

# TOP POLISH REDS DESCRIBE TERROR

## Central Committee Record Cites Speeches Assailing Stalinist Excesses

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WARSAW, Nov. 22—A story of terror and cruelty, of political intrigue and political cowardice, of distrust and fear, has been told in a special issue of the Polish Communist party monthly magazine *Nowe Drogi*.

The story is found in speeches made by members of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers (Communist) party, nominally the highest party organization.

The speeches make clear that Moscow and not Warsaw ruled Poland during the last twelve years and that Stalin's dictates were passed on for execution through Soviet "advisers" to a few men within the Polish partys' Politburo.

One Central Committeeman said the record rivaled the most lurid novels about the Communist system, a system the Poles have now set about to change. But the story unfolded in the Central Committee was no creation of a novelist's imagination. This was the reality of life in Poland for the last decade, and particularly through what has become known as the "dark years" of 1949 to 1953.

The setting for the speeches was last month's crucial Central Committee meeting when Soviet might was defied, a new party leadership installed and a new vista of decency and democracy held out to the Polish people.

Listen to Leon Wudzki:

"The whole city knew that people were being murdered, the

whole city knew that there were prison cells where people remained for weeks ankle deep in filth, the whole city knew that Rozanski [former director of investigations who now is in prison] personally tore off people's nails, poured cold water on people and ordered them to stand outside in freezing cold.

"People caught on the streets and released, after seven days of investigation, were unfit to live. These people had to be taken to a lunatic asylum. People hid away in Tworki [a lunatic asylum] to save themselves from being taken by the secret police. They pretended to be mad. In a panic even decent people escaped abroad to avoid our system.

### Berman Is Challenged

Jakub Berman, who was in charge of security in the old Politburo, pleaded that ignorance, lack of collective leadership and inefficient control had been responsible.

"The whole city knew," M. Wudzki said, "but Comrade Berman was ignorant of the fact. I ask you, Comrade Berman, who was to know about all this if you did not?"

Many Communists, M. Wudzki said, had blamed these conditions on "the system." The system, he added, "is created by the people and the people can change or split a system, but since we were forced to adopt it we ought to have changed certain things here and there and to have adjusted it to our conditions.

"After all, there must have existed Communists of strong character and not deprived of moral standards who, even if not creative enough to oppose the system, would have at least behaved like Communists, like men. Some of them could not and others did not want to.

"Anyway those who resisted were broken and put in prison as enemies and traitors and those who attempted to behave like men were either pushed aside or left on their own. In any case, these were too few. The majority made their peace with the sys-

tem, arranged comfortable little nests for themselves in the warm full bosom of Beria's rule and sucked to repletion, intoxicated with authority and with all the accessories and privileges going with it. "Laurenti P. Beria, former Soviet police chief, was executed in December, 1953.)

### Appeals Were in Vain

Mr. Wudzki told how he had vainly tried to see M. Berman, Roman Zambrowski, who is still a member of the Politburo, and Boleslaw Bierut, former party secretary, on behalf of innocent people—"my briefcase became swollen with human tears and wrongs."

Bitterly M. Wudzki realized that even in pre-war Poland, when it was ruled by what the Communists described as a Fascist regime, "we were able to find a way to a Minister" to help imprisoned Communists.

M. Berman, who had written

a long apologia to the Central Committee, supplemented his defense with a speech.

He traced the "tragic sliding into the morbid, destructive psychosis of conspiracy mania" from the time of Moscow's conflict with Yugoslavia in 1948 through the main show trials in the Eastern European countries.

Each of these trials, he said, constituted pressure on the Poles for a similar trial of Wladyslaw Gomulka, disgraced for "Titoism" in 1948, imprisoned in 1949 for four years and restored to party leadership only last month.

M. Berman pictured himself as a man who had struggled to mitigate the worst orders from Moscow. He maintained he had been under "suspicions and threats" because he had refused to accept manufactured evidence. He said Stalin and Beria "began to bait me terribly and to accuse me of espionage and treason."