

File #:

105-NY - 66954

Serial Scope:

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 2/17/65

1.

On February 9, 1965, Doctor WALTER GEORGE SIKORA advised that on the previous Thursday, February 4, 1965, he had had lunch at Ballantine's Restaurant, 1207 North Dearborn, Chicago, Illinois, with EUGENIUSZ PANEK, Attache, Polish Consulate-Chicago, and JOZEF ANCZURA, Consul, Polish Consulate-Chicago. Doctor SIKORA stated that this luncheon meeting lasted approximately 2½ hours from 12:00 noon to 2:30 p.m. He advised that this was the first time he had met ANCZURA and that EUGENIUSZ PANEK had requested that he be allowed to accompany them on this occasion as ANCZURA had expressed an interest in meeting and talking with Doctor SIKORA. (S)

Doctor SIKORA continued that his impression of ANCZURA was that of an intelligent and dedicated Communist and one who is very pro-Russian in attitude. Doctor SIKORA further advised that he had determined from ANCZURA that he has been employed for the past several years in the Visa and Passport Section of the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and he appeared to be well versed in all matters pertaining to this field. ANCZURA appeared rather reluctant to discuss freely much of his personal history and at one point, in response to a question by Doctor SIKORA as to what ANCZURA had done during the war, ANCZURA replied that Doctor SIKORA should not expect to find out everything about him during their first meeting. (S)

Doctor SIKORA stated further that ANCZURA was obviously aware of the fact that he, Doctor SIKORA, had been interrogated by the Polish Security Service (UB) during his visit to Poland in September, 1964. Doctor SIKORA explained that ANCZURA had remarked about his, Doctor SIKORA's, having had some slight difficulties with the "Bureau of Investigation" in Poland and he hoped that Doctor SIKORA would understand that it was necessary for the Polish Government to determine if persons visiting (S)

On 2/9/65 at Chicago, Illinois File # Chicago [105-5885] (S)
by SA EUGENE A. MC COSH/csm Date dictated 2/11/65
SA WILLIAM E. DUFF

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2.

CG [105-5885] (S)

Poland were engaged in activities against the interests of the Polish Government. Doctor SIKORA stated that he did not question ANCZURA further concerning his knowledge of the above interrogation as it appeared to him as though ANCZURA was attempting to make an apology for this having happened. Doctor SIKORA advised that he did, however, remind ANCZURA and PANEK that about half of the time he had been in Poland during this visit had been taken up by questioning and he therefore felt he was justified in being angry with this treatment. In addition, he stated he again brought up the subject of his visa having been refused by ADOLF KITA, Consul General, Polish Consulate-Chicago, telling them that he could not forgive KITA for having caused him this difficulty. ANCZURA then assured him that this would not happen again and that he, SIKORA, should drop in at the Consulate and see Consul General KITA on some Friday afternoon when the work at the Consulate is finished and they are relaxing there. (S)

Doctor SIKORA continued that during the conversation he recalls that ANCZURA had congratulated him on having opposed Senator GOLDWATER's candidacy for the Presidency and indicated that they were aware he had worked for President JOHNSON's election. Doctor SIKORA explained that for six weeks during the fall of 1964 he had been employed by the Democratic Party to be in charge of preparing Polish language material and advertisements for use on Polish language radio broadcasts in the United States during the presidential campaign. He explained that his name had appeared as such on certain letterheads of the Democratic Party during the campaign and he theorized that the Consulate had seen some letterhead or received information concerning his activities. Doctor SIKORA advised that he informed ANCZURA that he had been employed by the Democratic Party but that this did not necessarily indicate how he had voted. (S)

4.

CG [105-5885] (S)

in the future. In addition, ANCZURA furnished Doctor SIKORA with a Polish translation of an article written by IZABELIA ERBE, an editor of the German language newspaper "Abendpost" published in Chicago which appeared in that paper on December 17, 1964. According to ANCZURA this article contained several distortions of fact concerning conditions in Poland which the author allegedly observed during a recent trip to that area. ANCZURA requested that Doctor SIKORA attempt to correct these distortions and discredit ERBE during Doctor SIKORA's subsequent radio broadcasts in Chicago. To assist him in doing this ANCZURA provided Doctor SIKORA with a list of some criticisms of the article from the Polish point of view. Doctor SIKORA stated that he advised ANCZURA that he would read the article mentioned and consider ANCZURA's suggestions concerning it. (S)

Also during this conversation ANCZURA mentioned ANDREW KONDICH, a former editor of the "Abendpost" who had been fired for allegedly opposing pro-Nazi sympathies on the part of the paper. ANCZURA indicated that he was aware that KONDICH had prepared an anti-German article after leaving the "Abendpost" and that this article had been published in one of Chicago's Polish language newspapers. ANCZURA commented that KONDICH might have been useful to them but since he was no longer associated with the "Abendpost" his usefulness was therefore diminished. (S)

Doctor SIKORA mentioned to the interviewing Agents that he was acquainted with KONDICH as he, Doctor SIKORA, handles Polish language advertising for Trans World Airlines and that at one time Trans World Airlines had considered opening an office in Yugoslavia and KONDICH had been interested in handling Yugoslav matters in Chicago for Trans World Airlines. (S)

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Re: WALTER GEORGE SIKORA (S)

In regard to Mrs. Izabella Erbe, mentioned in the above interview, the following is noted: (S)

Mrs. Erbe, during the course of the interview conducted by Special Agents of the Chicago Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in December, 1964, concerning another matter, advised that she was born on October 10, 1922, in Czechoslovakia, and is of Sudeten-German background. She was previously married to Helnuth Erbe, a German national, who died in a Nazi concentration camp during World War II. Mrs. Erbe is currently married to Franciszek Przysiezny, an American citizen of Polish extraction. She is known professionally as Izabella Erbe and holds the position of City Editor of the Chicago German language newspaper, "Abendpost". (S)

Mrs. Erbe advised that in September, 1964, she called at the Polish Consulate, Chicago, to obtain a visa to travel to Poland to visit her husband's brother, Wladislaw Przysiezny, who lives in the town of Nanyslow in the province of Opole. Mrs. Erbe was interviewed for two hours in the office of a consul on the second floor of the Consulate. She identified a photograph of Jozef Anczura as being the person who interviewed her. At that time he told her that the Polish Government would consider issuing her a visa to travel to Poland if she would write nothing upon her return that would be critical of Poland. Anczura told her that following her trip to Poland, he wished she would call upon him again and he requested that she submit to him any articles that she might publish concerning her trip in Poland prior to their appearance in Chicago newspapers. Mrs. Erbe advised that she had no intention of submitting any articles to Anczura for his review prior to their publication. (S)

In September, 1964, CG T-2, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that the Polish Consulate, Chicago, requested permission of the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs to issue a visa to Izabella Olivia Przysiezny, born October 10, 1922, in Czechoslovakia, an official of a German newspaper in Chicago, who desired to visit her husband's brother in Poland. (S)

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Re: [WALTER GEORGE SIKORA] (S)

In regard to Andrew Kondich, mentioned in the above interview of Dr. Sikora, CG T-3, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised in November, 1964, that Kondich was a former editor of the Chicago German language newspaper, "Abendpost", who had been fired as an "intriguer". Kondich prepared an article for publication in the October, 1964 edition of the magazine, "Focus/Midwest", in which he alleged that the West German Government, with its embassy in Washington and its Consulate in Chicago, had sought to influence German American voters toward the political right and particularly the candidacy of Senator Barry Goldwater for President. Kondich also accused the West German Government of indirectly encouraging a rebirth of Nazism through various German American organizations and individuals in the Chicago area whom he stated had fascist histories. It was the opinion of this source that Kondich had purposely distorted the role of the West German Government in this matter and some of the individuals whom he describes as pro-Nazi have renounced any such sympathies long ago. Kondich, in his article, did describe the German American National Congress (DANK) as being pro-Nazi and certain individuals connected with the organization as being pro-Nazi and according to the informant, this description of them is at least partially accurate. The source has asserted that in his opinion Kondich is pro-communist and a "professional intriguer" who, while editor of the "Abendpost", was primarily concerned with exposing as many German American leaders as possible as being pro-Nazi. (S)

There follows a translation from Polish to English of the article which originally appeared on December 17, 1964, in the "Abendpost" [and was furnished by Anczura to Dr. Sikora:] (S)

"It is now our country, our children were born here"

"In the 3rd section of our report from our member editor - Izabella Erbe - who enjoyed, at the invitation of the Foundation for European Problems, 2 weeks in Germany, she gives her impressions of her trip from Berlin to Wroclaw which is temporarily under Polish administration.

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Re: WALTER GEORGE SIKORA (S)

"The train connection from Berlin to Posnan to Wroclaw was excellent. Probably more from curiosity than from a sense of obligation the Polish customers clerk inspected my baggage. He was friendly and shortly I realized that he was well informed about American conditions. In Poznan I got on the train bound for Wroclaw. First class was vacant and...dirty. Still worse appeared the more recessed places. Soon I had company. A railroad worker swearing like a trooper said: 'Our children don't have anything to eat, but still our government feeds well the children from Africa who come here'. His colleague was less friendly and quickly dragged the 'national traitor' from the compartment. Naturally, I did not catch a glimpse of him anymore...At the station in Wroclaw, in spite of the late hour, 1:00 in the morning, the traffic was lively. Several taxis (model Anno Domini) stood in front of the station. I contracted for one of them. The muddy streets were empty and deserted. We tried to obtain a room in four hotels. But all were either filled or due to my 'western appearance' I was left no choice but to go by taxi a distance of 46 Km to Namyslow. Relatives of my husband lived there. The arrival was such a great surprise, that in spite of a lasting fear as a result of hitting a tree during the taxi ride, it seemed very pleasant to me. I was greeted like Santa Claus. Even the smallest gift called forth from the 2 children wild Indian dancing. The arrival of an 'aunt from America' was equal here to winning the main prize in a lottery.

"During my 2 day stay I went sightseeing to several various neighboring villages which presented a troubled and desperate picture. Barns without siding - in order to have something to burn; coal out here is more costly than diamonds - in spite of the fact that the people are sitting on coal. The coal here, however, is intended for export or sold on the black market. The farms are, to be sure, wealthier - but this still remains from the Germans - and they require as well, a violent renovation.

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Re: WALTER GEORGE SIKORA (S)

They lack, however, cement and wood. New laws are passed forcing the Polish peasant to remodel the farms under penalty of 10,000 Zl. However, because they don't have the money, these same government officials laugh at this law.

"Children and the young do not want to remain in the country - they study with self-denial and dedication. Each would eventually like to become a university student. 'Because', it was said to me, 'have we anything to do here?' 'The Germans are returning here and driving us out'. At the same time it is emphasized: 'We will remain here, we will fight, it is our land, our children were born here.'

"The Biggest part of this population came here after World War II from Galicia, which was grabbed by the Soviets. These people knew nothing more than hard times and war after which came no better times for them. The Second World War brought for them new suffering. True, now they were furnished homes such as they had never had before, they were foreign and in their arrival they found the area as hostile as a volcano. They have been waiting 20 years almost for a determination of the question. For them, Silesia means an end to the long hard road. They do not want to go further and they live in darkness but they themselves do not realize it.

"The remuneration of the laborer and white-collar worker in Poland is unusually low and completely ridiculous in relation to the exorbitant prices. There are many things here which are defined in terms of 'luxury' but who can afford them. I could not get during the time of my stay, as an example, butter. Meat markets in Namyslow (Namslaw) were also bare. But among this one can see radios and TVs, furniture and other objects of household use. With indescribable yearning my sister-in-law showed me a small mixer produced in the German Democratic Republic. I would be afraid to beat the white of an egg with one of those. On the other hand, however, Namyslow is rebuilt. The city has a new school, which was proudly shown to me. The post

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Re: [WALTER GEORGE SIKORA] (S)

office was restored. However, water, as an example, is yellow, dirty and not fit for drinking. When I proposed to take a bath, I stood helplessly in front of yellow soup. I decided to escape from this to Berlin.

"There is much politicizing, loudly and heedlessly. Naturally the communists want to digress from this. The Polish press writes things of which one can merely be surprised.

"Of progress, nothing can be said, though in Poland, in spite of everything, there is much being built, the buildings are arising naturally in certain defined places, new cities and villages. With that there is a thirst to conserve in the face of need for reconstruction.

"The facade is well finished - but behind it lies not only the country but the whole nation, which suffers in chains.

"One prays and goes to church. It does not help though even today. The fate of this nation it seems to me is as gray as the sky over Wroclaw on the morning when I arrived here from Berlin. Not only for the Poles but likewise for the millions of Germans living there. I spoke with several in Poznan (Posen), 'It has never been worse for us than with the Poles, for many years one has not seen such hatred for the Germans'.

"With difficulty I carried my baggage when I detrained in Berlin at the Berlin zoo station. My relatives in spite of their destitution had filled them with gifts. Was I to tell them that such things as these we have much better? I was pleased and thanked them.

"However, still greater was my joy when I entered my room at the hotel in Kurfuerstendamm. My trip to Silesia was behind me."

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Re: WALTER GEORGE SIKORA (S)

The following is a translation of the comments furnished by Anczura to Dr. Sikora concerning the above article: (S)

In connection with the mixed-up article discussed in "Abendpost", it appears that: (S)

It was not the Poles who devastated the German forest economy but rather the Germans devastated the Polish forests during a period of five years occupation. From this actually is the trouble with building - from this the authoress of the article gets malicious enjoyment - hypocritically feeling sorry for the forests of the Polish peasant. (S)

It was the Germans who robbed Polish property, the treasures of Polish culture, gold and everything that had any value. They murdered besides this millions of people on Polish land - Poles, Jews and others. Has the government of the German Federal Republic restored anything to Poland - No. (S)

Murder, criminal and systematic biological destruction of the Polish nation was raised to official rank in politics. The authoress of the article should consider the matter of the Hitlerite criminals of which only a few received the deserved punishment. (S)

Today in the western and northern lands, immemorially Polish - almost half of the population - about four million - was born there and there is their right to the fatherland - in this manner, willingly we argue in retaliation. (S)

On February 19, 1965, Dr. Sikora advised Special Agents Eugene A. Mc Cosh and William E. Duff that he had on the previous Tuesday, February 16, 1965, telephonically contacted Jozef Anczura at the Polish Consulate - Chicago. Dr. Sikora stated that the ostensible purpose for this call to Anczura was to arrange for the niece of his secretary, who is visiting in the United States, to get an extension of her passport. Dr. Sikora stated that Anczura agreed to assist her in this regard and Dr. Sikora advised that she subsequently went to the Consulate, where she saw Anczura and obtained the extension without any difficulty or the usual wait. (S)

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Re: WALTER GEORGE SIKORA (S)

involved in such matters. Dr. Sikora mentioned that also during his conversation with Anczura he had told Anczura that he would get in touch with him again, possibly during the following week, but before he did so; he wanted to get some more information concerning Izabella Erbe from a Dr. Fredricks. Anczura indicated he was not acquainted with this person and stated abruptly that they could discuss this matter when they next saw each other. Dr. Sikora advised that it was apparent to him that Anczura did not want to discuss this matter over the telephone. (S)

Dr. Sikora advised that Dr. Fredricks is Dr. Henry Fredricks, President of the German-American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest. He stated he intends to contact this individual in the near future. (S)

Dr. Sikora further advised that with regard to Anczura's previous request that he respond to the "Abendpost" article and discredit Erbe during his subsequent radio broadcast, he stated he would not be inclined to do this on the basis of the suggestions made by Anczura as he felt these suggestions were not responsive to the criticisms in the article, but represented merely the usual line of anti-German propaganda from official Polish sources. In addition, Dr. Sikora stated he felt he could not make any comments on the radio concerning Erbe until he had first met with her. With regard to the "Abendpost" article itself, Dr. Sikora stated he felt the Polish translation from the German was not a correct one in that it was slanted so as to appear more critical than was the original article. Dr. Sikora stated he believes this was done purposely so that when it was sent to Warsaw it would create more interest there and make it appear as though the Consulate in Chicago was doing a good job in locating and responding to such attacks in the local German press. (S)

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