

TELEGRAM SENT

Secstate, Washington

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En Clair

Embassy

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PRAVDA and IZVESTIYA for January 26 devote over two and one-half pages to publication of the report of the special commission for the investigation of the shooting of the Polish captured officers in the Katyn forest.

Both papers publish front page editorials on this subject. Editorials declare that investigation establishes the truth regarding the German killing of the Polish officers.

They state that Polish prisoners who had been working in a Soviet camp fell into the hands of the Germans during the Red Army retreat. The Germans, carrying out their policy of physical annihilation of the Poles, in the autumn of 1941 shot the Polish prisoners who had been in the captured camp. The Germans, in order to conceal their crime and also to achieve their foul political aims, resorted to a monstrous provocation.

In the spring of 1943 they published a communique attributing the Katyn crime to Soviet organs, dating the murders back to the spring of 1940. The editorials state that the Germans resorted to this trick early in 1943 when their military fortunes were on the wane, and that they sought to incite Russians and Poles against one another. This attempt was a failure. The Soviet information bureau exposed the Hitlerite slander. Freedom-loving peoples looked with disdain on the Hitlerite slander against the heroic Soviet people.

However, the emigrant Polish government took an active part in the anti-Soviet campaign regarding the "murders in Katyn".

The PRAVDA editorial states that as a result of the participation of the Polish Government in the anti-Soviet campaign diplomatic relations between the Soviet Government and the Polish Government were broken off.

Now

Now, as a result of materials in the possession of the special commission, including testimony of over a hundred witnesses and medical and other data, the base sequence of German Fascist provocations, murders and falsifications which constitute the "Katyn affair" has been revealed. The evidence establishes, according to the editorials, that the Poles were killed in the fall of 1941, having been in the camp up to September 1941.

The PRAVDA editorial cites the data in the communique of the Commission to the effect that a German military organization, concealed under the designation of "Staff of the 537th Construction Battalion", and headed by Oberleutnant Arnes, Oberleutnant Rechst and Leut. Hott, carried out the mass shootings.

The Germans by threats and tortures and bribery found false witnesses from whom they obtained lying testimony about the "Katyn affair". Moreover, they brought to the Katyn forest corpses of prisoners shot in other places, utilizing Russian prisoners, who after completing this work were also shot.

The concluding paragraphs of the PRAVDA editorial compare the Katyn crime with the crimes investigated in Krasnodar and Kharkov and declare that the Katyn murders were executed by direct order from Berlin "in effectuating the policy of physical destruction of the Slavic peoples". These base crimes will arouse the wrath and indignation of the Soviet and Polish peoples and of all progressive humanity. None of the crimes committed by the Hitlerite bandits will be forgotten and none will remain unavenged. The Red Army's blows and the unshakable will of all the freedom-loving peoples to achieve final victory and the complete crushing of Hitlerite Germany in the shortest period attest to this.

The IZVESTIYA editorial, besides making similar statements regarding vengeance against the Nazi criminals, contains a paragraph denouncing the Polish Government. It declares that in the light of the facts the shameful role of the Polish Government stands out more clearly. The Polish Government by participating in the anti-Soviet campaign aided the hangmen of the Polish people. It struck a blow at the Soviet Union whose people are exerting all their efforts to defeat the common enemy of the Russian and Polish peoples and the peoples of all the freedom-loving democratic countries. "Acting in unison with Hitler, the most evil foe of the Polish people, the Polish Government did enormous harm to the cause of Poland."

The newspapers containing the full text of the special commission's communique are being sent to the Department through the usual channels.

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