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POLAND.

February 12, 1944.

CONFIDENTIAL.

SECTION 10.

(16532)

[C 2597/551/55/1943]

Copy No. 0084

THE POLISH-GERMAN AND POLISH-CZECHOSLOVAK FRONTIERS:
ANNEX III⁽¹⁾: POLISH POMERANIA (POMORZE).

(THE CORRIDOR.)

[With Map.⁽²⁾]

Summary.

1. *Introductory.*—The problem of Pomorze first arose when the Teutonic Knights occupied the Lower Vistula areas in the Middle Ages. For a time they held Pomorze, but it was recovered by Poland in 1466. Prussia seized it in the years 1772-95 (the Partitions of Poland), lost part of it in 1807, but recovered it in 1815. From 1878 to 1919 it was incorporated in the Prussian province of West Prussia (para. 1).

2. *The Problem at the Peace Conference of Paris.*—At Paris in 1919 the Allied and American experts and officials were of the opinion that not only Pomorze but also Danzig, Marienburg, and Marienwerder, as well as the Vistula Delta, should be restored to Poland. When this proposal came before the Supreme Council, Mr. Lloyd George objected that it involved the transfer to Poland of too many Germans. Consequently Danzig and the Vistula Delta (with 308,000 Germans) were constituted into a Free City (see *The Polish-German and Polish-Czechoslovak Frontiers: Annex II: Danzig*⁽³⁾); and the Marienwerder-Marienburg area, with 138,000 Germans, was subjected to a plebiscite. This went in favour of Germany. The Corridor thus lost half its coastline, all the land east of the Vistula northwards from Marienwerder, and the shortest route by rail from Warsaw to Danzig (paras. 2-12).

3. *Population of Pomorze.*—When restored to Poland in 1919 the inhabitants of Pomorze, according to the Prussian census of 1910, were 57 per cent. Polish-speaking. The area contained also a large German minority including descendants of settlers from the time of King Frederic II of Prussia, settlers under the recent colonisation laws, civil officials, military officers and men, &c. In the course of the next few years over 300,000, *i.e.*, about 75 per cent., of these Germans removed to Danzig or the Reich. This repatriation did not take place in many cases without pressure, and it occasioned varying degrees of hardship. The vacuum thus created was rapidly filled up by Poles, and by 1931 the Polish census showed that, of a total population of 1,080,138, 89.8 per cent. were Polish-speaking (paras. 13-16).

4. *Economic Conditions.*—All the considerable towns formerly serving Pomorze lay outside its boundaries, with the exception of Torun (Thorn) and Grudziadz (Graudenz), both of them in the south-east. The province was thus almost purely agricultural, but it had great significance owing to its transit traffic. Polish traffic to and from Danzig and Gdynia developed very largely during the years 1919-39, and in the second decade greatly exceeded the German traffic with East Prussia (paras. 17-21).

5. *Claims and Counter-Claims.*—The Germans claim that the Corridor is historically German; that its Slavonic majority is not all Polish in race or sentiment; and that it is impossible for Germany to accept separation from East Prussia. In reply to German claims it has been maintained that the German seizure of Pomorze cannot be accepted as giving Germany a title to it, that its inhabitants have consistently shown their Polish sentiments in elections as well

⁽¹⁾ See *The Polish-German and Polish-Czechoslovak Frontiers*: Foreign Office Print: "Poland, February 12, Section 5."

⁽²⁾ For additional map, see Annex 1: East Prussia: Foreign Office Print: "Poland, February 12, Section 8."

⁽³⁾ Foreign Office Print: "Poland, February 12, Section 9."