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August 27, 1944

Stalin's conversation with Boleslaw Bierut

Citation:

"Stalin's conversation with Boleslaw Bierut", August 27, 1944, Wilson Center Digital Archive, Polonsky, Antony and Boleslaw Drukier, eds. *Beginnings of Communist Rule in Poland*. (Boston: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1980) 268.

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Summary:

Stalin and Bierut discuss the treatment of the Poles and Polish sovereignty at the hands of the Soviets since 1937.

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan
Transcript - English

22 August 1944

A decree was adopted on supplies of milk, meat and hay.

Minc reported on talks with the USSR Trade Commissariat: (3)

In order to feed the population, the Poles had put forward the following monthly ration: 1 kg soap, 1 kg paraffin, 10 boxes matches. For the rest of this year: 3 m of calico cotton, 2 m suit cloth, 3 m bedding cloth, 1 pair of shoes for every second person, 1 jumper per family, 2 pairs of socks and 1 pair of stockings per person, 2 reels of thread per family. (4)

Bierut raised the matter of establishing trade relations with the outside world.

Józwiak was nominated commander of the Citizens' Militia (or possibly deputy security department head).

Drobner abstained in the vote.

27 August 1944

Raabe (5) was nominated director of the higher education division of the Education Department.

As regards helping Jews ... separate workshops must not be set up for them.

28 August 1944

Bierut's account of his audience with Stalin:

He brought up the problem of the arresting of Poles which must be settled properly since it infringes Polish sovereignty. He also raised the question of the arrest of the Polish émigrés in 1937. **Stalin** ordered a review of Polish affairs in the years 1934-39 and possibly their reappraisal.

Drobner moved a vote of thanks to **Bierut**.

Drobner raised the matter of industries in **Rzeszów**, and **Red Army** confiscations here, which did not however affect two aircraft factories which were under Soviet management.

Witos suggested sending a **PKWN** representative to **Lviv** to look after the Polish population.

NOTES

- 1 Previously unpublished.
- 2 The **PKWN** manifesto had asserted that the compulsory supply of agricultural goods by the peasantry established by the German occupying authorities would be abolished. Already, however, it was becoming

apparent that this rash promise would be fulfilled.

- 3 In these meetings the Poles had asked to the sum of 350 million roubles (**K** (Lublin, 1965), p. 184).
- 4 The introduction of rationing was the result of all, of the difficulty of compelling the Poles to deliver the agreed quotas of agricultural products, particularly given the large needs of the Polish and Soviet armies. (See documents 4 and 5)
- 5 **Henryk Raabe**, see biographical list

No. 30

MINUTES OF THE KRN PRESIDIUUM (EXTRACTS)

... **Zymierski** expressed his support for **Rawicz** and **Colonel Tarnawa** to the **KRN**.

NOTES

- 1 Previously unpublished.
- 2 **Colonel Tarnawa** was the commander of the security division (the chief of staff of the security division) (**Rada Obrony Narodowej**, Council of National Defense) (**CKL**, which in late August 1944 declared for the **PKWN** (T. **Jurgieliewicz**, 'Obrona' 22. VII. 44-9. V. 45' (Warsaw, 1965)

No. 31

MINUTES OF THE PKWN (EXTRACTS), 5 SEPTEMBER 1944

AURM

- I. Decree on Housing Committees passed.
- II. Land Reform Decree. (2)

Witos reported on the results of the land reform. ... If we apply the criteria we have adopted, making exceptions, we will not be able to give more than 5 hectares. When adding to the small farms, we should give small and dwarf farms. Newly created farms should be given on

28 August 1944

Bierut's account of his audience with Stalin:

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Drobner raised the matter of industries in Rzeszów, and Red Army confiscations here, which did not however affect two aircraft factories which were under Soviet management.

□Witos suggested sending a PKWN representative to Lvov to look after the Polish population.