

OD. No. 2034

Naam P o o l s e A a c t i e s i n F r a n k r y k.

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DOSSIER No.: OD. 2034

NAAM: Poolse acties in Frankrijk.

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DOSSIER No. OD 2034

NAAM: POOLSE ACTIES IN FRANKRIJK

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MINISTERIE VAN JUSTITIE

Afdeling POLITIE

Bureau: Kabinet

No. 8/50

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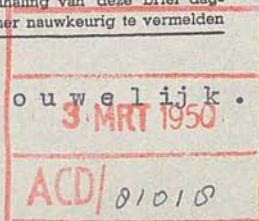
Bericht op brief van

Men wordt verzocht bij aanhaling van deze brief dagtekening, afdeling en nummer nauwkeurig te vermelden

betreffende uitwijzing Poolse
communisten uit Frankrijk.

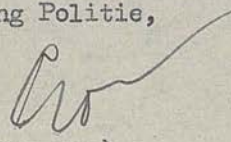
Vertrouwelijk.

NIET O.K.
ACD/4C
DAT: 18-2-50
PAR: Pvh



Onder dankzegging voor de verleende inzage heb ik de eer UHoogEdelGestrenge hierbij wederom te doen toekomen het rapport van het "Polish Committee for Public Relations" dd. Januari 1950, met bijlagen, betreffende de uitwijzing van Poolse communisten uit Frankrijk.

DE MINISTER VAN JUSTITIE,
Namens deze,
Het Hoofd van het Bureau Kabinet
van de Afdeling Politie,


(Mr. J.P.G. Goossen)

Aan
het Ministerie van Binnenlandse Zaken,
Hoofd v.d. Binnenlandse Veiligheidsdienst,
Javastraat 68 te 's-GRAVENHAGE.
t.a.v. Jhr. Mr. W.J.Th. Serraris.

POLISH COMMITTEE FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS
20, Queens Gate Terrace,
London, S.W.7.
Tel.: WESTern 0747

THE BACKGROUND OF THE EXPULSION OF POLISH COMMUNISTS FROM FRANCE.

Some facts and figures.

Following the end of hostilities of the First World War and great human losses suffered by France, the French Government was glad to take advantage of Polish manpower. In September, 1919, a Franco-Polish convention regulating labour and emigration was signed and registered with the League of Nations. In the early 'twenties, in accordance with this agreement, over half a million Polish workers came to France from Westphalia /which had a large Polish colony/ and from Poland, and were employed in the mines, the metal industry and agriculture. They lived in compact groups and earned a reputation for their hard work and patriotism. The latter revealed itself very clearly when after September, 1939, the Polish Army was reconstituted in France and the Polish community there provided more than 120,000 volunteers. They fought in Norway and in France and some of them succeeded in joining the Polish Forces in this country in 1940. During the German occupation, Poles in France took an active part in the Resistance Movement both in "maquis" formations and in an organisation of their own /P.O.W.N. - "The Polish Organisation for the Fight for Independence"/.

After the war, the Poles in France, as everywhere else, were strongly encouraged by a combined effort of the Warsaw Government and certain sections of public opinion in the West to return to Poland. By a special agreement with Warsaw, which expired at the end of 1948, the French Government offered extensive facilities to Poles willing to return to Poland. Many followed this encouragement and, though others came in their place from displaced persons camps in Germany and the demobilised Polish Forces, the number of Poles in France diminished to about 400,000 to which number some 100,000 former Polish subjects recently naturalised but still Polish at heart should be added. As before the war the Poles live in compact groups, nearly half of them in the Departments Nord and Pas-de-Calais. Over 500 French communes each have more than 100 Polish inhabitants. There are localities, such as Brouai-en-Artois, Ostricourt, Vaziers, with an overwhelming Polish majority and where French children speak Polish better than French. A striking characteristic of this community is the great number of children /over 90,000 according to official statistics/. The French Authorities are interested in these children and a Polish child, born in France, upon reaching 18 years of age, becomes automatically a French subject, irrespective of the nationality of its parents, unless it specifically chooses to opt for Polish citizenship.

Are the Poles in France Communist?

To this question an emphatic answer has been recently given in the National Assembly by M. Moeh, the French Minister of the Interior. "There are 400,000 Poles in France", said M. Moeh, "of whom only a tiny minority follows the Warsaw Government".

Shortly after the armistice the Poles in France held a mass demonstration against the Soviet subjugation of Poland, during which the "Central Federation of Poles in France" /Union Centrale des Polonais en France/ was constituted in order to represent all who did not want to have anything to do with the Warsaw regime. Later on, another central body was created - "Congress of Poles in France", which unites mainly Catholic associations. One of the largest and most active organisations is the "Federation of Polish Ex-Combatants in France" /Federation des Anciens Combattants Polonais en France/, whose membership comprises more than 30,000 ex-combatants of the First and Second World Wars.

x/ The "POLISH COMMITTEE FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS" was set up by the Federation of Poles in Gt. Britain and the Central Executive Committee of the Polish Ex-Combatants Association, to deal in matters concerning the resettlement of Poles in this country with regard both to the British public opinion and the Government Departments. Besides the representatives of the organisations which have set up the Committee and a representative of the Union of Polish Craftsmen and Workers, its other members are: General S. Kopanski, former Inspector General of the Polish Resettlement Corps, Mr. T. Horko, editor of the Polish Daily, Mr. B. Wierzbianski, chairman of the Union of Polish Journalists, Mr. J. Lipski, former Ambassador in Berlin, and Mr. T. Frankowski, former Minister in Paris. The Committee co-operates closely with Count E. Raczyński, former Ambassador in London, Chief Polish Advisor to H.M. Government. Mr. S. Grocholski, Deputy-Chairman of the Federation of Poles in Gt. Britain is the Chairman of the Committee. The Secretary is Dr. Z. Jordan, to whom all communications should be addressed /20, Queens Gate Terrace, London, S.W.7./

The Polish community in France in its overwhelming majority is loyal to its country of refuge and is firmly attached to the ideal of a democratic and independent Poland. When Polish workers join a Trade Union, they prefer Force Ouvrière, affiliated to the Socialist Party, and Confédération Française des Travailleurs Chrétiens, close to M.R.I., to the Communist dominated C.G.T. In their own free organisations they have established the means of helping each other, and of resisting the growing danger of Communist penetration. Long before the French Authorities struck the blow against the subversive activities of Polish Communists, the Free Poles themselves were engaged in fighting them by every lawful means at their disposal.

The Communist penetration.

For some time this was no easy task. The French Government, ever eager to sustain its traditional friendship with the Polish nation, was the first to recognise the Warsaw regime as the "legal" Government of Poland, and the policy of friendship with this regime implied giving a free hand to its diplomatic representatives and the handing over to them of Polish assets and institutions /with certain exceptions/ in France. The support given by the French Government was further increased by the assistance and backing offered to their Polish comrades by the powerful French Communist Party.

Mr. Skrzyszewski, the first Warsaw Ambassador in Paris, took full advantage of these opportunities and very large sums of money were put at the disposal of the Embassy to build up support for the new Polish regime among Poles in France /nearly 220 million francs in 1948 alone/. The original plan of organising them through the Communist Party, known at that time by the name of the "Polish Workers' Party", was soon abandoned, as an approach at once too direct and, in practice, ineffective. The "Polish Workers' Party" was officially dissolved and its membership became secret and selective. Instead the whole effort was turned to setting up different "social", "cultural", and "welfare" organisations which under the harmless and misleading names could more effectively carry out the same work. Thus the "Union of Polish Women", the Youth organisations, the "Union of Former Members of the Resistance Movement", the "Association of Disabled Ex-Servicemen", the "Help to the Motherland", the "Union of Teachers" were formed and others, like the "Polish Red Cross" and the "Boy Scouts", were purged and their principles appropriately adjusted. All these bodies were federated under the "Polish National Council". Last March, during a period of considerable tension between Paris and Warsaw over the extension of a repatriation agreement, the Council, in a published manifesto, declared itself representative of the "patriotic and democratic Polish emigration", and voiced its allegiance to the "growing forces of the peace front led by the Soviet Union". At the head of the Council and its member organisations stood trusted members of the Communist Party who used ignorance and naïveté, cupidity, blackmail, often directed against relatives in Poland, and every means to which an unprincipled government can have resort, to recruit adherents and to lead them, willy nilly, in the desired direction. A daily paper "Gazeta Polska", with a circulation of 25,000, lavishly distributed free of charge, and a fortnightly "Poland and the World", provided the means of carrying on direct propaganda. It is no wonder, therefore, that in their hey-day the organisations under the "Polish National Council" could claim a membership of 100,000 persons /although even that figure must have included a fair proportion of multiple membership/. Since 1947, however, the membership of the Council has been steadily declining and by now does not exceed 25,000 persons. This last figure numbers no more than one third of the adherents of Free Polish organisations.

The Warsaw Government paid particular attention to Polish children in France. A Franco-Polish convention signed long before the war provided for Polish classes for children attending French schools and the Polish Government had the right to send teachers and school supervisors. The Communist regime in Poland took over the convention and quickly turned it to its own advantage. Many teachers were dismissed and new ones brought from Poland. All had to pass a political test and to attend special courses at which they were taught how to teach. They received detailed political instructions and from time to time were called to "conferences" in France and Poland. According to reliable sources, not less than 150 teachers and 20 school supervisors initiated their pupils in the knowledge of their native language and history, as well as in the preliminaries of the Communist doctrine. These Polish classes have become for the Communist regime in Poland, and the Cominform, an invaluable channel through which to extend their influence, and legally to train large numbers of future devoted adherents and revolutionaries.

The counter-measures of the French Government.

When the French Government took action against this extensive net of Cominform

agents, altogether 52 Communist "activists" were expelled. First went the agents directing the activities of "social" and "welfare" organisations charged by the Ministry of the Interior with "having interfered with recent strikes" and having engaged in "economic and social sabotage against the Republican institutions of France". Commenting on the expulsion of a further group consisting of teachers and school supervisors the spokesman of the Ministry of the Interior stated that they "did not restrict themselves to cultural activities but led an active political campaign". He also added: "It is our duty to ensure freedom of teaching for the 100,000 children of Poles in France, the majority of whom have refused to follow the political line of the Warsaw Government".

The expulsion of 52 important agents dealt a severe blow to the "Polish" organisations, sponsored, financed and inspired ultimately by no one else than the Cominform. But the expulsions did not affect the top agents who, being French citizens by naturalisation, are free to continue their activities.

Who are those expelled?

A few instances will give some idea of what "Poles" have been expelled from France.

Jakub ARONOWICZ, a Soviet citizen and a Pole by appointment.

Aris "KOWALSKI", editor in chief of "Gazeta Polska", expelled from France for Communist agitation before the war, and a former member of the International Brigade in Spain.

Wladyslaw BADURA, member of the Executive of the "Help to the Fatherland", and one of the leaders of the nominally disbanded Polish Workers' /Communist/ Party.

Szczepan STEC, leader of the "Polish National Council", also a highly trusted Communist agent.

Stanislaw NOWOCIN, chairman of the Polish section of the C.G.T., and organiser of the Polish Workers' /Communist/ Party.

Josef URBANIAK, member of the Executive of the Youth Movement "Grunwald", illegally residing in France.

Boleslaw ROTSZTAJN, manager of the Polish Red Cross, and an eminent member of the Communist Party.

Evidence of subversive activities.

The expulsion of Communist agents followed raids on the H.Q. of the organisations involved in Paris /50, Avenue Victor Hugo, 7, rue Crillon/ and in Lille, during which documents were seized establishing their responsibility for subversive activities. The documents were handed over to the French Courts which will decide, as M. Moch stated in the National Assembly, whether the organisations in question should be forcibly dissolved.

The preliminary investigations of material captured during the raids gave proof of open incitement to act against the French Government. "It is time", says one of the instructions quoted by the Ministry of the Interior, "to stop being spectators - all conquests in the social domain have been won by way of demands which lead to strikes, to demonstrations, to street fighting". Another instruction says: "By your participation in strikes you establish the basis of our success".

Nearly half of the first group of those expelled held membership cards of the French Communist Party, a fact which was described by a spokesman of the Ministry of the Interior as a "direct interference in French political affairs".

At the H.Q. of the "Polish National Council" a file was found bearing the inscription "Fight against the Marshall plan". When in 1947 and 1948 the Cominform tried, by fomenting strikes, to paralyse the national economy of France, money was collected in Soviet Satellite states to assist the strikers; the "Polish Red Cross" in France was then one of the channels through which assistance from abroad was distributed among them. Polish Communist agents were used in organising the strikes

and Lieutenant L. Myszkowski, assistant to the Military Attaché in Paris, who was among those expelled, had been one of the most active organisers.

What British public opinion should remember.

The Free Poles all the world over think that the French Government, acting as it did, took measures under severe provocation and in justified self-defence. These measures they received with relief and profound satisfaction.

There are three points which in this connection should be particularly emphasised. The first two were stated very clearly by M. Robert Schuman, the Foreign Minister, and M. Jules Moch, the Minister of the Interior, during a recent debate in the National Assembly.

1. "The French Government", said M. Schuman, "will distinguish between the Polish nation and its Government which appears to wish to break our old friendship."

The Polish nation is not to be held responsible for the actions of the Warsaw regime, installed in power by force and against the will of the people, and for the activities of the representatives of this regime abroad.

2. M. Moch emphasised that most Poles living in France are not in sympathy with the political line of the Warsaw Government, and that the adherents of the Warsaw regime constitute a tiny minority. Furthermore, the French Government will not allow this minority to organise itself into a fifth column and to dominate the whole Polish community which wishes to rejoice in the freedom of a French citizen.

Similar circumstances may arise in other countries which have given refuge to Poles, and where Warsaw diplomatic representatives and agents try to set up organisations harmless in name, but subversive and dangerous in their real objectives. The same gulf, which divides the Polish people from its present rulers, also separates Free Poles abroad from the agents of the Warsaw regime in foreign countries.

3. The Free Poles and their organisations are very well aware of the danger of Communist penetration and have fought against it for a long time and with every lawful means at their command. The overwhelming majority of Poles should not be mistaken for or classed together with the shady minority sponsored by the Warsaw regime and the Cominform. They are confident of being fully successful, but any moral support they receive from the British Press and public opinion will be very much appreciated.

January, 1950.

Informatie bulletin van de legatie van Polen in Nederland. 19 Januari 1950

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Een Poolse nota aan het Franse Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken.

De Poolse Ambassade te Parijs heeft aan het Franse Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken een nota doen toekomen, waarin o.a. wordt verklaard:

"De laatste dagen heeft in Frankrijk een nieuwe golf gewoed van arrestaties en uitwijzingen van employés van Ambassade en Consulaten van Polen in Frankrijk, de arrestatie van de enige vertegenwoordiger van de Poolse pers, de correspondent van PAP, M. Bibrowski, de arrestatie van vertegenwoordigers van Poolse organisaties en van een aanzienlijk aantal Poolse burgers, en tenslotte de opheffing van 9 Poolse organisaties in Frankrijk, te weten: De Nationale Raad, de Bond van Gewezen Poolse Verzetstrijders, de Bond van Poolse Oorlogsinvalides, het Verbond van Poolse onderwijzers en de Vereniging van Muziek- en Theatergroepen."

"Er is verklaard, dat de bevelen tot huiszoeking en uitwijzing van enige personen reeds in November 1949 zijn uitgevaardigd, hetgeen erop wijst, dat de actie sedert lang is voorbereid. In sommige gevallen, zoals bijvoorbeeld in het reünigratiecentrum te Levallois, zijn bij huiszoeking de vloeren opgebroken. Er heeft huiszoeking plaatsgevonden in de woning van de Poolse viceconsul te Toulouse, die bovendien wederrechtelijk gedwongen is een verklaring te tekenen, dat hij ter beschikking zou blijven van de recherche. Ook vond huiszoeking plaats in de woningen van employés van de Poolse Ambassade en Consulaten."

"De Poolse Regering uit een scherp protest tegen de ongegronde arrestatie, huiszoeking en uitwijzing uit Frankrijk van employés van de Poolse Ambassade en Consulaten en stelt vast, dat het optreden van de Franse autoriteiten een verdere inbreuk betekent op de internationale gebruiken en een schending van de Pools-Franse consulaire overeenkomst."

"De Poolse Regering uit een scherp protest tegen de arrestatie, revisie en uitwijzing van de correspondent van PAP en constateert, dat de Franse Regering op deze wijze een nieuwe schending heeft gepleegd van de Pools-Franse culturele overeenkomst, ook in de sector van de pers. Bovendien vormt de verwijdering van de enige officiële vertegenwoordiger van het Poolse Persagentschap, zoals plaatsvond in het geval van de heer Bibrowski, een schending van de bestaande internationale gebruiken op het gebied van de pers. Zoals de Franse Regering bekend is, is geen enkele Franse journalist in Polen ooit lastig gevallen, hoewel tegen de activiteit van sommige Franse journalisten in Polen ernstig bezwaar rees."

"Ten scherpste protesterend tegen de brute huiszoekingen, arrestaties en de uitwijzing van emigratieagenten en andere Poolse burgers alsmede tegen de opheffing van de Poolse organisaties in Frankrijk, stelt de Poolse Regering vast, dat de Franse Regering op flagrante wijze de Pools-Franse immigratieovereenkomst van 1919 geschonden heeft, die de Poolse emigranten het recht verzekerde hun nationale cultuur te onderhouden en zich te

verenigen. Deze stap van de Franse Regering vormt een schending van de elementaire rechten van de mens, en heeft ten doel door dwang de vrijheidsszin, die aan het merendeel der in Frankrijk wonende Polen eigen is, in te tomen, de Poolse émigrés van hun land en volk te vervreemden en tracht de diepe vriendschap van het Poolse en het Franse volk, bezegeld door het gemeenschappelijk vergoten bloed in de strijd tegen de nazibezetter, te ondermijnen."

"De Opheffing van de Bond van Poolse Oorlogsinvalides beledigt de gevoelens van de Franse en Poolse invalides, die gewond werden op de slagvelden van Verdun, in Champagne, de Elzas en Lotharingen in de oorlog van 1914-1918."

"De opheffing van de Bond van Gewezen Poolse Verzetsstrijders is een pijnlijke slag voor al diegenen, die gestreden hebben tegen de Duitse bezetters om de vrijheid van Frankrijk en Polen. Het heldhaftig aandeel en de vooraanstaande rol, die de Poolse mijnarbeiders en hun gezinnen hadden in de historische staking van de mijnwerkers in de departementen Nord en Pas de Calais in 1941, gericht tegen de Duitse bezetters en de Franse collaborateurs en waarvoor de Poolse mijnwerkers en hun gezinnen moesten betalen met het leven van velen der hunnen en met een grenzeloos lijden en de deportatie van enige tientallen Polen."

"De bewoners van Pas de Calais en Nord vereren als hun eigen helden de familie Burczykowski, wier huis het centrum was van de verzetsbeweging in Noord-Frankrijk en die allen omkwamen in een vuurgevecht met Duitse soldaten. Door posthume plechtigheden, aan deze familie gewijd, en door de toekenning van Franse militaire ordes heeft het Franse volk en zijn toenmalige Regering hulde gebracht aan de moed en offervaardigheid van tienduizenden Poolse mijnwerkers en hun gezinnen in de gemeenschappelijke strijd om vrijheid, onafhankelijkheid en vriendschap tussen het Poolse en het Franse volk."

"De bevolking van Lyon herinnert zich nog goed het heldhaftige bataljon Poolse verzetsstrijders, en onder hen de mijnwerkers uit Saint Pierre la Palude, die niet alleen een werkzaam aandeel hadden bij de bevrijding van de stad, doch tevens twee bruggen vrijwaarden voor vernietiging door de Duitsers - de enige bruggen, die van de twintig vroeger bestaande gespaard zijn gebleven."

"De Poolse verzetsstrijders leven in de herinnering van de bewoners van Nîmes, Arles en tientallen Franse plaatsen en plaatsjes, die bevrijd werden dank zij de dapperheid en opoffering van de Poolse émigrés en hun broederlijke solidariteit met de heldhaftige Franse strijders van de verzetsbeweging. Thans worden juist deze Poolse verzetsstrijders en hun vereniging onderdrukt en vervolgd."

"Opgeheven werd eveneens de Poolse Nationale Raad, die ondergronds werd opgericht tijdens de bezetting en die alle

Poolse krachten in Frankrijk verzameld en organiseerde naast en met het Franse volk in de strijd tegen de geneenschappelijke vijand, die de beroemde Poolse eenheden in Frankrijk organiseerde, welke in het kader van het 1e Franse leger hun aandeel leverden in de bevrijding van Frankrijk."

"De Franse Regering heeft zich niet ontzien zelfs organisaties te treffen als het Verbond van Poolse Onderwijzers of een zuiver culturele vereniging als het Verbond van Poolse Muziek- en Theatergroepen."

"De door de Franse Regering opgeheven Poolse organisaties vertegenwoordigden ontegensprekelijk de grote meerderheid van de Poolse emigranten in Frankrijk en waren een uiting van haar democratische instelling en vredeswil en haar verlangen om de Pools-Franse vriendschap te handhaven tot het welzijn van beide volkeren en in het belang van de vrede."

"Na de oorlog droeg de inspanning van de Poolse arbeider bij tot het herstel van de Franse economie."

"Op een oproep van de Poolse Nationale Raad in Frankrijk arbeiden de Poolse mijnwerkers in Frankrijk vrijwillig op Zondag, toen na de bevrijding Frankrijk gebrek aan steenkool had. De steenkool dolven zij voor Frankrijk, het loon gaven zij aan hun eigen herrijzend vaderland, aan Polen."

"Het geweld, dat gepleegd is op de Poolse emigranten wier verdiensten jegens Frankrijk talrijk en onmiskenbaar zijn, en tegelijkertijd de actieve steun, die de Franse autoriteiten verlenen aan collaborateurs en oorlogsmisdadigers, spionnen, onruststokers en landverraders en de steun aan reactionaire groepen Poolse emigranten, vormen de consequentie van de politiek, die verbonden is met het toetreden van de Franse Regering tot het militaire Noord-Atlantische pact, een politiek, die ook tegen Polen gericht is, tegen zijn vitale belangen en veiligheid, een politiek van dwang en pressie, die gedoemd is om zonder resultaat te blijven, een politiek, die zich in laatste instantie tegen haar initiatiefnemers keert."

"Het verbreken en schenden van de Pools-Franse overeenkomsten, de brute onderdrukking van de Poolse emigratie in Frankrijk de steun, die verleend wordt aan alle vijanden van het bevrijde Polen, het scheppen van een atmosfeer, waarin een bomaanslag op de Poolse Ambassade te Parijs mogelijk werd, terwijl de daders tot dusverre niet door de Franse politie aan het licht zijn gebracht, al deze verschijnselen van de Franse politiek zijn in tegenspraak met de principes van vreedzame samenleving der volkeren, in tegenspraak ook met de elementaire principes van juistheid en rechtvaardigheid en zij komen geheel en al voor de verantwoordelijkheid van de Franse Regering."

"De Poolse regering stelt vast, dat zij geen inspanning zal sparen om de 400.000 personen tellende Poolse emigratie in Frankrijk te beschermen, die doordrongen is van de geest van vooruitgang en democratie en mens met evenveel enthousiasme de zaak van de vrede verdedigt als zij tijdens de nazi-bezetting voor de vrijheid van Frankrijk streed."

"De Poolse Regering eist intrekking van de discriminerende en krenkende besluiten ten aanzien van de democratische Poolse organisaties in Frankrijk. Bovendien eist de Poolse Regering, dat er een eind zal komen aan de door niets gerechtvaardigde chicanes en repressies ten aanzien van employés van de Poolse Ambassade en Poolse consulaire instellingen; repressies, die met buitengewone hardnekkigheid en op een wijze die duidelijk in strijd is met de belangen van Frankrijk en haar beste tradities, ten doel hebben de normale betrekkingen tussen Frankrijk en Polen te verstoren."

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EN GUISE DE REPRÉSAILLES De nombreux Français sont arrêtés en Pologne

L'INSTITUT FRANÇAIS DE VARSOVIE EST FERME

Varsovie, 13 janvier (A.P.-A.F.P.). — La police de sécurité polonaise vient de procéder, vraisemblablement en guise de représailles pour les arrestations de Pologne en France, à l'arrestation de treize Français dans cinq villes polonaises.

Parmi les personnes arrêtées à Varsovie figurent M. Pierre Marschal, de l'Agence France Presse, ainsi qu'on l'a déjà annoncé la nuit dernière, et Edmond Massonet, chef de la mission de rapatriement française. Ce dernier a été arrêté, hier soir, dans l'appartement de M. Marschal.

Un employé polonais de l'ambassade de France, dont le nom n'est pas donné, a été également arrêté.

Aux derniers renseignements parvenus, M. Marschal a été appréhendé, entre 14 et 18 heures, dans la rue.

Il se rendait chez lui, où il avait donné rendez-vous à des amis pour jouer au bridge, mais ses amis l'attendirent en vain.

A l'ambassade de France on précise que six membres de la police de sécurité polonaise se sont présentés chez M. Marschal et, en présence de sa femme et de ses amis qui l'attendaient, ils ont fouillé l'appartement dans ses moindres recoins, pénétrant même dans la nursery et réveillant les trois enfants de M. Marschal. A minuit, trois policiers n'avaient pas encore quitté l'appartement.

L'ambassadeur de France à Varsovie et plusieurs membres du personnel de l'ambassade ont rendu visite à Mme Marschal au cours de la soirée.

On a remarqué que l'un des policiers venus perquisitionner chez M. Marschal avait participé comme interprète au procès d'espionnage de Wroclaw. A ce propos on rappelle que le nom de M. Massonet a été prononcé au cours du procès de Wroclaw par l'accusé polonais Jean Kubitchek, qui l'avait accusé de faire partie d'un groupe d'espionnage. Cette allégation avait d'ailleurs fait l'objet d'un démenti de l'ambassade de France.

A Cracovie, quatre Français ont été arrêtés, dont l'ancien chauffeur du consulat et une secrétaire du consulat.

A Katowice, M. Guth, employé au consulat de France, et à Stettin, Mme Giffard.

A Varsovie même, la police a arrêté cinq autres ressortissants français. Ce sont : M. Hugen, chargé de cours à l'Institut français de Varsovie ; M. Louis Lemoine, maçon, arrivé à Varsovie il y a six mois pour rejoindre sa fiancée polonaise qu'il avait connue en France ; M. Bastien, chauffeur du chef de la mission de rapatriement à Varsovie, qui lui-même a été arrêté hier. MM. Stilmass et Bourassat, ouvriers français, arrivés récemment à Varsovie.

Un employé de l'ambassade de France, de nationalité polonaise, arrêté il y a trois jours, a été libéré.

On apprend que le gouvernement polonais a remis aujourd'hui, à l'ambassade de France à Varsovie, une

note dans laquelle il fait savoir qu'en raison « de l'atmosphère créée par l'attitude inamicale du gouvernement français », il a décidé de suspendre la convention culturelle franco-polonaise et de mettre un terme à l'activité de l'Institut français de Varsovie et de ses filiales en province.

Protestation polonaise auprès du Quai d'Orsay

Varsovie, 13 janvier (A.F.P.). — L'Agence P.A.P. annonce que l'ambassade polonaise à Paris a fait parvenir aujourd'hui au ministre français des Affaires étrangères une note de protestation « contre les arrestations arbitraires et les expulsions de citoyens polonais, ainsi que contre les persécutions dont sont victimes en France les membres des organisations politiques polonaises ».

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OBJET : *Figaro*
DATE : *14-15 Jan 50*
PAR : *R.V.D.*

28

1952. No. 1
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R.V.D.

DISSOLUTION DES FOYERS POLONAIS D'AGITATION EN FRANCE

Cinquante suspects raflés à l'aube par la Surveillance du Territoire LA PLUPART D'ENTRE EUX SERONT EXPULSÉS

Pour chaque cas les dossiers
étaient préparés à la Sûreté afin d'accélérer
les opérations

Les Polonais qui sont en France et appartiennent aux organisations d'extrême-gauche fondées chez nous sur les instructions de Varsovie sont l'objet de deux nouvelles mesures qui vont jeter le trouble dans leur activité politique.

D'abord, la police française vient d'opérer, tant à Paris que dans diverses villes du Nord, une rafle qui a permis d'appréhender une cinquantaine de personnes.

Ensuite, le gouvernement ayant pris connaissance du rapport établi par le ministère de l'Intérieur, à la suite du dépouillement des quelque 500 kilos de documents saisis lors des précédentes opérations, vient de décider de dissoudre la plupart des associations polonaises d'extrême-gauche, qui ne sont que des foyers d'agitation.

Le décret de dissolution paraîtrait aujourd'hui

On s'attend à ce que le décret de dissolution paraisse aujourd'hui au « Journal officiel ». Il s'agirait des organisations suivantes :

Le Conseil national des Polonais en France, l'Organisation polonaise d'aide à la patrie ; l'Association des femmes polonaises « Marie Konopnika », l'Association Grunwald (la jeunesse polonaise), l'Association T.U.R. (organisation des ouvriers), l'Organisation Zpburo (union des Polonais anciens résistants), l'Union des Invalides de guerre polonais en France, et enfin l'Union des instituteurs polonais en France.

Pour la rafle, elle fut opérée de la façon classique : plus de trente voitures quittèrent, hier matin, à 8 heures, la Sûreté nationale et la Préfecture de police qui opéraient de concert.

Elles se rendirent dans de nombreux quartiers de Paris, et notamment dans le quartier Saint-Paul, ainsi qu'en banlieue, par exemple aux Mureaux, en Seine-et-Oise.

Ces autos revinrent toutes dans la matinée rue des Saussaies, ramenant un ou deux Polonais considérés comme s'étant livrés à une activité pouvant paraître une ingérence dans la politique française.

Chaque suspect avait déjà son dossier à la Sûreté, aussi les opérations allèrent-elles rapidement.

Enfermé dans les bureaux de la Surveillance du Territoire, dont les accès sont l'objet d'une garde rigoureuse, chaque Polonais y est interrogé et son cas examiné avec soin.

En fin de matinée, on déclarait que la plupart d'entre eux seraient expulsés.

Déjà, à midi, un énorme car était prêt dans le garage de la rue de Penthievre à prendre les « voyageurs » pour les mener à la gare et peut-être même directement à la frontière.

Enfin, la Sûreté assurait que ces opérations n'avaient rien de commun avec la tentative de suicide, à Lille, de M. Skrobola, le comptable qui s'est jeté par une fenêtre du consulat polonais.

Dix-huit Polonais ont été expulsés dès hier après-midi

A la Sûreté nationale, on déclarait hier soir que 18 des Polonais appréhendés ont été expulsés dans l'après-midi. Parmi les autres, ceux qui ont à leur actif des faits de résistance dûment contrôlés ont obtenu un certain délai, ainsi qu'une femme, sur le point d'être mère.

Aux expulsés de Paris s'ajoutent les Polonais qui ont été arrêtés en province.

On pense que le chiffre total des expulsions atteindra quarante. Un attaché consulaire sera également reconduit à la frontière.

Un employé de l'ambassade de France à Varsovie est expulsé de Pologne

Varsovie, 12 janvier. — Un nouvel employé de l'ambassade de France à Varsovie a été invité hier soir à quitter le territoire polonais.

Il s'agit de M. Gaston Deleau, employé aux écritures, qui a jusqu'à mercredi prochain pour obéir à cet ordre d'expulsion.

On déclare à l'ambassade que cette mesure a été prise par le ministère des Affaires étrangères à titre de représailles pour l'expulsion, opérée il y a six jours, d'un Polonais résidant à Paris.

Le nombre des ressortissants français expulsés de Pologne depuis le 18 novembre est ainsi porté à vingt-quatre.

Le vice-consul de Pologne à Lyon refuse de rentrer dans son pays

M. Bohdan Chatzynski, vice-consul de Pologne à Lyon, a demandé à la France de lui accorder le droit d'asile, apprend-on dans les milieux autorisés.

Convoqué à Varsovie par le ministre des Affaires étrangères, il a refusé de s'y rendre et a déclaré qu'il ne pouvait se solidariser avec la politique suivie par son gouvernement.

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Polish Envoy's Move at Lille Clinic Denied

Paris Spokesman Says Putrament Didn't Try To See the Employee

By Vincent Bugeja

A Polish Embassy spokesman denied in Paris yesterday that Ambassador Jerzy Putrament had been refused authorization to visit Stephan Skrobala, Polish Consulate employee at Lille, who is now in a Lille hospital with severe injuries from his fall from a third-story window of the consulate last Saturday.

Mr. Putrament made no request to see Mr. Skrobala, the spokesman said, adding that the ambassador went to Lille Monday "merely to obtain news" of the patient.

This denial brought a counter-denial last night from the Prefecture of the Nord Department at Lille which said that Mr. Putrament's request was refused because there were strict orders forbidding all visits to the injured man.

Deny Red Doctor Was Admitted

The prefecture also denied a statement that Dr. Roques, a hospital surgeon and a member of the Central Committee of the French Communist party, who accompanied the Polish Ambassador to Lille, had been granted permission to see Mr. Skrobala.

The Polish Embassy spokesman said that Dr. Roques asked Dr. Delannoy, head physician of the hospital where Mr. Skrobala is under treatment, to see the patient and have him transferred to Dr. Delannoy's private clinic. Dr. Delannoy, the spokesman said, saw no objection provided permission was obtained from the Lille Prefecture.

Mr. Putrament, the Polish spokesman continued, called on the prefect and obtained permission for Dr. Roques to see Mr. Skrobala and have him transferred to Dr. Delannoy's clinic, but when the Communist doctor went to the hospital he was forbidden to approach the patient's bed by the inspectors of a day-and-night guard at the ward.

Polish Chauffeur Reported Missing

Meanwhile, the Polish chauffeur of Joseph Szczerbinsky, Polish Vice-Consul at Lille, who was arrested Nov. 23 for espionage, was reported missing. The Polish Embassy spokesman disclosed yesterday that the chauffeur left for Poland immediately after his release by French police who had arrested and questioned him.

Dr. Delannoy, who is personally attending Mr. Skrobala, said yesterday that when he told the patient that there were great hopes for his recovery, the injured man replied: "That means that I shall have to begin all over again." The suicide theory was also upheld in a press communique from the Polish Consulate at Lille.

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Visitors Barred For Pole Who Plunged in Lille

Doctors Won't Let Polish Envoy See Consulate Employee in Hospital

Special to the Herald Tribune

LILLE, Jan. 9.—Jerzy Putrament, Polish Ambassador to France, was refused authorization today to see Stephan Skrobala, probationary at the Polish Consulate here who fell out of a third-story window of the consulate Saturday.

The doctors attending Mr. Skrobala, who is suffering from several fractures and severe internal injuries, said the patient is not yet in a condition to receive visitors. A request by Dr. Roques, a hospital surgeon of Créteil and a member of the Central Committee of the French Communist party, to visit Mr. Skrobala was also refused.

Mr. Putrament, who arrived from Paris by automobile, called on the Prefect of the Nord Department before returning to Paris. Meanwhile two policemen are keeping guard night and day in the ward where Mr. Skrobala is hospitalized.

Secrecy Being Observed

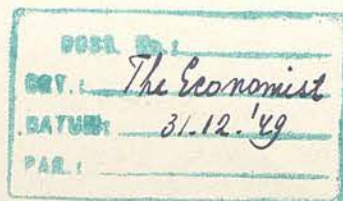
Great secrecy is still being observed about the circumstances of Mr. Skrobala's fall. The Lille vice-consul, Joseph Szczerbinski, was arrested for espionage last November. In statements which he made when he was picked up after his fall, Mr. Skrobala gave police to understand that he had tried to commit suicide because of his bad health. But the counter-espionage service of the French national police, which has known Mr. Skrobala as an active Communist propagandist, is skeptical about the suicide motive.

The Franco-Polish Dispute

[FROM OUR PARIS CORRESPONDENT]

AFTER a mirthless pantomime, more inane even than previous exhibitions of Communist "justice," a Polish military court in Wroclaw last week sentenced four French citizens and two Polish nationals to lengthy sentences of imprisonment for espionage and sabotage. The condemnation of Mademoiselle Bassaler and her fellow accused marks the end of the first stage in the anti-western campaign undertaken by the Warsaw government, which was opened by the arrest on November 18th of M. André Robineau, a French consulate employee, as he was boarding the plane to Paris. The Wroclaw "trial" was conducted in conditions of perfect illegality: false witnesses who had been held *incommunicado* were brought straight from prison into court; counsel for the defence, first presuming the guilt of their clients, added their weight to the prosecution; and the French diplomatic mission to Poland was explicitly mentioned in the terms of the accusation. During the proceedings, the Polish authorities devoted themselves entirely to invective.

The current campaign in Poland—in so far as it is Polish and not part of an overall Soviet measure designed to thicken the Iron Curtain—nevertheless differs from previous Balkan frame-ups by being directed specifically against France. It would doubtless have been possible to trump up charges against members or employees of any of the western missions. It seems that, in this instance, the Polish Communists had two objectives, one domestic and one anti-French. First, they wished to incense Polish opinion against "foreign saboteurs" who were to serve as the whipping boys for the government itself, which had been proved so disastrously incapable of maintaining industrial production. Second—and this may well have been the campaign's principal object—the Polish government wished to sever all bonds between the French mission to Warsaw and the human world outside its embassy and residences, and thus condemn French envoys to that state of suspended animation in which they and their western colleagues subsist in Moscow.



All western missions to Warsaw are, as past fracas have shown, unpalatable. But French influence, emanating in one way and another from the 400 French citizens at present living in Poland, may well be especially "dangerous." French culture having for centuries represented something like an ideal stamp of education and the standard of civilisation, it is understandable that the French Institute in Warsaw (of which the arrested M. Robineau's father was the director) and its branches in Cracow and other towns have, by their mere presence, been a thorn in the flesh of other culturalists from the east. For even a trickle of the acid of French scepticism must prove corrosive to Soviet propaganda material. The subsequent expulsion from Poland of all French teachers, uncharged, has lent colour to this view.

Round-Up of "Spies"

In French circles it is considered improbable that these acts of political provocation will lead to a breach of diplomatic relations by France. The French government naturally shrinks from abandoning entirely the task of protecting those French citizens remaining in Poland. Nor is it obvious that the convenience of removing Polish representation from France would, for the French, balance the disadvantage of losing an observation post in Communist territory. The tendency in the cold war appears to be rather to hang on for "nuisance-value" than to decamp in a huff.

Meanwhile the Polish offensive seems to have offered a useful opportunity to the French Ministry of the Interior. The raids and expulsions since effected by the *Sûreté Nationale* had long been planned for the day when Poland should give suitable provocation. Thus the French authorities by the prompt deportation of 17 Poles and the arrest of Mr Sczerbinski, Polish Vice-Consul in Lille, have been enabled to disperse a Communist spy-ring engaged on "economic and social sabotage of the Republican institutions of France." Those expelled included the editor of the *Gazeta Polska* in Paris and the president and the secretary-general of the National Council of Poles in France. On the premises of the associations of Polish Youth, of Polish Scouts and the union of Polish Women, documents were found which, according to the French authorities implicated these organisations in Communist conspiracies against the French State. The *Sûreté Nationale* has also stated that Polish Communists have interfered in French strikes. (The expelled Poles possessed, it was discovered, cards of the French Communist Party.) The Polish Vice-Consul in Lille, who is awaiting trial for espionage and who is the only Pole still under arrest in France, is to be defended by Maître Nordmann, who appeared for the defendants in the Kravchenko lawsuit in Paris early this year.

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LES INSTITUTEURS POLONAIS enseignant en France étaient surveillés par des "inspecteurs" venus de Varsovie

L'activité de ceux-ci
provoque l'expulsion de 18 Polonais

Dix-huit Polonais viennent d'être expulsés de France. Il s'agit, cette fois, d'instituteurs, de moniteurs et d'« inspecteurs » chargés de surveiller lesdits instituteurs et moniteurs, et surtout de stimuler leur zèle politique.

Cette nouvelle fournée d'expulsions exécutées dans les quelques heures qui ont suivi la décision prise à la suite du dépouillement des documents

saisis lors de la précédente opération policière a donné lieu à une longue communication de M. Bertaux, directeur de la Sûreté nationale.

— Il y a en France 400.000 Polonais, dont 100.000 enfants, a dit en substance M. Bertaux, qui a ajouté :

« Aux termes d'un accord passé avec le gouvernement de Varsovie, des instituteurs polonais sont autorisés à faire en France, dans les écoles fréquentées par les enfants polonais, des cours à leur intention. En Pologne, des professeurs français jouissent des mêmes prérogatives. Il est convenu de part et d'autre que ces cours ne doivent donner lieu à aucune propagande politique.

» En Pologne, les Français respectent la convention ; en France, certains éducateurs polonais ont agi autrement et c'est justement pour s'assurer que ces instituteurs exécutent les nouvelles consignes que des « inspecteurs » (fonctionnaires du gouvernement de Varsovie) les surveillent et les stimulent.

» Ces agissements sont une nette ingérence dans les affaires politiques de notre pays. Nous ne pouvons les tolérer. Nous n'agissons pas par représailles, comme l'ont fait les Polonais (ce sont eux-mêmes qui l'ont avoué), mais uniquement pour défendre nos institutions.

» D'ailleurs nous possédons de multiples preuves de cette ingérence politique. Elles se trouvent dans tous les documents que nous avons saisis.

Et le directeur de la Sûreté en cite quelques-unes au hasard. Voici par exemple un tract où il est dit notamment : « Il est temps d'en finir avec notre rôle de spectateur... ». En voici un autre où on relève cette phrase : « Toutes les victoires du peuple ont été remportées par des combats de rues... »

Et M. Bertaux poursuit :

— Allons-nous tolérer l'action de ces fonctionnaires étrangers qui, dans le jargon communiste, sont désignés sous le nom de « permanents » ? Allons-nous supporter que ces gens continuent à prêcher chez nous le désordre social ?

» Bien que nous soyons très tolérants, nous ne pouvons aller jusque-là. Toutes les mesures d'expulsion que nous venons de prendre concernent des instituteurs installés à Paris, Lille, Lyon, Toulouse et Marseille.

Et M. Bertaux profita de l'occasion pour démentir de façon formelle les déclarations faites par l'avocat du vice-consul de Pologne à Lille, arrêté, on s'en souvient, pour espionnage, et assurant que son client avait été victime de mauvais traitements de la part de la police française.

— Dès que j'ai eu connaissance de la plainte du vice-consul, ajouta le directeur de la Sûreté, j'ai fait examiner l'inculpé par trois médecins experts qui n'ont relevé sur lui aucune trace de violence. Puis, j'ai fait procéder à une enquête au cours de laquelle on a entendu seize à dix-sept témoins. Des procès-verbaux il résulte qu'aucun sévice n'a été exercé sur le vice-consul.

D'autre part, la Sûreté nationale confirme que le rappel d'un attaché de l'ambassade de Pologne a été demandé par le gouvernement français, mais qu'on a donné à ce diplomate un très long délai pour quitter la France.

Le gouvernement polonais expulse un attaché de l'ambassade française

Varsovie, 11 décembre (Reuter)

— Le gouvernement polonais a intimé hier à un troisième membre de l'ambassade de France à Varsovie M. Jean-Julian Martin, qui remplit les fonctions d'attaché, d'avoir à quitter le territoire polonais d'ici le 13 décembre à minuit.

Le ministère a signifié cette décision à l'ambassade par une lettre sans explications que le gouvernement polonais ne souhaite pas voir se prolonger le séjour de M. Martin à Varsovie.

A la suite de cette nouvelle expulsion, l'ambassade de France a donné sa protection à sept professeurs français séjournant en Pologne aux termes d'un accord culturel d'échanges franco-polonais.

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18 Poles Expelled by France; Most of Them Held School Jobs

Were Employed in Institutions Serving 100,000
Polish Children; Anti-State Acts Charged

By Stephen White

The French government announced Saturday the expulsion of eighteen Polish citizens, most of them employed in schools serving 100,000 Polish children in France.

This new move in the Franco-Polish conflict threatened to reopen a matter that has been slowly

losing its urgency during the last week. "These proceedings," the Polish Embassy in Paris commented, "constitute a flagrant violation of the Franco-Polish cultural and consular conventions, and appear designed to aggravate the present state of Franco-Polish relations."

According to a spokesman for the Ministry of the Interior, the expelled Poles have been "guilty of activities damaging the security of the state, and France cannot tolerate foreign interference in French political affairs."

Finds Accord Not Respected

Franco-Polish cultural agreements are not being respected, the spokesman added, and "we have the responsibility of assuring liberty to be educated as they wish to the 100,000 children of Poles living in France, most of whom are not in sympathy with the political line of the Warsaw government."

The spokesman said that the complicity of the instructors was clearly set forth in documents captured in mid-November, when the French police raided several Polish establishments here and in other French cities.

The instructors who have been expelled were directed by Polish citizens charged with "controlling their activities," the French maintained.

The Ministry of the Interior announced also that printed matter captured during the earlier raids revealed full-scale incitement to act against the French government. It quoted such sentences as: "It is time to stop being spectators—all conquests in the social domain have been won by means of demands which lead to strikes, to demonstrations, to street fighting," and "By your participation in strikes you establish the basis of our success."

The ministry said also that about twelve of those expelled held mem-

bership cards in the French Communist party, "which constitutes direct interference in French political affairs."

It was officially denied that Joseph Sczcerbinski, Vice-Consul of Poland in Lille, had been subjected to beatings during the investigation charges of espionage against him. His lawyer, Joe Nordmann, has maintained that Mr. Sczcerbinski was the victim of brutal third-degree methods.

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Frans student zal in Polen terecht staan

Er is een nieuwe ontwikkeling gekomen in het Frans-Poolse diplomatieke geschil. Volgens een mededeling van de Franse ambassade in Warschau zal een 23-jarige Franse student, die aan de universiteit van Krakau studeerde, wegens spionage terecht moeten staan. De jongeman kwam in de lente van het vorige jaar in Polen om met een studiebeurs van de Poolse regering Slavische talen te studeren, werd gearresteerd en bevindt zich reeds 7 maanden in hechtenis.

Inmiddels heeft Frankrijk Polen beschuldigd van een schending der mensenrechten en het internationale recht i.v.m. de arrestatie van de Franse consulaire beambte Robineau. In de nota werd echter verklaard, dat Frankrijk bereid is alle besprekingen over de hangende geschillen in goede trouw voort te zetten.

Door de Poolse regering is in een nota aan de Franse ambassadeur medegedeeld, dat negen Franse burgers, van wie vier vrouwen, uit Polen zijn verwijderd. De uitgewezenen waren employé's van de Franse ambassade en het consulaat zonder diplomatieke status en een Franse arbeider. Zij zijn per bus in Helmstedt, aan de Brits-Russische zone-grens in Duitsland aangekomen.

C 8

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R.V.D.

POLISH CAMPAIGN OF 25 REPRISAL

MORE FRENCHMEN UNDER ARREST

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

PARIS, Nov. 28

Sixteen French nationals are now under arrest in Poland, one of whom, the vice-consul in Warsaw, M. Boitte, has a diplomatic passport and three others service passports. The arrest of M. Boitte is admitted by the Polish Government to be an act of reprisal for the detention by the French authorities of the Polish vice-consul at Lille, M. Szczerbinski, on a charge of espionage. French police activities since November 18, when the French consular official M. Robineau was taken into custody by the Poles as he was boarding an aircraft for France, total three arrests, 26 expulsions, and the search of several buildings.

Far from expelling Frenchmen, the Polish authorities seem anxious to delay their departure. About 200 Frenchmen are still living in Poland, mostly teachers and professors, many of whom have recently applied for exit visas. None has so far been granted.

One Frenchman arrested yesterday in Warsaw, M. Alphonse Hernandez, was removed from his home in the middle of the night. His two small children have been taken to the French Embassy. The French authorities in Paris report a disturbing incident in connexion with two French nationals arrested four or five months ago—a French student, M. Leclaux, and a secretary at the Consulate in Wrocław (Breslau). Parcels of food and clothing sent to them both by the French Embassy have just been returned.

In the course of a visit to M. Leszczycki, the Polish Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, I. Baelen, the French Ambassador in Warsaw, protested that neither the Press nor the radio in Poland had made known any but the Polish version of the recent events. None of the French statements or protests was quoted. In conclusion M. Baelen said: "I hope your Government will take thought before any reparable acts are committed."

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De wereld en wij

„Spionnage”

De Europese diplomatieke wereld heeft er weer eens een probleem bij gekregen: het Frans-Poolse geschil. Begonnen met de gevangenneming van de Franse consulaire ambtenaar André Robineau door de Poolse autoriteiten, is deze politieke kaatsbal aan het rollen gegaan en tot dusver nog niet tot stilstand gekomen. Wat er ook moge gebeuren, over de toekomstige betrekkingen tussen beide landen kan men zich nog maar weinig illusies meer maken. Polen en Frankrijk hadden tot nog toe een zo ongeveer 25-jarig vriendschapsverdrag lopen. Het heeft er alle schijn van dat het met deze „vriendschap” spoedig gedaan zal zijn.

Het is een merkwaardig verschijnsel, dat er in het Oosten steeds onaangenaamheden gebeuren met diplomaten. Le Monde, het invloedrijke Parijse blad, gematigd en vrijwel steeds goed geïnformeerd, heeft zich dezer dagen met dit probleem - de positie van de Westerse diplomaten achter het IJzeren Gordijn — bezig gehouden. Het blad meent het Frans-Poolse conflict te moeten bezien in het licht van vroegere incidenten op dit gebied en nog van vrije recente datum. In Warschau zijn reeds eerder employés in buitenlandse dienst gearresteerd en veroordeeld „wegens spionnage”.

Men moet het verschil in interpretatie van het woord „spionnage” thans blijkbaar zoeken in de omstandigheid, dat het Westen daaronder verstaat „het zien te weten te komen van militaire geheimen” en het Oosten het uitlegt als „elke activiteit — op welk gebied ook — dat het regiem niet aan staat”. Als men politieke informatie verschafft, die de censuur geschrapt zou hebben, wel, dan is men schuldig aan spionnage. Inlichtingen over economische gegevens, die niet officieel van het ministerie komen zijn „staatsgevaarlijk”. Zelfs de weerberichten, zoals blijkt uit een Sovjet-wet van 1947.....

Polen heeft zijn wetten in deze geest aangepast. De satelliet-staten, met de Sovjet-Unie aan het hoofd, willen nu eenmaal niet, dat er iets gepubliceerd wordt — doet er niet toe over welk onderwerp — dat

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FRANCO-POLISH REPRISALS

AMBASSADOR'S WARNING TO HIS STAFF

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

PARIS, Nov. 27

The war of reciprocal arrests which has been embittering Franco-Polish relations for the last week shows no sign of abating. In the early hours of Saturday the Polish authorities tried to arrest the French Ambassador's secretary, Mlle. Loisel, and only the personal intervention of M. Baelen, the Ambassador, appears to have saved her. It is reported that he has now instructed his staff to resist by force, if necessary, any intrusion.

It was on November 8 that M. Robineau, an employee at the French consulate at Stettin, was arrested on a charge of alleged espionage, as he was about to take a Polish aircraft to Paris. Since then no French representative has had any contact with M. Robineau, whose supposed "confession" was played on a gramophone record by the Polish authorities to journalists in Warsaw. The following day three more French consular employees were arrested in Danzig, and on November 25 the French Vice-Consul in Warsaw and two secretaries were arrested.

Meanwhile in Paris the French police arrested a military secretary of the Polish Embassy on November 22, and the next day arrested also the Polish vice-consul in Lille on a charge of alleged espionage. On November 24 the police raided two buildings in which Polish organizations are housed and, as a result of their findings, expelled 17 Polish nationals for activities against the French State. Nine more Polish nationals, including a member of the Polish Consulate at Marseilles, were expelled on November 25.

INDIGNANT NOTES

A series of indignant Notes have passed between the two Governments. The Poles have accused the French of carrying out a campaign of terror against Polish citizens and institutions in France solely for the purpose of reprisals for the arrest of M. Robineau. The French reply to this maintains that the circumstances of M. Robineau's arrest and present detention are contrary to the letter and spirit of the Franco-Polish convention of 1925. There is no relation, the Note adds, between the Polish arrests of French citizens and the French arrests of Polish citizens. The Polish military secretary who was arrested was not on the diplomatic list and did not have diplomatic immunity.

As for the expulsions, the Quai d'Orsay said that the activities of certain Polish organizations in France had for a long time been occupying the attention of the French authorities. In any case, where recourse to the law was involved, the accused Poles would have the benefit of all the guarantees in current use in a democratic country.

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H. V. D.

More Franco-Polish Reprisals

Warsaw Protest Rejected

From PETER WHITNEY

PARIS, November 26

THE Poles and the French have reached a serious stage of diplomatic tension in their series of reprisals, which began just over a week ago with the arrest of a French Vice-Consul on charges of espionage in Warsaw.

This afternoon the French Government released the text of a Note rejecting the Polish Government's protest at the summary expulsion of Polish officials from France. The French Note describes the arrest of M. André Robineau, the French Vice-Consul at Stettin, as "contrary to the spirit of the Franco-Polish agreement of 1925 and the Declaration of the Rights of Man of the Assembly of the United Nations."

To-day, the expulsion of nine more Polish residents, mostly occupied in so-called "welfare" activities among their compatriots in France, was announced by the Minister of the Interior. Seventeen were expelled on Friday.

27 Expelled

At the same time it is announced that the secretary of the Polish Military Attaché, Lieut. Myszkowski, who was arrested on suspicion of espionage on Wednesday, has been given a visa and allowed to leave the country. The total of Poles expelled thus rises to 27 in the week.

One Pole remains in prison in France—presumably as hostage for the release of M. Robineau. He is the Polish Vice-Consul at Lille, Mr. Sczerbinski, who is charged with espionage. He is the only one of the series of Poles seized so far who has actual diplomatic status.—Copyright.

Escape With Envoy's Aid

WARSAW, November 26

POLAND'S acting Foreign Minister to-day told the French Ambassador here that the Polish authorities had ordered the arrest of a French Vice-Consul and two French Embassy employees in Warsaw in reprisal for the arrest of the Polish Vice-Consul at Lille.

The French Vice-Consul involved, he said, was M. Martial Boite. The two Embassy employees are women.

General Grosz, the Government spokesman, said the Polish Government had reluctantly felt obliged to apply reprisals for the Sczerbinski arrest. He said that M. Boite's activities had been known to the Polish authorities for a long time, but in spite of that his diplomatic immunity had been respected.

A French Embassy spokesman to-day described how the intervention of the French Ambassador early this morning stopped two Polish police from arresting a member of the Embassy staff, Mme Helene Loisel. Mme Loisel was awakened by two policemen, but slammed the door and telephoned the French Embassy. The Ambassador hurried to her home and got her away down an unguarded staircase, while an attaché held the policemen in conversation. Mme Loisel was driven to the Embassy and will remain there.—Reuter.

Security Grip Tightening

By A Special Correspondent

AN intensified campaign is in progress in Poland to seal off strategic areas and Red Army bases from the eyes of foreign observers. The number of Russian troops in the country is reported to be on the increase.

At Szczecin (Stettin) a large part of the port is still under Russian control and closed even to Poles. Wroclaw (Breslau) is a major base for the Red Army. An hour's journey from Wroclaw are the uranium mines controlled by the Russians. Lwow is also under Russian domination.

The Russians and Polish police keep a strict watch on the Baltic shore. The security police have a hand in the running of the night clubs and more important local restaurants—which have been taken over by the State—and keep a close watch on officers and men from foreign ships.

Fishermen are compelled to register before sailing and to give full details not only of men on the boat but of fuel and provisions taken. The tendency is to keep fishermen together, and they are frequently accompanied by police when they go to sea.

The arrests of French representatives are only a part of this security campaign.—Copyright.

DEEL NO.
ONT: *Volkskrant*
DATUM: *26-11-49*
PAR: _____

Franse razzia op Poolse „spionnen”

PARIJS, 24 Nov. (A.P.). — De Franse politie heeft 25 Polen gearresteerd onder beschuldiging van spionage. Onder de gearresteerden bevinden zich de Poolse vice-consul van Rijsel en de secretaris van de Poolse militaire missie in Frankrijk, luitenant Myszkowski. Een grote hoeveelheid documenten is in beslag genomen en wordt thans in het Frans vertaald. Zeventien Polen zijn reeds per bus naar de grens gebracht en het land uitgezet.

De Franse consul in Stettin (Polen) is naar Frankrijk teruggeroepen, omdat hij in twee Poolse kranten had geschreven, dat de gevangen genomen Fransman Robineau geen lid was van zijn consulaat. De Franse regering zegt, dat Robineau wel consulaire beambte is.

French Jail Pole as Spy, Expel 17

Lille Vice-Consul Held for Espionage

Polish Bureaus in Paris Raided; Police Whisk Group Across Frontier

By Stephen White

Franco-Polish relations, strained since the arrest in Warsaw last week of a French consular official worsened yesterday with a French announcement that a Polish consular official had been arrested for espionage and that seventeen Polish citizens had been expelled from the country.

In Warsaw, the Polish government delivered a note to the French government even before these two latest steps were announced. It demanded the immediate release of thirteen Polish citizens detained by French police, and threatened to take "such action as it deems necessary" if the demand is not complied with. The note accused the French of "brutal repression."

The French Ministry of the Interior announced last night the arrest of Joseph Szczerbinski, Polish Vice-Consul at Lille, on charges of espionage. A spokesman said that investigations had shown the existence of an important espionage ring in that industrial city, and that the police were continuing their roundup. "That is all," he added, "for the moment."

Raid Offices in Paris

Earlier, in announcing the expulsion of seventeen Poles, the ministry said in a communique that the action was the fruit of early-morning raids on Thursday on Polish offices in Paris. "Documents that were seized established the activity of these establishments," the communique said, "which in fact were actually organizations, for economic and social sabotage and were carrying on an active campaign against the Republican institutions of our country."

The expelled Poles, according to the Quai d'Orsay, were driven to the Belgian frontier during the night, deposited on the Belgian side, and told not to be seen in France again. They included Arja Kowalski, editor of the "Polish Gazette"; Etienne Stec, president of the National Polish Council in France; and Mrs. Marta Molejec, who was identified as "being in charge of watching her compatriots who are hostile to the present Warsaw government."

French Charge Hostile Acts

According to the communique, the organizations to which these men and women belonged, as well as the Polish Red Cross, the Polish Youth Association and the Polish Boy Scouts, had been engaged "over a long period" in activities hostile to the French government, and had been under surveillance during that time. The note spoke also of raids on Polish offices in other parts of France, but did not specify the locales.

The French actions apparently represent the outcome of long governmental impatience with the activities of "cultural organizations" within France representing Soviet satellite countries—impatience that was strained to the breaking point with the sudden arrest of André Simon Robineau. In view of the speed and the accuracy with which the French have acted, it is probable that they have been ready to act for some time. Polish actions have made it possible for them to assume an air of righteous wrath as they do so.

The note, delivered in Warsaw to Ambassador Jean Baelen, listed thirteen men and women as having been arrested in "police actions directed against Polish citizens." Mr. Kowalski and Mr. Stec appeared on the list, but otherwise there was no duplication.

Note Is Outspoken

It was, from start to finish, an outspoken note, and as released to the press in Paris it was supplemented by a few sentences spoken by the Polish official spokesman, Victor Grosz.

"According to information arriving at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs," the note began, "a great and widespread police operation is being carried out in France against citizens and democratic Polish organizations which rendered very great services in the battle for French liberation."

After discussing the arrests and listing those who are being held, the note continued: "The blow, directed against democratic Polish organizations in France and their directors, who did not withhold their blood in the battle for the liberation of France and who are today taking an active part in the reconstruction of France, cannot fail to arouse Polish public opinion."

"The arbitrary acts committed by the French authorities will, moreover, provoke great bitterness in each Pole, since they recall the methods that were so bitterly suffered during the occupation of Poland. This is all the more evident if one takes into consideration the fact

that the French police set a trap at the Polish Red Cross in Paris in order to arrest doctors and sick Poles who were there to receive medical attention.

"The Polish government protests in the most energetic fashion against the proceedings of the French authorities. The Polish government awaits the immediate release of the arrested employees and citizens. Otherwise the Polish government reserves the right to take such action as it deems applicable and necessary."

To this Mr. Grosz added in Warsaw: "The Polish government has acted only against the guilty, and had made the charges public. The French government, on the contrary, has acted against the innocent."

"The Polish government will not spare its efforts to defend its employees and its citizens who are victims of this insolent conduct on the part of French authorities."

The French government announced briefly yesterday that Maurice Rivoire, French Consul in Stettin had been recalled to Paris for "information." M. Rivoire, the Poles reported Thursday, had addressed a letter to two Polish newspapers in which he stated that M. Robineau had not been, as the French assert, a consular official in his office but merely a "Paris loafer."

It was the arrest of M. Robineau, as he was about to board a Paris-bound Polish plane last Friday, that set off the entire conflict. M. Robineau was arrested by Warsaw police, but no attempt was made to notify the French Embassy, and the circumstances of the arrest suggested that it was meant to be kept secret.



A.V.S.

C 8

BOUR. No. 1
 DEV. : *Figaro*
 DATE: 26-11-49
 PAR. :

R.V.D.

Après l'arrestation de M. Miszrowski Inculpé d'espionnage, le consul de Pologne à Lille a été incarcéré hier soir Dix-sept autres Polonais ont été expulsés

A la fin de l'après-midi d'hier, la Sûreté nationale annonçait officiellement qu'au cours des opérations menées à Lille, le vice-consul de Pologne dans cette ville, M. Joseph Szerbinski, avait été arrêté, inculpé d'espionnage et écroué à la prison.

Hier soir, le ministère de l'Intérieur a, d'autre part, publié le communiqué suivant :

Les services de la Sûreté nationale ont procédé, le 24 novembre, à Paris et en province, à des perquisitions dans les locaux occupés par des associations polonaises et ont interpellé un certain nombre de ressortissants polonais dont l'activité était suivie depuis longtemps. C'est ainsi que les locaux du Conseil national polonais, des Polonais en France, de l'Association « Grunwald » (Jeunesse polonaise), de l'Association O.P.O. (Aide à la patrie), de l'Association Z.P.H. (Scouts polonais) et de l'Union des femmes polonaises ont fait l'objet de perquisitions.

Les documents saisis établissent l'activité de ces organisations, qui constituaient, en fait, de véritables organisations de sabotage économique et social et menaient une vive campagne contre les institutions républicaines de notre pays.

Dix-sept des personnes interpellées ont été expulsées de France. Parmi elles se trouvent les nommés Arja Kowalski, rédacteur en chef de la *Gazetta Polska* à Paris et membre de l'O.P.O. (Aide à la patrie); Mme Marta Molojec, chargée de surveiller ses compatriotes hostiles à l'actuel gouvernement de Varsovie; Etienne Stec, président du Conseil national des Polonais en France; Mme Lucia Beinbrecht, secrétaire générale de l'Union des femmes polonaises; Eljiaz Szurek, employé à l'ambassade de Pologne à Paris; Nicolas Kaplun, membre du bureau d'informations polonaises; Joseph Czekak, secrétaire général du Conseil national des Polonais en France.

Enfin on laisserait filtrer quelques autres renseignements, notamment que le Conseil national polonais, organe fédérateur, installé en France, comptait en juillet 1948 100.000 membres sur les 400.000 Polonais demeurant dans notre pays, notamment dans le Nord, le Pas-de-Calais, la région de Saint-Etienne et l'est de la France.

Ce même organisme ne groupe plus maintenant que 25.000 adhérents.

On ajoutait que Mme Marta Molojec, qui avait la délicate mission de surveiller ses compatriotes anti-communistes, avait donné comme profession de camouflage : institutrice privée.

Les familles des personnes expulsées au cours de la nuit pourront regagner la Pologne quand elles le voudront.

[On fait remarquer que l'opération de police a été en partie motivée par le fait qu'avant les dernières grèves de Saint-Etienne la Croix-Rouge polonaise avait accumulé des vivres qui ont servi à

soutenir le mouvement gréviste dans cette région.]

La Pologne proteste

Une note du gouvernement polonais protestant « avec véhémence » contre les récentes arrestations de citoyens polonais en France a été remise jeudi soir à M. Jean Baelen, ambassadeur de France à Varsovie. Le gouvernement polonais demande la libération immédiate de ses ressortissants et se réserve, dans la négative, le droit de « prendre toute mesure qu'il jugera utile ».

Le Quai d'Orsay est en train de rédiger une réponse à cette note.

Ajoutons que, d'ores et déjà, trois citoyens français, MM. Lipinski, Pasrat et Sienoida, résidant à Gdansk (Dantzig), ont été, selon des informations reçues du consulat français de cette ville, arrêtés par la police locale dans la nuit du 19 au 20 novembre. Aucun d'eux n'occupait de fonctions officielles.

D'autre part, on indique de même source qu'une vingtaine de perquisitions ont été opérées chez d'autres Français de Gdansk.

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1949, Nov. 25
 NEW YORK TIMES
 DATE: 25-11-49
 PAGE: 1

R.V.D.

PARIS POLICE RAID OFFICES OF POLES

Files of Red Cross, Boy Scouts
and Veterans' Organizations
Are Seized for Scrutiny

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

PARIS, Nov. 24—The Paris offices of the Polish Red Cross, Boy Scouts and veterans' organizations were raided today by territorial surveillance agents of the Surêté Nationale, who seized files for scrutiny and detained ten Polish nationals for questioning. The Poles were later released.

An Interior Ministry spokesman said the action had no relation to the recent detention of André Simon Robineau, French Consulate employe in Warsaw, or to the arrest on Tuesday of a secretary in the Polish military attaché's office in Paris. He said the raids had been prompted by suspiciously multifarious activities of the Polish organizations in view of the smallness of the Polish colony here.

At the same time a Foreign Ministry spokesman confirmed an earlier report that the Polish Vice Consul in Lille, A. M. Szczerbinski, and "about ten other Polish nationals" had been apprehended in different parts of France for questioning on suspicion of espionage.

The impression in Paris tonight was that France was operating on the principle that one bad turn deserved another and was determined to give Poland a dose of her own medicine, at least until the case of M. Robineau, presumably now awaiting trial in Warsaw on espionage charges, had been cleared up.

The exchange of petty unpleasantnesses between the two countries continued unabated today.

The Polish Information Bureau released the text of a letter attributed to Maurice Rivoire, French Consul in Stettin (Szczecin) and addressed to the editor of the newspaper Glos Szczecinski (Voice of Szczecin) in which the French official allegedly declared that M. Robineau was a "completely undisciplined youngster" and had never been a member of the consulate staff but only "a guest."

This assertion was flatly denied by a French Foreign Office spokesman who said that M. Robineau was a duly appointed consular agent whose official status had been recognized by the Polish authorities. He declined to comment on the letter attributed to M. Rivoire beyond noting that consuls usually wrote to their Governments, not to newspapers, and that the Foreign Ministry had received no letter from the French Consul in Stettin relating to M. Robineau.

In the National Assembly today the Communist Deputy, François Billoux, caused an incident by siding with Poland. Foreign Minister Robert Schuman and a number of others walked out of the chamber in protest when M. Billoux asked how long the Government intended to turn its embassies and consulates into "spying dens."

Warsaw Reacts Swiftly

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WARSAW, Nov. 24—The Polish Government reacted swiftly tonight to the arrest of its nationals in France and promised that it would "spare no efforts in the defense of its citizens and Embassy employes who fell victims to unheard-of behavior of the French authorities."

In special communiqués issued late tonight by the Foreign Office spokesman, Victor Grosz, Poland accused France of breaking the consular convention between the two countries and contravening international law.

All Warsaw newspapers featured today a letter attributed to the French Consul in Szczecin, Maurice Rivoire, disclaiming all association with M. Robineau.

C 8

BOOK No. 1
 CITY: *New York Times*
 DATE: *24-11-49*
 PAGE: _____

R.V.D.

4 POLISH AIRMEN RELEASED IN PARIS

French Authorities Free Group
Held After the Arrest of Aide
in Embassy in Warsaw

PARIS, Nov. 23—The four Polish airmen who had been detained for questioning by French authorities here since Sunday in connection with the disappearance and subsequent disclosure of the arrest of André Simon Robineau, French Consulate employe in Warsaw, were allowed to return to Poland in their plane today.

There were indications, however, that the alleged espionage activities in France "involving nationals of Eastern European countries" were still under investigation by the Territorial Surveillance Services of the Surêté Nationale. Despite official reticence, the newspaper Figaro hinted that "two or three arrests" already had been carried out.

Meanwhile the Polish news agency in Paris declared that a Lieutenant Myszkowski, described as an orderly officer to Col. Ignacy Butowski, Polish Military Attaché, had been yesterday arrested by the French police and that the Polish Ambassador, Jerszy Putrament, had lodged a strong protest with the French Foreign Office on the ground that the lieutenant's diplomatic immunity had been violated.

A spokesman for the Foreign Office disclaimed any knowledge of the incident. Lieutenant Myszkowski's name does not figure on the official diplomatic list. Circles close to the Surêté indicated that secretary in the Polish Military Attaché's office, and not Lieutenant Myszkowski, had been arrested.

In a note delivered last night to the Polish Embassy, the French Foreign Ministry held that Polish authorities were solely to blame for detention here of the four Polish airmen because of their contradictory statements as to the whereabouts of M. Robineau.

It was indicated that the French Government did not consider the affair closed. Foreign Ministry sources maintained that the recorded "confession" played on Monday for the benefit of news correspondents in Warsaw by Victor Grosz, Polish Foreign Office spokesman, did not constitute valid evidence of M. Robineau's guilt.

These sources continued to assert that rather than resorting to the procedure described as "strange, to say the least," Polish authorities had only to allow the French Ambassador, Jean Baelen, to see M. Robineau.

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DOSS. No. 1
REV. : <i>Figaro</i>
DATE: <i>23-11-49</i>
PAR. 1

R.V.D.

LE GOUVERNEMENT FRANÇAIS ne laissera pas sans réponse le traitement infligé à M. Robineau

25 L'état physique de celui-ci serait *25*
très « déficient » après son « interrogatoire »

LE FIGARO a fait part, hier, de l'indignation suscitée à Paris par la nouvelle de l'arrestation à Varsovie de M. Robineau.

A mesure que les renseignements parviennent ici, l'émotion ne cesse de grandir, tant dans les milieux officiels que dans le public. Disons tout de suite que le gouvernement français semble fermement décidé à réagir.

En arrêtant M. Robineau, le cabinet de Varsovie a délibérément violé la convention franco-polonaise du 30 décembre 1925, qui reste toujours en vigueur. Aux termes de cette convention, M. Robineau est couvert par le statut consulaire. Lorsqu'il a été nommé secrétaire de consulat, sa nomination a été dûment signalée aux autorités polonaises et M. Robineau avait reçu la lettre de légitimation réglementaire. Si cette convention admet, dans certains cas bien définis, l'arrestation d'un agent consulaire (notamment lorsque le délit imputé à celui-ci entraîne une peine minimum de cinq ans de prison), ses chefs directs doivent être immédiatement mis au courant.

Or ni l'ambassadeur de France ni le consul français à Stettin n'ont appris l'arrestation de M. Robineau autrement que par l'intermédiaire de M. Robineau père, le cabinet de Varsovie n'ayant pas jugé nécessaire de les en avertir.

Du point de vue humanitaire, l'attitude du gouvernement de Varsovie est inqualifiable. Le refus opposé à la demande de l'ambassadeur de France de s'entretenir avec l'inculpé semble avoir pour motif l'état physique déficient de M. Robineau après l'interrogatoire au cours duquel ce dernier aurait fait des « aveux spontanés ».

Plus que jamais, l'opinion publique française doit exiger la présence d'un avocat français, tant au cours de l'instruction qu'au procès. Même si le tribunal communiste polonais refuse à l'avocat français le droit de plaider, ce défenseur doit pouvoir assister M. Robineau et, par sa présence, empêcher l'emploi des procédés « en honneur » dans les pays totalitaires pour faire parler les victimes.

L'aspect international de l'affaire

Dans l'espoir de sauver les deux Français arrêtés, il y a quelque cinq mois, le gouvernement français n'avait pas jugé bon de grossir cet incident, mais il n'en va pas de même pour l'affaire Robineau, qui semble devoir prendre des proportions internationales.

D'autant plus qu'une affaire analogue se déroule en Chine communiste, où le consul américain Ward a été arrêté par la police de Mao Tse Toun. M. David Bruce, ambassadeur des Etats-Unis à Paris, a remis au Quai d'Orsay, dans la nuit de lundi à mardi, une note de son gouvernement relative au cas Ward. Cette note, qui paraît être un appel à la solidarité internationale en vue de régler une fois pour toutes le problème des rapports diplomatiques avec les pays totalitaires, ne saurait rencontrer qu'un accueil favorable auprès du gouvernement français, dont le point de vue officiel à ce sujet sera probablement connu d'ici peu.

D'autre part, on croit savoir que la question viendra devant l'O.N.U.

M. Bd.

C S

1949
CITY: N.Y. Herald Tribune
DATE: 22-11-49
PAGE: 1

R.V.D.

French Call Spy Charge Unfounded

Poland's Allegation Is Denied in Paris

Arrest of Consular Agent Was Linked by Poles To Purported Espionage

By William J. Humphreys

Poland's reported arrest of a French consular agent and its expulsion of two officials of the French Embassy in Warsaw were viewed in Paris last night as proof of a Soviet campaign to force the Western nations to reduce their eastern European missions to skeleton staffs, incapable of ordinary diplomatic activities.

At the same time, the French Foreign Ministry denied categorically the Polish government's charges that the reason for the arrest and expulsions was the discovery of a large spy ring based in the French Embassy in Warsaw.

Straining Franco-Polish relations still further, the Foreign Ministry also announced that repeated inquiries into the unexplained disappearance of two French nationals four months ago had produced only "evasive" answers from the Warsaw government.

U.S. Also Affected

The two missing French citizens were a Mlle. Bassaler, an employee of the consulate in Breslau, and a M. Decaux, a student, according to a ministry spokesman.

Meanwhile, informed French quarters explained the aggressive Polish policy as the result of a Soviet-inspired aim to harass and embarrass out of the satellite states "every Western observer, like military, trade and cultural attachés."

France was not the first Western country to feel this treatment, it was pointed out. The United States already has been asked to recall diplomatic representatives on the basis of similar accusations.

Want to Cut Legations

As seen in Paris, the objective of the Moscow line was to strip down the Western embassies and legations to envoys and a handful of departmental chiefs. The missions would be denied the advantages of technical observers, particularly those fluent in the Slavic languages and best capable of evaluating conditions.

In reply to the "unfounded" Polish accusations of spying, the French police have been instructed to detain six crew members of a Polish passenger plane on which André Simon Robineau, Assistant Attaché at the French Consulate in Stettin, was to have arrived in Paris last Saturday.

Plane Still Is Held

M. Robineau was said to have been arrested before his departure from Warsaw as a member of the alleged spy system. Despite strong protests from the Polish Embassy here, the plane crew still was being held under surveillance in Paris last night. Its members are free to walk about Paris with a police escort.

They and their plane are not to be allowed to leave Paris, according to present indications, until Warsaw explains M. Robineau's reported arrest to Jean Baelen, French Ambassador to Poland. Contrary to diplomatic practice, the ambassador was denied the right to have a representative present when M. Robineau reportedly made a "confession" to Polish authorities.

The plane's crew, it had been reported originally, was held on charges of homicide. But now they are technically wanted for further questioning. Some members said M. Robineau was on the plane when it left Warsaw, while others contradicted this story.

28 20

1932, No. 1
 CONT. Daily Telegraph
 DATED: 21-11-49
 PAGE: 1

R.V.D.

FRENCH AGENT CONFESSED SPY, SAY POLES ARRESTED LEAVING WARSAW AIRPORT

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT
 PARIS, Sunday.

A Polish Note, the text of which was issued here to-night, alleges that M. Andre-Simon Robineau, a French Consular agent, who was arrested yesterday in Warsaw, had confessed to "espionage activity" and would be tried.

The Note added that two members of the French Embassy were implicated. It demands their immediate withdrawal.

M. Robineau was arrested as he was about to board a plane for Paris. His father who was at the airport, was assured by a security officer that M. Robineau had boarded the plane.

When the plane landed at Le Bourget without him it was assumed that he might have disappeared during the flight. The crew were detained for questioning. They were released this evening, but will be kept under police supervision until Paris has received an assurance from the French Ambassador, M. Baelen, that M. Robineau is alive.

M. Baelen has been refused permission to see him. A French Foreign Office spokesman stated to-night that no comment could yet be made, but that developments were expected to-morrow.

POLISH NOTE

The Polish Note was handed by Dr. Leszczynski, Deputy Foreign Minister, to M. Baelen after M. Robineau's arrest. It states:

The Polish authorities have discovered espionage activity conducted in Poland by some responsible officials of the French Embassy and Consulates in Poland. Consequently on Nov. 18, M. Robineau, an official of the French Consulate at Szczecin (the former German Baltic port of Stettin) was arrested at the very moment when he was trying to leave Polish territory by air.

M. Robineau has confessed to his espionage activity and will be judged by a tribunal of the Polish Republic.

Documents found by the Polish authorities show that espionage activities are also carried on by the following members of the French Embassy: M. Aymar de Brossin de Mere and Fernand Reneaux.

This has been confirmed by the statements made by M. Robineau and also by those of other persons who have been implicated in the espionage activities by the French officials.

The Polish Government recalls that five months ago employees of the French Consulate at Wroclaw (Breslau) were arrested. They will be tried.

The Polish Government informs the French Government that it considers espionage activity by members of the French Embassy and Consulates in Poland to be absolutely inadmissible.

It asks the French Government to take all the appropriate measures to put a stop to such activity. At the same time the Polish Government demands that MM. Aymar de Brossin de Mere and Fernand Reneaux, unmasked as having taken part in espionage activities, leave the territory of the Polish Republic immediately.

A Warsaw report to-night states that M. Fernand Reneaux, who was an Embassy interpreter, had been arrested but later released.

The crew of seven of the plane on which M. Robineau was to travel was held at Le Bourget and later removed to the Paris H.Q. of the Surete Nationale. There they were interrogated all night by the Chief Commissioner, M. Chenevier.

The questioning was conducted on instructions from Judge Grenier, the examining magistrate, who was immediately ordered by the Public Prosecutor to open an inquiry against "X"—a person or persons unknown—on the assumption that a murder might have been committed in the plane.

A counsellor of the Polish Embassy here called this afternoon on M. Seydoux, head of the European Department of the French Foreign Office, and made an oral protest at the crew's detention. M. Seydoux replied that the measure was not a reprisal but was taken to clarify the affair.