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Government: National Assembly

The late 1960 and early 1961 pre-electoral campaign stressed, among other things the importance of the so-called "working" as distinguished from titular delegates to the Sejm. A "working delegate" is one qualified to participate in the work of one or more of the numerous Sejm commissions.

Some candidates standing for re-election or newcomers frankly admitted their limited experience in attending and contributing to the work of some of the special commissions, but uniformly displayed candor when asked by press interviewers if they were willing to sit, listen, and learn. The post-1956 official regime outlook on the Sejm as more than a rubber-stamping body of more than four hundred delegates favored participation of outspoken and energetic neophytes who support government measures instituted on order of the PUWP.

The next plenary session of the Sejm scheduled to open during the first part of July is an occasion for renewed activities this week. Seven commissions will meet, and one of the most important body, the Commission on Construction and Communal Economy has already debated on the draft law affecting urban and small settlements.

Radio Warsaw announced yesterday that chairmen of presidiums of certain national councils have participated as consultants.

This new step is in line with the broad policy of drawing ever wider circles of professional public administrators and outside specialists in legislative work, thus lending a more popular character to the work of the Sejm. Whatever may be said about the actual immediate merit of the policy instituted by the communist followers of Mr. Gomulka, their encouragement to amateur legislators, at least go through the motions of public administration and legislation may well have importance for the future democratic process.

Participation rather than boycott of the communist-ruled government of Poland at every level, from the local national council on up to the national parliament, by the rising new generation of communist and non-communist industrial specialists, scholars, writers and other members of the intelligentsia can meliorate though not change the PUWP policy. Even though participation in the legislative work of the SEJM is largely an academic exercise, it may prove invaluable in the future.

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Foreign Trade: The Long-Term Aspect

State negotiators have made no bones about their preference if not insistent on long term commitments. Three year trade agreements seem to be to their liking, and the official explanation (which squares with the problems faced by Poland on the international market) is that such agreements afford better coordination of the productive effort. This consideration appears to have a strong inhibitory effect on trading with the GFR (cf. telexed articles by West German correspondents) and the US.

West German status as a Common Market nation may be largely responsible for the difficulties encountered in setting up farm quotas on good exchanged.

The US legislative mechanism has limited the opportunities for longer trade commitments and sales and credits agreements which have been contracted thus far.

Other trade agreements recently entered into by Poland with Italy, Sweden, and Great Britain are for three years and satisfy the demand by Warsaw for longer terms.

Occasional difficulties have arisen in trading with such countries as Sweden, which used to absorb a goodly portion of Poland's surplus coal. Yesterday's interview with the top echelon economic planners by Radio Warsaw gave explicit admission of this.

In the words of the Swedish guest, Minister of Trade Gunnar Lange, the three-year trade agreement is "a compromise, but a good one..." The Polish Minister of Foreign Trade echoed this sentiment by revealing that "this agreement leads us out of certain difficulties which we have encountered during the last period in the turn-over with Sweden and which were caused by the decline of the chief article of export to Sweden, coal. This is due to the changed structure of heating in Sweden. That is why it wasn't easy to find a substitute export in short order. "

Tramcozynski concluded that the increased trade includes Polish exports of consumption and industrial goods and chemicals in return for Swedish farm machinery and high grade ore.

It may be recalled that cordial relations date to the immediate post-war period, when Swedish goods and personnel were one of the first to appear on the Polish soil to help get the country on its feet. The one-time complementary

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nature of the exporting capacity of the two economies (steel for coal) has encouraged the use of Swedish aid in electrifying the Polish railroads, chiefly around the Warsaw area. Reportedly as the result of Comecon commitments, some of the outstanding orders for Swedish electrification equipment have been cancelled. The three-year trade agreement might have necessitated nimble diplomacy to explore new opportunities.

Latin America is an area where such exploration is being conducted. Recent examples can be seen in the decision by Ecuador to establish diplomatic and trade relations with Poland (Prensa Latina repeated by Radio Warsaw yesterday).

Trybuna Ludu also devoted an article to the closer Polish-Brazilian relations on occasion of the recent visit by a special mission headed by Ambassador Joao Dantas and other state and parliamentary delegations. The party daily concluded that the joint statement on the inviolability of state borders generally in effect means Brazilian support of Poland's case on the Oder and Neisse dispute with West Germany.

Agriculture: Mechanization

The ratio of privately and jointly owned tractors is 1:10 this year according to Radio Warsaw. The harvest will be gathered by 1,000 peasant tractors and 10,000 tractors owned by the agricultural circles, a regime-supported form of state-run cooperatives.

This assessment leaves out collectives which lead a shadow existence (cf. News Background "1960 Economic Results of Agricultural Collectives in Poland") and the state farms, both pampered forms of socialized farming which have absorbed the major share of the meager production of farm machinery unprofitably.

Standard of Living

See News Backgrounds: "Real Wages Down and Cost of Living Up in 1960" and "1960 Economic Results of Agricultural Collectives in Poland"

Pouched:

Slowo Powszechne 7.6.61 - Cat: Observations After Vienna

Zycie Warszawy - 9.6.61 - (kaj): Through the Prism of the Secondary School Graduation

Zycie Warszawy 10.6.61 - Letters to the Editor: Curiosity of the Addressee (on parcels from abroad)

Polityka 10.6.61 - BARANOWSKI K.: They Try to Attract Us By Making a Noise (on the bicycle "Peace Race")

GARLICKI S.: Articles for Eve (on the law permitting abortions)

KAPUSCINSKI R.: Congo Seen From Close Quarters --The Offensive

Tygodnik Powszechny 18.6.61 - Kisiel: The Charm of Life (on services for the population)