

[seal]

**COMMITTEE**

**FOR STATE SECURITY OF THE USSR**

6.09.79. No. 1764-Cv

CC CPSU

Moscow

Department of International Information

On the Role of Poland in the Strategy  
and Policy of the Vatican

We are sending an abbreviated text of the document "On the role of Poland in the strategy and policy of the Vatican", as a report to government departments, prepared by the Polish institute for research of modern problems of capitalism.

The document is of interest in particular because, in the opinion of the Vatican, Poland is "the only socialist country, where the church can function relatively freely and put in practice the strategy of the Vatican with regard to Eastern European countries."

Attachments: 5 pages, # 152/5037 from 5.9.79,

Secret.

Vice Chairman of the Committee [signature] G. Tsinev

[ ... ]

In post-war Poland, the position of the Church was shaped in the following manner. Until the mid-50's, the Church maintained a policy of "survival". In the years following, it started to show "militancy" and struggled to broaden its influence on society. This policy bore some fruit. Currently, Poland ranks third in Europe (after Italy and Spain) in the number of believers. Characteristic of Poland is the high level of education among its clergy.

With regard to the government, the Polish [Roman-Catholic] Church maintains the traditional formulas of "governing souls", avoiding direct intrusion in the social-economic system of PNR [People's Republic of Poland]. The Church believes that the government agencies of Poland, including its apparatus of repression, its administration and educational organs, as well as the institution of the family, can be receptive to Catholic ideology. The Church ties its hopes of broadening its influence to the appearance in various levels of government, of intelligencia traditionally positively inclined to the educational activities of the Church in Polish society.

The crisis years in Poland (1968, 1970 and 1976) have supported the correctness of the general principles of Vatican strategy and policy, in accordance with which the Polish bishopric, during these years, kept itself "at a distance" and even urged the Polish populace to maintain calm.

The experience gained in Poland can, with certain changes, be carried over by the Vatican to other socialist countries. This is one of the main factors which explain the increased attention paid to Poland by the Vatican.

Currently, in various western publications an idea is being circulated that there is "a Renaissance of religion" taking place in capitalist and socialist countries. In the opinion of the Vatican, "Poland is not the only country where this "Renaissance" can be seen, but Poland is the only socialist country, where the Church can function relatively freely and put into practice the strategy of the Vatican with regard to Eastern European countries".

Assistant Director of the First  
Main Office of the Committee  
for State Security of the USSR

[signature]