

Gomulka Meets Khrushchev

Politburo members Wladyslaw Gomulka, Jozef Cyrankiewicz and Zenon Kliszko spent two days in Kiev (December 27 and 28) on talks with Nikita Khrushchev and Ukrainian leaders Nikolai Podgorny and Demyan Korotchenko, Polish and Soviet communiques reported December 29. The subject of the talks was not revealed. It was only said that the Poles arrived in Kiev at the invitation of Khrushchev, that the visit was unofficial, and that the talks were marked by a "cordial friendly atmosphere".

Two days later, at the Kremlin New Year's reception Khrushchev wished the "gifted Polish nation" further successes in the building of socialism, and referred to Gomulka as "our great friend".

Wang Ping Nan at Soviet Reception

Diplomatic representatives of the "socialist" countries in Warsaw including Wang Ping Nan, took part in a reception arranged by Soviet Ambassador Averky Aristov on the occasion of the New Year on December 29, Radio Warsaw reported. Poland sent second rank officials, director general of the Foreign Affairs Ministry Maria Wierna and deputy chief CC Foreign Affairs Department Jozef Kowalczyk. Chinese ambassador to Poland Wang Ping Nan addressed Aristov, the broadcast reported. It is to be presumed that Wang Ping Nan did so in his capacity of the dean of diplomatic corps, which capacity he obviously has not relinquished as a result of his mystery moves between Warsaw and Peking (cf. Sit. Rep. November 15 and 23).

New Year's Speeches

"Socialism has become a synonym of peace", Wladyslaw Gomulka stated at the "traditional" New Year's ball on the premises of the CC, Radio Warsaw reported January 1. This identity of socialism and peace was proven, according to Gomulka "in the days of severe international crisis provoked by the United States through aggressive steps against the Republic of Cuba. The solving of that crisis is a great victory of the forces of peace and socialism." Looking into the future Gomulka

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predicted that 1963 will be a year of an "overall deepening and broadening of the international socialist division of labor" within Comecon. Polish economic perspectives are good, Gomulka said, and the lowered rate of growth of the Polish economy in 1963 has only "a temporary character". Poland has become stronger in almost every respect. The Party increased its membership to almost one and a half million, and Party and government policy "finds obedience, understanding and support of the whole society", the Party chief concluded.

"Aggressive steps of the imperialist forces of the USA" during the Cuban crisis were also referred to by Aleksander Zawadzki speaking on New Year's Eve on behalf of CC, PUWP, of the Democratic and United Peasant Parties, of the State Council, the government and the Front of National Unity. Zawadzki's speech was broadcast by all the stations of Polskie Radio. He sent "cordial greetings and wishes" to Polish "allies and friends: USSR, Chinese People's Republic, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, to all socialist states". Then he singled out in his greetings "the heroic Cuban nation".

No Concordat Without Religious Freedom

There is no possibility of a concordat between the Polish government and the Vatican "without religious freedom" in Poland, Bishop Zygmunt Choromanski stated in a sermon held in Warsaw December 31, Reuter reported. Thus, within a few days (cf. Sit. Rep. December 27), Choromanski served a direct answer to Zenon Kliszko to whom he referred in his last sermon as "high ranking Polish dignitary". The Bishop presented a list of complaints about high taxation ("beyond all worrying about"), the eviction of nuns from nunneries, regime attempts to interfere with the Church's religious teaching, etc.

In another sermon delivered December 30 by Cardinal Wyszynski the faithful heard an explanation why several letters written by Polish children to the Cardinal while he was in Rome and by him to the children got lost in the mail. "There are huge mountain peaks on the way to Rome, so it is possible some letters to me disappeared in those mountains", the Cardinal was quoted by UPI December 30. The passage was confirmed in essence by "Il Popolo" December 31.