

Mother Russia by Luba George

Drug alarm in Poland

The Soviet KGB's role in addicting youth in Eastern Europe has been exposed. Part 1 of a 2-part series.

The last several years have witnessed an enormous growth in drug addiction among the East bloc countries, with the situation in Poland—with a drug addiction problem among youth rivaling that of major Western nations—having reached epidemic proportions.

In recent months, the Polish government and state media have not only stopped pretending the problem does not exist; but Polish TV has sounded the alarm, broadcasting regular features highlighting the severity of heroin and other drug addiction among Polish youth. Poland has over one-half million confirmed hard-core drug addicts, including over 80,000 heroin addicts. Nearly all are either in their 20s, or—an ever rising percentage—teenagers. Also documented on Polish television are the first cases of 13 and 14 year olds appearing in clinics and therapy centers for heroin addicts.

The fact that the bulk of the hundreds of thousands of regular drug users in Poland are teenagers was emphasized in February, in an article in the Warsaw evening newspaper, *Express Wieczorny (Evening Express)*. The article, titled "The Grave Problem Among Teenagers," sounded the alarm on the "increasingly serious drug problem" among Polish youth, "especially among teenagers." The West German magazine *Der Spiegel* (March 1986) reported that there are over 600,000 drug addicts in Poland, 80,000 of whom are hard-core heroin addicts. *Der Spiegel* noted: "In the years between 1981 and 1983 alone—

during the martial law in Poland—the number of drug addicts increased six-fold."

The spread of drug addiction to an epidemic within barely five years is not a "sociological phenomenon." Drug smuggling and open distribution on the street in broad daylight have been shielded, encouraged, and promoted by the Polish internal security forces—the Polish secret-police sister organization to the Soviet KGB, and the Polish Interior Ministry. Material available through Polish underground publications connected to the outlawed Solidarnosc trade union organization has offered a wealth of information on the direct role of the Soviet KGB and its Polish subordinates in destroying Poland's youth by allowing the ready availability of drugs.

A recent issue of the Polish Solidarnosc-connected underground publication, *Replika*, presented the most thorough account to date on how the drug trade functions inside Poland. *Replika* recounts how the Polish Security Police (SB) use and control drug addiction among young people, "resistant to indoctrination" to enlist their services as collaborators.

Here we will present excerpts from this unique article:

"Drug dealing takes place practically in public in the Poland of Jaruzelski's 'law and order.' The places where drug dealers permanently operate are publicly known; the militia [the police of the Interior Ministry] does not react to their underhand dealings even when the parents of young

drug addicts point out the places where trade takes place and the dealers themselves. In Poland, drug considerably lower than in the West—this is the only commodity that is cheaper in Poland than in the West. . . . Drug dealers receive instructions telling them to whom they are to sell drugs and to whom not. By this means, young people are first of all made dependent, and then selected ones are deprived of drugs.

"Then the Security Police step in: They ask a young drug addict who has been left without drugs for information about his school, his friends, about the distribution network of the underground press among the pupil community, and about self-education groups. They pay with drugs for this information and so gain a reliable and cheap informer who is ready to carry out any orders.

"The drug-addict-informer not only sells info but also has the task of dragging friends of his—selected by the Security Police—into addiction. These are candidates to replace him. After a year or two of service, the drug-addict-informer is so ravaged by the addiction that he ceases to be useful to the Security Police. . . . Young members of the Security Police are on duty in discos. They are dressed in the latest fashion for young people. They, as part of the job, money, Western cars, apartments, etc. They use this as bait to pick up selected teenagers, to get them into bed, and then turn them into informers. . . . Those who prove more resistant are 'softened' up by drugs or the threat of blackmail. . . .

"Some several tens of thousands," says *Replika*, have been "stuffed full of drugs, intimidated, bribed, and dragged into Security Police beds. . . . Most are children, sometimes 17 years old, sometimes 15."