

CN 170

X/9/13 E/W -- 1ST ADD MOCZAR WAS REFUSED (CN 169) X X X OFFICE.

AN OFFICIAL OF THE GHENT LIBERATION COMMITTEE CONFIRMED EARLIER THIS WEEK THAT ALL POLISH PARTICIPATION IN THE SEPT. 5-9 FESTIVITIES HAD BEEN CANCELLED, FOLLOWING THE MILITARY OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

A DELEGATION FROM THE GHENT COMMITTEE HAD GONE TO WARSAW EARLIER THIS YEAR TO INVITE GENERAL MOCZAR AND THE POLISH EX-SERVICEMENS ASSOCIATION TO ATTEND.

POLISH PARTICIPATION HAD BEEN INVITED BECAUSE A POLISH ARMORED DIVISION WAS INCLUDED IN THE BRITISH FORCES WHICH LIBERATED GHENT.

THE INVITATIONS SPARKED SHARP PROTESTS FROM POLISH EXILE GROUPS HERE IN BELGIUM, INCLUDING THE BELGIAN BRANCH OF THE POLISH EX-COMBATANTS SOCIETY.

THE CITY OF GHENT AND BELGIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN CAREFUL TO MAINTAIN A HANDS-OFF ATTITUDE FOR THE ENTIRE SITUATION.

PRW / O 1721/68 AUG 30.

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