

CONFIDENTIAL.

Digest of messages received between July 19th. and September 26th. 1944 in London from Poland on the Soviet authorities repressive measures against the Home Army and the Polish underground administration in Poland.

Date
of message:

- 19.7.1944. VILNA District: After a friendly meeting on the 15th. July between the Commander of the Vilna region of the Polish Home Army and General Chernyakhovsky, Soviet Commander of the White-Russian front, the Soviet authorities arrested on June 17th. Polish Home Army's staffs of the regions of Vilna and Novogrodek.
- 27.7.1944. KOCK-LUBARTOV District: On July 25th. the Soviet authorities started to disarm the 27th. Infantry Division of the Home Army which before the entry of Soviet troops captured the region Kock-Lubartov.
- 29.7.1944. LUBLIN District: The Polish Home Army Commanding Officer in Lublin reports on July 26th. that the Infantry Regiment in that region was disarmed by the Soviets. The O.C. the regiment was forced under threat of being shot on the spot to sign a declaration to enlist into Berling's Army. This incident occurred at Bykavki /Lublin district/.
- 1.8.1944. LUBLIN: On July 31st. the Province Delegate of the Government was summoned to see General Berling in Lublin about disarming the Polish Security Corps. Thence, under escort he was taken to the provincial National Council in Lublin, and then forced to proceed to Chełm to see General Zhukov, the representative of the Red Army with the National Committee of Liberation and the Home National Council in Chełm. General Zhukov issued an order forbidding him to work in his official capacity since the USSR does not recognise the Polish Government in London. He had no official conversations with the Home National Council. In view of the attitude of the Soviet Military authorities he was forced to suspend any official activities.
- 2.8.1944. LWOV District: Officers of the Home Army were summoned to report at 9 p.m. on July 31st. All who reported were arrested.
- 4.8.1944. LWOV District: Delegate of the Government was arrested to-day. A search was made in the home of the Chief of Staff for the District of Lwów. O.C. the District and others have been deported.
- 4.8.1944. LUBLIN and LWOV Districts, The bulk of the Home Army units have been disarmed. Those who came out into the open are prevented from carrying their functions.
- 4.8.1944. RADOM District: It is reported from Radom that the Soviets are taking prisoner soldiers of the Home Army and sending them on to Berling.

- 5.8.1944. LWOV District: About 30 officers of the Home Army who had been arrested on July 31st. after they came out into the open, when fighting in Lwów, have been imprisoned as "criminals and Polish fascists". Further arrests of soldiers of the Home Army and searches in houses which offered hospitality to these soldiers. The O.C. and the Delegate of the Government have not been set free. The NKVD are continuing the work of the Gestapo.
- 7.8.1944. LUBLIN District: On August 6th. an O.C. a unit of the Home Army was after he had fulfilled his task summoned to the quarters of the 121st Division of the name of Stalin and then to the Divisional Staff at Studzianka where he received orders to disarm his unit and transfer the men to a Berling's unit at Lublin.
- 10.8.1944. LUBLIN District: The O.C. District of Lublin, the District Delegate of the Home Army and their deputies were interned, after personal interrogation. The Organisation of the Home Army was investigated upon by four Soviet generals from Moscow.
- 11.8.1944. RADOM District: In spite of loyal collaboration of the Home Army and the help given to the Red Army, the attitude towards the Home Army is hostile and distrustful. The "Liberation Committee" is being made most of. The London Government is assailed with invectives. A mobilisation for Berling's Army is carried out in the Lublin District. We continue our diversive activities so as to help the Soviets.
- 12.8.1944. WILNO and LWOV Districts: All throughout the country arrests and disarming of the Home Army soldiers by the Soviets. Arrests cover the districts of Vilna, Lwów, Lublin, Novogrodek and Biała Podlaska. 60 officers were arrested in Lwów on July 31st.
- 13.8.1944. WARSAW Broadcast: All throughout the country - after the signal "Tempest" - arrests and disarming by the Soviets of the Home Army soldiers under false pretences. Until to-day the following have been arrested: O.C. Districts: Vilna, Novogrodek, Lublin; the O.C. the area of Lwów and "Pskowski" from the Staff of Lwów, the O.C. the 27th. Division of Infantry and the 3rd Infantry Division General Bitner, the O.C. the 9th. Infantry Division Lt. Col. Roman, Inspector in Biała Podlaska, Maj. Miller of the 35th. Infantry Division and many others.
- 14.8.1944. LUBLIN District: The 9th. Infantry Division is disarmed. General Halka interned. The O.C. the District of Lublin and the District Delegate of the Government are interned as from July 26th. The Soviets ascertain that they are in the hands of the "Liberation Committee". Further arrests of the Home Army soldiers and of the District Delegates who came out into open. Passive resistance of the population. Proclamations have been prepared concerning the taking over of the security administration by the citizens' militia.

14.8.1944.

LWOW District: The O.C. with the Staff and Officers who had been arrested are still in Lwów. They have been accused of:

- 1/ collaboration in the murder of 2 Soviet soldiers in Lwów,
- 2/ concealment of arms,
- 3/ terroristic action against the population.

The Soviet military prosecutor is carrying a suit against the District Delegate of the Government. The charges against him are not known. In all about 180 soldiers of the Home Army have been arrested.

16.8.1944.

RADOM District: Diversive activities helpful to the Soviets are continued in the Radom district. The attitude of the Home Army is hostile. Part of our unit in Minsk-Mazowiecki has been arrested. In the district of Lwów "voluntary" enlistment to the Army under compulsion. Men between 18-55 years of age and women up to 35 years of age have been deported from Tarnopol.

19.8.1944.

RZESZOW District: In Rzeszów mass arrests comprise not only the officers commanding the region of Rzeszów but also Staff Officers with families.

19.8.1944.

LUBLIN District: Mass arrests of the Home Army soldiers are carried throughout the district by the NKVD. The "Liberation Committee" complies with these measures. The people under arrest are kept in MAJDANEK. Among the prisoners are members of the Staff of the 8th. Army and 9th. Infantry Division with General Halka, about 200 officers and N.C.O's and some 2,500 men. The District Commander of the Home Army "Edward" and the Delegate of the Government "Cholewa" who are both interned since the 27th. July are to be tried under the charge of fascism and co-operation with the Germans. Mobilisation of the last four age groups and of all officers, N.C.O's and of the reserve up to 30-60 years has been proclaimed. Losses sustained by the Nation and the Home Army are proportionately no less than during the German occupation. Maltreatment goes as far as to the beating of the victims. We are again paying with our blood. By dint of terror and arrests the patience of the Polish population is exhausted, there may be uproars regardless of possible consequences. For their five years heroic fight against the Germans the Poles demand from the Allies the granting of combatant rights to the Home Army and the taking of the Homeland under the Allies protection by sending an Allied Mission to the liberated areas and informing the world about it. Passive resistance of the population is continuing. We want to fight against the Germans and come to the rescue of Warsaw. The silence of the Government is very alarming to us.

19.8.1944.

WARSAW Broadcast: From July 22nd. to July 24th. fighting went on in the district of Lublin. Our underground units fought alongside with the Red Army. After the taking of Lublin local O.C. the district and the Delegate of the Government came out into the open. As long as fighting was going on the relation of the Soviet O.C.'s towards our officers was correct and loyal. It deteriorated visibly as soon as the front moved westwards.

- 20.8.1944. LUBLIN District: It has been ascertained that a Soviet military commission for the investigation of anti-Soviet activities in Poland is working in Lublin. Their aim is to obtain evidence pointing out the allegedly anti-Soviet character of the activities of the Home Army and the Government administration. In consequence those members of the underground organisations who come out into the open are being arrested. The Commission is very large, with general Bogdanov at its head. Other members are - Major General Zhukov, liaison between the Red Army and the "Polish Liberation Committee", Col. Melnikov, Col. Strilov, Lt. Col. Ivanov, Capt. Stanisław Godlewski from Kiev, interpreter of the NKVD. The Commission covers its activities under the cloak of putting into orders Polish military affairs. To this end Berling's army serves as a pretext.
- 20/21.8.1944. LUBLIN District: Enlistment to Berling's army is proceeding under terror. Further mass arrests of members of the Underground Movement especially Socialist leaders are reported.
- 21.8.1944. WARSAW Broadcast: In the Bilgoraj and Krasnystaw districts registration of N.C.O's was ordered and general mobilisation decreed. All instructions issued by the "National Liberation Committee" are being carried out with the help of the NKVD. On August 14th. the O.C. the 34th. Infantry Division of the Home Army was arrested in Biała Podlaska and taken in an unknown direction.
- 28.8.1944. VILNA District: The units of the Polish Army in Vilna were disarmed and deported mainly to Kaluga. In Vilna several thousand civilians, men and women, were deported to Russia to forced labour. We are expecting mass deportations to Russia in the same way as in 1939.
- 31.8.1944. RZESZOW/District: of Cracow/: The "Committee of National Liberation" is experiencing considerable difficulty in carrying out elections, organising administrative and other institutions. It is seeking experts because the members of the Polish Workers' Party have no qualifications for such tasks. The NKVD is making investigations with a view to discovering the commanders of the Home Army, the ammunition stores, archives, secret printing presses, etc., and of establishing the attitude of the Poles towards the Government in London, the "Committee of Liberation", the Allies, the question of mobilisation and the problem of agricultural reform.
- 31.8.1944. LUBLIN District: Berling's army is composed of 4 infantry divisions. Higher and special positions are held by Soviet citizens. The Poles hold lower ranks, but their previous ranks are honoured. Men with high school education are sent to political courses.
- 1.9.1944. LUBLIN District: 200 officers and non-commissioned officers primarily detained in Majdanek /the well known Nazi "death factory" near Lublin/, were sent to Russia. The Polish Government's delegate and his assistant were deported to Kiev. Some of the soldiers have returned, but they refuse to say anything about their experiences.

- 3.9.1944. ZAMOSZ, Lublin district: The mobilisation decree issued by the "Committee of National Liberation" is being carried out in full. The people are offering determined resistance to it. The NKVD is exerting great pressure on them through arrests and deportations to Russia, it being hoped that this will overcome the resistance. It may be assumed that this will lead to unforeseen consequences and great unrest. On 27.8.1944 the detachments organised in the Warsaw sector were disarmed by force.
- 8.9.1944. PRZEMISL District: The recruits are sent to Jaroslav on foot and then on to Lublin. In some places near Stryj, Poles have been called up for the Red Army. In those places boys and old men are forced by the NKVD to join in the search for UPA detachments. Many people have been deported to Russia. Hunger and poverty are rife. The Soviet authorities are removing the Poles methodically from these areas. Their attitude towards the Poles is hostile, distrustful and selfconfident; worse than in 1939. In Lwów check-ups and arrests among the members of the Home Army are the order of the day, and lists are being made of persons who are to be forced to accept Soviet passports. Poles threatened by the NKVD are put on the lists of Soviet citizens despite their political-diplomatic game. There has been no reaction to the Allied recognition of the Home Army as a combatant force.
- 10.9.1944. WARSAW District: Two new separate camps have been set up among the marshes for arrested officers of the Home Army and civilians; one of the camps is at Kraskow-Włodawskie. Lt. G., from the Mińsk-Mazowiecki district, who has returned after being arrested by the NKVD and having been in Berling's army reports: "The NKVD force people at the revolver point to reveal the position of ammunition stores and the names of the commanders. The officers in Berling's army speak mostly in Russian. The leading staff posts are held by Russians. There is an atmosphere of great depression among the men. Out of 5,000 persons registered for call-up in Mińsk-Mazowiecki only about 1000 reported, and those tried to escape en route. The NKVD caught 800, 200 got away. The Germans have ordered a forced registration of men of 16-60 years of age in the Warsaw district. The people are trying to evade this.
- 13.9.1944. LWOV: The Lwów district is being rapidly emptied of its Polish population which is being replaced by Soviet nationals. Poles, conscripted up to the age of 36, are being sent to Jaroslav and thence to Majdanek where they exist in indescribable poverty, starving behind wires and under Soviet guard. The aim of this deportation is clear in the light of the agreement concluded between the "Polish Committee of National Liberation" and the USSR on September 9th., and published in the press. An exchange of the Polish population of the Ukraine and the Ukrainian population of Poland is to take place. This is a new blow dealt to the Poles and devised according to the German pattern. The Ukrainian Communist Party through its regional organs west of the Zbrucz is exercising pressure on Poles to leave and to co-operate with the "Polish

Committee of National Liberation". The results of this action are negligible for most of the public here, with very few exceptions, declare themselves in favour of the Polish Government in London. There are about 10,000 Jews in this region, and of those there are about 3,000 in Lwów. Jews are incited against their defenders, and the names of those who gave them shelter are registered in order to render them harmless as too courageous.

- 15.9.1944. CRACOW: Recruits are not reporting to the assigned centres. 1913 and 1920 classes are boycotting the conscription. The commander of a Home Army post has been arrested, having been charged by the Russians of possessing and hiding arms, military equipment and wireless sets
- 17.9.1944. LUBLIN: "The Polish Committee of National Liberation" has sent a propaganda agency to Warsaw. Its objective is to close all printing establishments, to confiscate their equipment and to start its own propaganda. The "Polish Committee of National Liberation's" press organ "Rzeczpospolita" is to go to Warsaw. Members of the Home Army are being arrested with increasing frequency. The press of the "Polish Committee of National Liberation" is making abusive references to the Polish Government in London, to Bór, Sosnkowski and the rising in Warsaw. Epithets such as "bandits" are being used to describe the Home Army.
- 19.9.1944. ZAMOSC: District of Lublin - The press of the "Polish Committee of National Liberation" is conducting a campaign with a view to convincing the public that the people of Warsaw are disillusioned with the Home Army Command but have all confidence in the Polish Workers' Party and the People's Army. The press is showering abuse on General Bór and the Home Army, which must be considered as a preparation on the part of the "Committee of National Liberation" to take over Warsaw.
- 19.9.1944. CRACOW: Soldiers of the Home Army are continually being arrested. Propaganda of the "Committee of National Liberation" is continually emphasising the importance of Russian aid to Warsaw.
- 20.9.1944. LUBLIN: There is a special camp in Kharkow for Polish civilians and soldiers of the Home Army. It also includes among its members soldiers of Berling's forces who are not satisfied with the "Polish Committee of National Liberation". Conditions in the camp are bad.
- 21.9.1944. LUBLIN: The 27th Infantry Division has subordinated itself operationally to the Soviet command. The Soviet command ordered the Division to march to Warsaw, caught it in a trap, disarmed it and directed it to a new rallying point. The men were instructed to disband and disperse in forests in anticipation of the reformation of the Division in liberated Warsaw. In the regions of Lublin and Otwock further arrests are taking place.
- 21.9.1944. CRACOW: Information concerning the fighting in the forests south of Debica and Krosno shows that the Russians are continually disarming and arresting members of the Home Army who have disclosed themselves, although cooperation exists and consists in passing information concerning the enemy, giving up enemy prisoners and even commanding actions.

23.9.1944. LUBLIN: The "Polish Committee of National Liberation" is agitating among the members of political parties, and in particular of the Peasant Party and among the peasants, in order to win them over for their own political aims. Arrests of members of the Home Army continue. Attempts are being made to arrest those in command so as to disrupt the ranks.

26.9.1944. LUBLIN: The "Polish Committee of National Liberation" and the Soviets are accusing the Home Army of action directed against the Red Army and of collaboration with the Germans. Civilians and soldiers of the Home Army are imprisoned together with German prisoners of war and threatened with beating. They are ordered to report to Berling's forces. Investigations last very long. Feeding is insufficient.

LONDON, October 2nd. 1944.