

Poland and EEC

"Rynki Zagraniczne" (Foreign Markets), organ of the Polish Chamber of Foreign Trade, published this month, as a supplement, the Polish translation of the Ruling of Ministerial Council of the EEC No. 3/63 of 24 January 1963 regarding the trade relations with states which have state monopoly of foreign trade, in respect of products covered by the Council's rulings Nos. 19, 20, 21 and 22 all of 4 April 1962.

Although this journal has a very limited circulation, this shows Poland's keen interest in trade with the Common Market countries. This interest has so far been illustrated by the conclusion within the last few weeks of three advantageous agreements with Italy, West Germany and France (cf. Sit. Repts 28 February, 11, 14 and 18 March). Negotiations with Benelux countries are in progress (see below).

Polish-Benelux Trade Talks

Trade negotiations between Poland and the Benelux countries began on March 20 in Warsaw, according to the spokesman of the Dutch Economic Ministry. The negotiations on behalf of Benelux are led by a Dutch official. Their aim is to conclude the new Polish-Benelux trade agreement; the old one expired on 3 March.

It is interesting to note that the first information on the subject was given by the Czechoslovak Press Agency Ceteka on 12 March (cf. Sit. Rep. 14 March) and that till now Radio Warsaw has not reported the arrival of the delegation.

Surkov in Warsaw

Aleksey Surkov, of the Soviet Writers' Union, now on a visit in Warsaw, met on March 23 with a group of Warsaw intellectuals, Radio Warsaw reported the same day. He discussed the recent Khrushchev speech on art. Later he replied to the questions from the floor. No more details were given by Radio Warsaw.

25 MARCH 1963

Bulgarian Economic Delegation to Warsaw

A Bulgarian government economic delegation headed by the First Deputy Prime Minister, Georgy Traykov, left for Poland on 23 March, BTA and Radio Warsaw reported same day. The delegation includes the Minister of Foreign Trade, Deputy Chairman of Planning Committee and Deputy Chairman of the State Committee for Science and Technological Progress.

The delegation will attend the Session of the Commission for Polish-Bulgarian Economic Cooperation.

Polish-Guinean Trade Agreement

On March 23 Guinea and Poland signed in Conakry a protocol extending the existing trade and payments agreements of June 1960 for an additional three years.

They also concluded a protocol on commercial exchanges for 1963 (Reuter March 24).

Delay in Polish Agriculture

Because of the severe winter, spring work in the fields will begin a month later than in previous years, Radio Warsaw reported on March 22.

Further Terms to Polish-West German Trade Agreement?

The possibility of the return of some Germans, who in 1945 were deported from the Polish Western Territories, and the granting of diplomatic immunity to the members of the German Trade Mission in Warsaw are mentioned by Arthur Olsen in NYT March 25.

But already on the first day after the signing of the agreement a reported secret clause was revealed. Under its terms the Polish government would recognize West Germany "as the financial and commercial, although not the political spokesman for West Berlin" (H.L. Threwitt from Bonn in "Baltimore Sun" of 8 March).

Olsen's revelations about an "unpublished protocol" which "promises German Trade Mission personnel immunity and other...privileges... on a de facto basis" has been unofficially reported from other sources.

As to the possibility of the "return on humanitarian basis of token numbers of Germans to its Western Territories taken from Germany in 1945", this is, according to Olsen a "cautious verbal commitment". This, it appears, would be worked by the Red Crosses of both countries. Further comment will be made after further clarification of the Olsen story has been obtained. Up to now the story is completely unconfirmed.