

ACC

10000/136/532

RUSSIAN P.
AUG. 1944

10000/136/532

RUSSIAN PROTEST AT POLISH EXHIBITION
AUG. 1944

9259/CC

Office of the
Chief Commissioner

ALLIED COMMISSION

LIST OF PAPERS

File under No. 9259 RUSSIAN PROTEST AT POLISH EXHIBITION

~~TOP SECRET~~

SERIAL NUMBER	FROM—	DATE	TO—	SYNOPSIS
1	Cbl RAAC Low	15 Aug 44	AFHQ AAI	Vassiliev has complained.
2	Ltr Vassiliev	16 Aug 44	RAAC Low; ACC	Protest at Polish Exhibition
3	Ltr RAAC	16 Aug 44	Brig Low	Report on exhibition
4	Cbl AFHQ FX 83637	16 Aug 44	ACC	Pls rpt on Polish exhibition
5	Ltr Polish PRO	16 Aug 44	Gen Brown RAAC	Rpt on Polish exhibition
6	Rpt G-3 RAAC	17 Aug 44		Rpt on Polish exhibition
7	Ltr RAAC Brown	17 Aug 44	AFHQ cc ACC	Complaints of Polish Anit-Sovie Propaganda
8	Ltr A/CC 000.1 Stone	19 Aug 44	Vassiliev	Exhibition has been closed.

4858

CONFIDENTIAL

BHS/hjp

19 August 1944

A/CC 000.1

Subject: Polish Exhibition

(2)

Dear General Vasiliev:

Replying to your letter of August 16th, I am advised by Rome Allied Area Command that the Polish Exhibition in Rome was closed yesterday. I do not believe there will be a repetition of this or a similar incident.

Yours very truly,

see

(1)

ELMER W. STONE
Captain, USMC
Acting Chief Commissioner

Major General A. F. Vasiliev, R.A.
Deputy Soviet Representative
Advisory Council for Italy

4853

000.1 Russian Police

(8)

52815

Hq ACC Sec'y Gen.
DISPATCHED
Date-Time 19 Aug 1944
Via 149
Initials SRK

19 Aug.

CONFIDENTIAL

files (HJP)

S-E-C-R-E-T

ROME ALLIED AREA COMMAND
APO #794, US ARMYTMB/AL/38
17 August 1944

Subject: Complaint of Polish Anti-Soviet Propaganda.

To : AFHQ, APO #512, US Army.

A 2560
22 AUG 1944

1. On Tuesday, 15th August 1944, Major General A. F. VASILINOV called upon Brigadier LOM, Deputy Commander, Rome Allied Area Command.
2. After discussing other matters of business, Major General VASILINOV inquired who was the authority responsible for permitting exhibitions in Rome. Brigadier LOM asked what particular exhibition was in mind, and Major General VASILINOV replied that there was at present in Rome a Polish exhibition. Brigadier LOM said that this exhibition had been opened without notification to, or authority from this Headquarters and that he was unaware of its existence. Major General VASILINOV then said that his representative had visited the exhibition and had reported on it as being very hostile to the Soviet Union. He expressed the hope that steps would be taken to prevent Anti-Soviet propaganda being carried on in Rome, and said that he would submit a written memorandum.
3. This memorandum, dated 16th August, was received at this Headquarters on 17th August. A copy is at AFHQ.
4. The matter was reported to Brigadier General BROWN immediately on his arrival on the 15th of August. A signal was dispatched to AFHQ, with copy to Headquarters, AAI, on 15th August, requesting instructions. A copy is appended hereto. (2)
5. Colonel ASHLEY, R.D.F.B., was informed of this matter on the 15th of August and it was understood from him that no notification had been made to him of any intention to open this exhibition.
6. The exhibition was opened on 1st of August, and it was to have closed on 15th August, but it appears to have been decided to keep it open for two additional days. It seems to be under the auspices of the Polish Military Office of Culture and

Files *[Signature]*7
17 Aug.

Propaganda. Invitations were fairly widely issued, but none were addressed to the Commanding General, or to any of the senior Staff Officers at this Headquarters. Copy of invitation is appended at WGN.

7. Lt. Col. COLLET de SAMIS, Liaison Officer of AFHQ at this Headquarters, visited the exhibition on the 10th of August and a copy of his note is appended at WGN. (3)

(6) 8. An officer of the Intelligence Section of this Headquarters visited the exhibition today and a copy of his report is appended at WGN.

(5) 9. A copy of a letter received at this Headquarters from Lt. G. SISKUPSKI, in charge of the exhibition is appended at WGN.

10. It will be seen that though the verbal representations of the Deputy Soviet Representative mentioned only the exhibition, the memorandum also takes exception to the matter displayed in the Polish Public Relations Office in Rome.

11. May instructions be given as to the course to be followed in this matter?

THOMAS E. BROWN,
Brigadier General, US Army,
Commanding

4051

(7)

WGN

COPY

COPY

RCN

L'UFFICIO MILITARE POLACCO di CULTURA
e PROPAGANDA ha l'onore di invitare _____

ad intervenire ad un The offerto alla Galleria di Roma
Via Sicilia, N. 57 in occasione della Mostra
Polacca, martedì 15 Agosto 1944 alle ore 17.

48430

COPY

RCN

COPY

⑦ INCL C

COPY

COPY

COPY

Subject: Polish Edition of 39 Via Sicilia

REF ID: A66178

1. This is a propaganda exhibition which sets out openly to win public sympathy for a small nation which has suffered for 500 years of more, a continuous series of partitions of territory between three great powers, GERMANY, AUSTRIA-HUNGARY and RUSSIA. The case for POLAND is presented almost entirely from a historical and factual points of view. It is illustrated and explained by a number of maps, photographs and prints, together with captions in English, French, Polish, and Italian.
2. The three powers who have periodically dismembered POLAND are treated very much alike. Each successive partition and each successive Polish revolution is given as a historical fact. Some statements concerning RUSSIA are undoubtedly blunt. The November insurrection of 1830 is ascribed to "the incessant abuses and violations of the Polish constitution by the Russian authorities". The numerous executions and the thousands of deportations of Poles to Siberia after the 1863 insurrection are baldly stated but without comment. Terrorist depredations and atrocities are given equal prominence with similar German and Austrian aggressions. The German, Russian and Austrian eagles are shown attacking POLAND from all sides throughout the centuries.
3. More controversial perhaps, are the captions, maps and photographs treating of events of the last 30 years. POLAND's medieval frontiers are shown and contrasted with her present ones. While RUSSIA and the Baltic States are shown as having formed part of the old historic Kingdom of POLAND, as indeed they did. One map illustrating the situation at the opening of the present war shows how while GERMANY attacked from the West, RUSSIA did the same from the East. A caption on this subject reads "While POLAND was fighting desperately against the Germans her Eastern frontier was crossed by a soviet army of 39 Inf. Divs, 12 Mechanized Bns and 16 Cavalry Divs." Another caption headed "Polish forces in USSR" reads "Such Polish units as found themselves in the Polish East... By the Polish-Soviet Agreement of 30 Jul 1941 a Polish Army was formed out of these deportees and prisoners. 40,000 civilians are evacuated from RUSSIA with the Germans." There are photographs of Polish children in the USSR with captions which describe them as "ragged, suffering children whose appalling misery no one can describe ... or explain" and "our roofless, orphan children in the USSR who were taken under the care of the Polish Army." But side by side with these there are photographs of German hangings of Polish civilians, shootings and other atrocities.
4. The exhibition illustrates many aspects of Polish life, history, and culture; her contributions to art and science and also to the fighting forces of the Allies during the present war. The sufferings of POLAND at the hands of Germany are set out with facts, figures and pictures, but no attempt is made to conceal the historical

6
17 Aug.

fact that she has also suffered such at the hands of RUSSIA. The general tone of the exhibition however, cannot conceivably be described as anti-Russian. The impression created is that the case for POLAND is stated clearly, fairly and objectively, but with no glossing over of hard facts.

/s/ B.W. Gold

/s/ G.S.O.(I)
Room 3112 Area Command

17 AUG 44

1948
1949

COPY

6

COPY

120

COPY

COPY

WPA

Lt. W. Szczyński,
Public Relations Branch,
Polish Army

16 August '44

Brigadier General Theobald E. Brown,
Commanding,
Rome Allied Area Command.

In reply to your letter of to-day I beg to report as follows:

Polish Exhibition which is now being shown in Rome was originally designed, in spring 1943, as an education exhibition planned and executed by the Polish soldiers for the Polish soldier. It had been shown in all Polish camps in Iraq, Palestine, and Egypt. While in Palestine it aroused some interest among the British soldiers so we decided to add explanatory texts in English (all maps and graphs are worked out in Polish) and to show the exhibition to the general public. This was done in Jerusalem and - with additional French text - in Cairo. In that latter city in the presence of the British Minister of State - Lord Moyne.

This same exhibition arrived with the Polish Public Relations in Italy and was again shown in May, June, and July in various camps of the 2nd Polish Corps and Polish Adv. Base. Then, after the Italian text was added, it was open for a fortnight in Rome on August 1 on the authority of Lt. Gen. W. Anders, G.O.C. 2nd Polish Corps, Col. Astley, AFM AFM, having been informed.

Yesterday, upon the request of the visiting public we decided to prolong it for two more days, i.e.: it will be closed to-morrow August 17th at 2000 hrs. and I see no reasons why it should be closed forthwith.

I may add that I was summoned this morning to Col. Astley's office where in the presence of Brig. General MacCrystal I explained at length the whole matter.

/s/ W. Szczyński, Lieut.
/t/ W. Szczyński, Lieut.

Copy to: Polish DPMR,
AFM, AFM.

5

16 Aug.

TOP SECRET

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

INCOMING MESSAGE

3146
SECRET612 16 Aug 1615
DFE

TO: FOR ACTION: ACC FOR INFO: FILPOT ADV, RAAC
 SIGNAL MESSAGE CENTER No: 33/16
 FROM: AFHQ SIGNED SACMED CLASSIFICATION: TOP SECRET
 REFERENCE No: FX-83637 PRECEDENCE: PRIORITY
 DATE AND TIME OF ORIGIN: Aug 161249 OFFICE OF ORIGIN: CITE: FHGEG

A 2200
17 AUG 1944

INFORMATION RECEIVED HERE THAT DEPUTY SOVIET AMBASSADOR AT ROME
 HAD MADE VERBALE PROTEST TO DEPUTY COMMANDER ROME AREA CONCERNING
 POLISH EXHIBITION NOW OPEN ROME. EXHIBITION DESCRIBED AS STRONGLY
 HOSTILE TO SOVIET. STATED EXHIBITION ORGANIZED BY POLISH PUBLIC
 RELATIONS WITHOUT REFERENCE TO ROME AREA. SUGGEST CABLE REPORT SOON-
 EST INCLUDING OPINION AND WHETHER ANY AUTHORITY FOR IT GIVEN BY YOU.

4248

ACC DISTRIBUTION:

Action: Sec Gen (2)

Info: Pol Sec (2)

C.I.A. Br

File (Skeleton)

Mr. Schatt contacted Col. Palmer
 who had given no authorization
 for the exhibit, in fact, knew nothing
 of it.

No knowledge of it in RC + M.G. Section

(4)

DATE and Time of RECEIPT Aug 161543

Distribution:

16 Aug.

TOP SECRET

filed #113/ab

COPY

COPY

RPM

HEADQUARTERS
ROME ALLIED AREA COMMAND

16th August 1944

BRIGADIER LOE

The Polish Exhibition is closing down tomorrow. I have been over it.

It consists of a few photographs of poor quality and of no particular interest, and a number of crude posters, maps, etc.

From a cursory inspection, I consider that there are only the following items to which the Soviets could take exception:

1. Maps. There are some crude historical maps of the Middle Ages, showing former Polish frontiers reaching so far into Russia that SMOLSK is shown as being inside POLISH territory. Jagellon period.

Other maps show the POLISH CORRIDOR as distorted to many times its true area.

2. LITERATURE POLICIES

These are more Anti-Gaist than anti-Soviet, and only in two cases can the text be described as "unfortunate".

3. Towns. VIENNA and Lwow are shown as Polish towns, which they were until September 15th, 1939. Types of peasants of the VOLYNIA and POLSKAI districts are shown as Polish, but these are from behind the CURZON line; there is practically no Polish population in those districts.

My impression is that the atmosphere is unfriendly to the Soviets, but very little tangible evidence can be produced to prove the case.

3
16 Aug 1944

CONFIDENTIAL

SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE
ALLIED ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR ITALY

HQ ACC, APO 394

666-2259 Ger.
Rec'd 17 Aug 09 05
By PRL

Pol Politics Russian

Captain Stone:

16th August, 1944

For your information.

I understand cable FX-83637
from AFHQ at 47 cancelled.

Would appear no action re-
quired.

Densmore
Densmore
18 Aug 44.

sh Anti-Soviet Propaganda.

adier A. Low, Deputy Commander,
Allied Area Command.

ain Ellery W. Stone
g Chief Commissioner,
ed Control Commission.

A 2259
22 AUG 1944

iet Delegation to the Advisory Coun-
has the honour to bring to considera-
puty Commender, Rome Allied Area, certain
anti-Soviet propaganda, which is being
is in Rome.

of the so called "Central European
by the Polish reactionary circles is
y the Public Relations Office of the
Italy. A copy of this map is exhibited
in one of the shopwindows, Corso Umberto 380.

Into the boundaries of this "union" are entire-
ly included the territories of the Soviet Socialist
Republics - Esthonia, Latvia, Lithuania and that of the
Western regions of the Ukrainian and White Russian
Republics as well as the Northern Bukovina and
Bessarabia. The map has an inscription stating that
this plan is "the foundation of Europe's freedom",
and "must not fail".

The map of the same kind and a series of
various anti-Soviet photoes and posters are exhibited
at the Polish Exhibition organized in the foyer of
the Italian Teatro degli Arti, Via Sicilia 59.

The Soviet Delegation to the Advisory Council

2
16 Aug

-2-

for Italy considers that the demonstration in Italy liberated by the Allies of such a map and the abovementioned anti-soviet materials is directed against the Soviet Union.

The Delegation expresses its confidence that the Allied Command will take measures to prevent the repetition of any kind of hostile anti-Soviet propaganda spread by the Polish reactionaries in liberated Italy.

A. Vasiliev

A.F. VASILIEV
Major General, R.A.
Deputy Soviet Representative,
Advisory Council for Italy.

Distribution:

- 1 copy - Brig. A;Low
- 2 copy - Capt. Stone
- 3 copy - ACI

4043

(2)

COPY

COPY

139

(15 August 1944)

From: Rome Area

to : FREEDOM
(INFO FILMOT ADV)

SUBJECT. Major General VASILIEV, Deputy Ambassador, Soviet Union, Rome, today made verbal protest to Brigadier LOW concerning Polish exhibition now open here. Exhibition organized by Polish Public Relations without authority from or notification to this Hq. Described as strongly hostile to Soviet Union. Memorandum from Soviet Ambassador may be expected. Request instructions.

Brigadier LOW

51
16 Aug

2292

