local government is not held in high esteem. The authorities are regarded as being inexperienced and in many cases hold their posts as political favours because of sympathy to the Lublin Government.

WARD: With the majority they cut absolutely no ice. They represent from 10 to 15% of the population. Some 4% is only very luke-warm and already wavering. That is to say that 4% is composed of people of a higher standard of intelligence who see no future in such a form of Government.

SCHOFFER: The Lublin Government has no real authority, as only the Russians are able to make decisions. The people neither like nor respect this Government and would, in general, rather have even a very mediocre Government as long as it had the support of Britain and America, rather than any Government foisted upon them by Russia.

DURSTON: The more intelligent and educated Poles of the population have, so far, shunned the P.P.R. and local governments consist of P.P.R. members appointed by the Russian authorities. The majority of these are completely unsuited for their posts as is shown in the case of SOENOWICE (Pop. 110,000), where the chairman of the town council is an ex-tram-conductor, and the Mayor is an ex-tailor's assistant. This is the general rule and not an exception, and similar conditions prevail in larger industrial enterprises.

III. (d) Continued

LUTY-LUTOMSKI: The Lublin Government tries to achieve public confidence without success.

ZILUK: The acts of the Lublin Government have not adhered them to the population which is becoming increasingly more distrustful of this Administration.

BEZYK: The Lublin Government tries to achieve public confidence, but unsuccessfully. This is because on the one hand they try to ingratiate themselves into public confidence and on the other hand they arrest and imprison people.

SIEBEN: There is no evidence of any confidence in the local Government authorities and People's Council. Frequent changes in the personnel of these Councils and in their decisions have caused distrust and disappointment among the public.

III. (e) ANDERSON: With my experience and administration, in
rvent to Red Army
the most part -
regarded as "puppets",
by Moscow. This
General.

WARD: The Lublin Group are merely self-seekers and Russian agents. No one regards them as patriotic Poles. In all districts conditions are the same. The only people who are treated better are members of the P.P.A. party.

LUTY-LUTOMSKI: The whole administration is under the Russians who do not respect any decisions of the Lublin Government. The latter is regarded in Poland as a Russian agency and the whole country is hostile to it.

ZILUK: I could not see any evidence of any efforts made to protect the Poles from the Russians. The population is obliged to act on its own initiative for self defence and often, at the risk of their lives, express their hatred of the Bolsheviks. The Committee is regarded as a Russian agency, which after a year or two should convert Poland into the 17th Soviet Republic.

BEZYK: The population regards the members of the Lublin Government as Soviet agents who are attempting to convert the whole population to the Soviet system.

SIEBEN: In general, the public regards the members of the Lublin Government purely as Russian agents. An exception to this is perhaps SEALING, of whom I have heard it said that he is a good Pole. These views are held by all classes of Society.

IV. (a) ANDERSON: The Polish people were disappointed when Russian advance was halted in August, 1944. They were expecting their liberation by the Red Army, but they now regard it as another occupation. Their dislike of and antagonism to Russians after liberation increased during the period I was in Poland.

WARD: There has been no modification of the population's attitude towards Russia.

BROOKS: Last summer the Poles expected the Russian Army to liberate them. They were very friendly. After the fall of Warsaw and the arrest of many people by N.K.V.D., their attitude changed. When the Russians made their second offensive in January, they arrested many Poles, and confiscated all the cattle. They really do want to see a change in Government.

LUTY-LURCZAK: The Russian Army was first greeted as an Army of Liberation but conditions have since changed.

ZYLUK: I heard from Poles that the Red Army was regarded in 1944 as an army of liberation, but after their arrival these friendly feelings changed to feelings of hatred. The reasons for this were the activities of the N.K.V.D., the looting of Polish property by the Red Army and the raping of Polish women.

MEZYK: The attitude of the population to the Russians was "friendly" in 1944, since it was thought that our liberators would establish a different attitude towards us.

SIEMEN: In the summer of 1944 many Poles expected conditions to improve after the arrival of the Russians. However, it was often said that little could be expected of them. Following their arrival dislike of the Russians became universal.

IV. (b) ANDERSON: There are no open signs of friction between the N.K.V.D. and the Lublin Government, but reports indicate no liking, one for the other.

WARD: The general opinion is that the Lublin Government acts under direct orders from the N.K.V.D. There is no sign of any friction. If anyone disagrees with the N.K.V.D. they disappear.

ANDERSON: The N.K.V.D. have agents in every office of the Lublin Government.

DURSTON: With the exception of rail and traffic control, Russian military police are not in evidence; the duties of the N.K.V.D. are mostly with the civilian population.

BOUGHLEY: The Russian secret police is very strong and it is estimated that there are as many as 80,000 agents scattered throughout Poland as against the previous number of 80,000 Gestapo. The methods of the N.K.V.D. are infinitely more subtle than those of

BOUGHEY (Cont)

the Gestapo, whereas the latter, when making arrests, went roaring through the streets with sirens blowing and hammering on doors, the N.K.V.D. make their arrests quietly, either at night or in the daytime in the street. Nobody is able to find out where or what has happened to the arrested persons. If enquiries are made evasive replies are received or the persons are directed from one bureau to another. The N.K.V.D. agents are usually dressed as ordinary infantry officers or in civilian clothes. Some, however, wear the N.K.V.D. flashes on their uniform. There is no official H.Q. but agents live in small groups in a house, the cellars of which are used as their prison. These centres are dotted about all large towns. There are also centres of observation at most main crossings and important points in the city. Here prisoners are taken and made to point important or interesting passers-by, with promises of release.

FRESTON: N.K.V.D. officers, both in uniform with N.K.V.D. flashes and in civilian clothes or ordinary army uniforms are very much in evidence.

LUTY-LUTOMSKI: The N.K.V.D. is much in evidence, and there are conflicts and misunderstandings between it and the Lublin Administration.

ZYLUK: The N.K.V.D. is very much in evidence but I know nothing of its relations with Lublin.

WEZYK: The N.K.V.D. is not very much in evidence, since its members are intermingled with the Army and the civilian population. There have been cases in which the N.K.V.D. did not respect the orders of the Lublin Government. These two bodies appear to act independently in some cases.

SIEHN: The N.K.V.D. is not in evidence. They wear civilian clothes and all sorts of uniform. I have not heard of much friction between them and the Lublin Government.

IV. (c)

ANDERSON: In the front line - yes. Back of the line there was looting and hold-ups after dark. I believe the requisitioning of food-stuffs, first by Germans and now by Russians, will result in a serious shortage this spring, and may even result in insufficient seed for this spring's sowing.

WARD: All live-stock, including horses, has been taken from all the big farmers. Cattle has all been killed and sent to the front. Some 60% of live-stock has also been taken from the peasants. Looting goes on and the Russians and Lublin authorities make no attempt to check it. The officers and men of the Russian Army are the greatest offenders. All grain has also been requisitioned. The opinion of agricultural experts is that there will be starvation in Poland this summer if Poland is not able to import food.

BROOKS: The front line soldier confiscated everything (watches-clothing-food).

IV. (c) DURSTON: First thoughts of troops capturing a locality are loot and women, regardless of the nationality of the holders of the property. In the Polish portion of Silesia all shops and magazines were looted immediately by the advancing troops; in two cases I saw this personally, and it went on despite remonstrances of officers.

Russian troops will, in the main, go to any lengths to obtain spirits. These are usually obtained through house searches or by searching men and women for valuables and exchanging these for drink at the first house. These tactics were also carried out on British P.S.W; I myself narrowly escaped from one such incident with my life. When drunk they are capable of any excess and maltreatment, particularly of women. After dusk it is unsafe to go on streets singly, in spite of the fact that Polish Police patrol streets in pairs armed with rifles.

FRESTON: The Russians take whatever they want. With the total requisitioning of draught animals and livestock, the effects on agricultural life will be serious. Spring sowing will not be possible in the areas affected. The result on economic life will be that of famine.

LUTY-LUTOMSKI: Requisitioning and looting is a daily feature of Polish life, and is having a bad effect on rural and urban conditions.

ZYLUK: Looting is a very common feature. As a result the peasants are unwilling to cultivate the land.

WEZYK: Looting is widespread and frequent.

SILHEN: Requisitioning is being carried out on an enormous scale. The front line troops in the area where I was (CZESTOCHOWA) obtained their rations exclusively by requisitioning. In the large estates live stock was in many cases requisitioned to the last head. Looting is an every day matter.

V. ANDERSON: The position of refugees is deplorable and shocking. The housing shortage, scarcity of food-stuffs, and lack of clothing all contribute to this condition. The Relief Societies are attempting to alleviate the distress but their resources are inadequate. The last information I received in Lublin was to the effect that the Poles were not being permitted to migrate westwards. No reasons were given. There were too many reports of arrests and deportations to Siberia from LWOV and WILNOW to ignore them as being merely propaganda.

WARD: Very few Poles have returned to Poland from east of the Curson Line. The general opinion is that the main part of the population has been deported to Russia. Welfare Centres do not exist in Poland.

BROOKS: Many Poles have escaped from East of the Curson Line, and many were arrested by the N.A.V.L. Official immigration by the Russians is now prepared; however, no one, so far, has been moved West of the Curson Line. Many arrested persons are sent eastwards.

V.

LUTY-LUTOMER: There are mass movements of Poles from the East to the West, the refugees going into concealment, and there are also mass deportations of Poles from the West to the East.

ZYLUR: I heard that 50% of the population East of the Bug have been deported to Siberia, and the remainder to the West. In travelling by train from Lublin I did not hear any Polish spoken East of the Bug.

WEZYK: I saw no evidence of this.

SILBER: To a certain extent voluntary emigration to the West existed during the Russian offensive in the summer of 1944. While travelling through the territories to the East of the Curzon Line in February, 1945, I heard from the local population of mass deportations of Poles to the West, mostly from Lwow and Wilno. I also heard of deportations of Poles to Russia.

VI. (a) Food - ANDERSON: Condition is deteriorating. Worse in towns than in rural areas. There is more food at present in western areas liberated this year than in eastern section of country.

WARD: Food situation all over Poland is very bad but much worse in the recently liberated areas. The conditions in towns are the worst. Practically all food, except that which the peasants hid, has been requisitioned for military needs.

BROOKS: The food situation is very bad. It was better when the Germans occupied Poland. The Germans took nearly half of quota of cows-corn etc., now the Russians have created a new quota which will be twice as high.

BOUGHEY: Food is very scarce and becoming scarcer. What supplies were not taken by the Germans have been taken by the Russians, and so even in the country there is a real shortage.

Ration cards have been issued in three categories. 1st class to civil servants, 2nd class to persons working for the Government and 3rd class to others. However, food is only obtainable for 1st class ration cards and the others must buy on the black market which is openly rampant.

Prices on the black market are soaring and on March 10th, bread was costing 100 zlotys a kilogram. Meat 400 to 500 a kilogram. Sugar 1000 zlotys. Tea 8000 zlotys. Coffee 2000 zlotys. Eggs 10 zlotys. Butter 800 zlotys.

At the beginning of March a number of workers at Katowice and Sosnowice went on strike, as they were unable to obtain sufficient food to feed themselves and their families, and at the same time to work the long hours that were required of them, i.e. 12 hours a day. There is no doubt the food shortage is acute and will

become more so each day.

SCHOFFER: Food was in very short supply in the towns, and even in the villages, and there is a very serious danger of famine this spring.

LUTTI-LUTOWSKI: The food situation is deteriorating daily, in particular in the towns. Requisitioning for the Russian Army is conducted ruthlessly. The food situation is better in Western than in Eastern Poland.

ZILUK: The food situation becomes worse week by week because food stores were largely removed by the Germans and the Russians are now taking what was left. Russian requisitioning is chaotic; in one place everything is taken, while in others, further removed from the high roads, less is taken. My impression was that food was more plentiful in the West of Poland.

WEZYK: The food situation was very bad when the Soviets entered, and has not improved. I heard rumours of large scale requisitioning. The price of articles of food has reached unprecedented heights.

SYTEN: The food situation is deteriorating and is much worse in the towns and in the villages. Quotas of farm produce were imposed, and requisitioning for the Army is on a very large scale.

LICHTENSTEIN: The food situation has become worse, particularly in the towns.

VI. (b) ANDERSON Railways - Broad gauge behind the line established last summer, and west of this line repairs are being made to make tracks of broad gauge.

Roads - Badly in need of scraping and regrading. Main highways kept in fair conditions by Germans.

Telegraph - Very poor Army organization in maintaining communications during advance. No telephone or telegraph communication between TARNOW and KRAKOW, two weeks after advance.

WARD: Where there is a double track railway one line has been broadened. Where only a single track exists, that also has been broadened. Railways and roads are in a very bad conditions. Postal services, to any practical extent, do not exist. The Telegraph Service is only for official use.

BROOKS: West of the Carson Line, railways are entirely destroyed. There is no telegraph service. Roads are better. The Russian Army are building many provisional bridges.

SCHOFFER: The roads are probably not worse than they were in 1939, except that most of the road bridges are down. The provisional road bridges built by the Russians will not survive the Spring freshets.

Railway communication is practically non-existent in that part of the country, nor in the parts further east, after seven months of Soviet occupation. This is due, not only to shortage of rolling stock, but chiefly to the destruction of railway bridges which have only, in exceptional cases, been rebuilt, even temporarily.

BOUGHLEY: Transport is in a bad condition. German demolitions in Poland have been thorough and this added to the fact that the Russians are changing one line to broad gauge, leaving the other for European rolling-stock, has produced a chaotic situation. Passenger trains virtually do not exist and, therefore, civilians must take their chance to perch themselves on goods trains or military transport. Journeys, which before the war took a few hours, now take days, even for military traffic. Rolling stock, both Russian and Polish, is in a bad condition.

LUTY-LUTOMSKI: Transport takes place by lorry, horse cart and rail. The gauge of the railways is being rapidly changed by troops, prisoners and civilians.

ZYLUK: Railway communications are irregular to the East of the Vistula and practically non-existent to the West. Postal services do not function. The broadening of the railway gauge is being carried through rapidly.

WEZYK: Transport is in a bad condition, and this applies to the roads. The postal services were not yet functioning. The gauge of the railways is being widened.

SIEMEN: The railway from Cracow to Lwow is broad gauge. Postal services exist. Telegraph services are not available for civilians.

LICHTENSTEIN: The gauge of the railways is being widened by the Russians.

VI. (c) ANDERSON: Much dysentery in the Army and much talk of typhus.

WARD: None so far, but epidemics are expected in Warsaw as soon as the weather gets warmer.

BROOKS: Sickness is now spreading rapidly throughout Poland. Medical supplies must be sent in at once.

LUTY-LUTOMSKI: I have not heard of any epidemics.

WEZYK: I heard nothing of epidemics.

SIEMEN: I heard nothing of epidemics.

VI. (d) ANDERSON: After liberation many Jews returned to Western Poland from Lublin - The Poles expressed intense dislike of them

WARD: In conversations I had with several Russian officers (they thought I was a Pole), I gathered that there existed in the Russian Army a large amount of enmity towards the Jews.

BROOKS: I hardly saw any anti-Semitism, because the Germans liquidated most of the Jews. A very small percentage have returned to their homes. They lived in the woods receiving supplies from the Poles.

LUTY-LUTOMSKI: I saw no sign of anti-Semitism.

ZYLUK: I heard no evidence of anti-Semitism, probably because there are practically no Jews left - I never saw one.

WEZYK: I encountered no sign of anti-Semitism.

SIEMEN: I did not encounter any anti-Semitism.

LICHTENSTEIN: Those Jews who have had the good fortune to survive and who try to regain possession of their former businesses do not receive any support from the Lublin Government.