

Intercepted telegrams from German MFA, April-May 1943

MOST SECRET.

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GERMAN PROPAGANDA INSTRUCTIONS.

No: 117150

Date: 5th May, 1943.

From: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, BERLIN.

To: All Stations.

No: 347. Circular.

Date: 14th April, 1943.

[German recypher].

The story of the finding of the bodies of 10,000 Polish officers in the wood at KATYN, given by the Press News Service on Tuesday evening, is to be given the widest publicity. The documentary evidence is to be so presented in commentaries, that it must be brought home not only to ENGLAND but to the whole [one group] world, what the peoples of EUROPE, delivered according to English and North American plans to the SOVIET UNION, could expect from a victorious, drunken, Soviet army of occupation.

The comments at to-day's meeting of the Foreign Press, and current reports from "Korrespondenz" regarding the opening of the mass grave and the identification of the bodies, are also being sent. Please telegraph as to the [? reaction in the press].

Agencies and correspondents are required to furnish full reports.

Please acknowledge receipt.

BRAUN von STUMM.

Director (2).
F.O.(3).

MOST SECRET.

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RUSSO-POLISH DISPUTE: GERMAN VERSION.

No: 117825

Date: 22nd May, 1943.

From: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, BERLIN.

To: All Stations.

No: Multex 459.

Date: 15th May, 1943.

[German recypher].

Verschlussache C.

For information and as a guide to conversation.

The discovery of mass-graves of Polish officers near SMOLENSK has caused an extraordinary sensation in world opinion and particularly in Polish emigré circles. Both the German Red Cross and the Polish emigré Government in LONDON referred the matter to the International Red Cross and asked that a delegation should be sent to investigate; but the Soviet Government, whose relations with the Polish emigré Government had for some time been very strained, principally on account of the question of POLAND's eastern frontier, used the opportunity to make capital for their own view that Eastern POLAND belonged to the SOVIET UNION, and also to disembarass themselves of the uncomfortable SIKORSKI Government; they therefore broke off diplomatic relations with the Polish emigré Government on 25th April 1943.

Against this resounding success of German propaganda the SOVIET had nothing to set but fairy-tales about "archaeological grave discoveries", and the lie, which has been refuted by official documents, foreign journalists, and neutral medico-legal authorities, that the Polish officers had been murdered by the Germans. The British and North American Governments recognised that the rupture of relations between the SOVIET UNION and the Polish emigré Government would have undesirable consequences,

not

Director (4).

not only for POLAND's relationship to the SOVIET UNION, but also for their own, and further that in view of the Atlantic Charter the effect on the smaller States would not be favourable; they therefore set themselves to work at once and made vigorous efforts to put an end to the conflict. As a result the Polish emigré Government published a declaration which was moderate in tone though its content was intransigent. It avoided the question of the International Red Cross being called on, but emphasised the integrity and unqualified sovereign rights of the Polish Republic, and referred to the Polish-Soviet agreements of 30th July, 1941, and 4th December, 1941; it also repeated earlier demands that the Poles now in the SOVIET UNION should be released and that action to help them should be continued.

Further mediation was rendered difficult because in the first place it was impossible to accede to the Polish point of view on the real question at issue, namely the eastern frontier of POLAND, without giving up one's own, further because the British Government had already admitted the Soviet ambitions on Eastern POLAND, and finally because the Soviet Government saw no kind of ground for renouncing its claims. These efforts produced nothing but an ambiguous observation by STALIN in a letter to the "Times" correspondent, and SIKORSKI's declaration on the subject, and these made no change in the fundamental attitude of the two parties. VYSHINSKI's aggressive pronouncement to representatives of the British and North American Press criticised the Polish Government for evacuating the Polish army from the SOVIET UNION, also on the ground of espionage by Polish officials, and also for approving the attempt of a group of Polish communists to organise a 'Polish Division' in the SOVIET UNION, but this rather complicated the position and provoked in ENGLAND and North AMERICA a feeling of bitter disillusion.

The Polish-Soviet conflict is a splendid example of the differences which exist between the Allies. The behaviour of the Soviet Government proves that its object is the bolshevisation of POLAND and indeed of EUROPE, and further that it is still pursuing its claim to the immediate hegemony of eastern and south-eastern EUROPE, and that when the Polish and other emigré Governments in LONDON entertain hopes of effective support from ENGLAND and the UNITED STATES, those hopes are a complete illusion.

Please acknowledge receipt.

[Encyphered signature]. STEINGRACHT.