

Gomulka Receives Writers

Party First Secretary Wladyslaw Gomulka received important members of the Union of Polish Writers on May 4, Radio Warsaw and PAP reported on the same day. Those received were: the Union's chairman Jaroslaw Iwaszkiewicz, deputy chairman Czeslaw Centkiewicz, Aleksander Maliszewski and Jerzy Putrament, the Union's secretary Jan Maria Gisges and its treasurer Jerzy Jurandot. Of these persons, Iwaszkiewicz is as successful a writer as he is an opportunist and officially does not belong to the Party. Putrament is an old Party member and a good writer. Centkiewicz is a most prolific writer and is also an electrical engineer, geophysicist, Arctic explorer and film script writer. Maliszewski is a mediocre playwright who after a rather successful start before the war turned socialist realist during the Stalinist period. Gisges is a little known poet, art historian and writer, and Jurandot is a good satirical writer with a pre-war reputation. Present with Gomulka were Politburo member and CC secretary Zenon Kliszko as well as head of CC Cultural Department Wincenty Krasko. During the informal talks, "matters of importance to the development of Polish culture, and certain problems concerning the literary milieu" were discussed. Commenting on the meeting, Reuter (Warsaw, May 4) quoted "observers in Warsaw" linked it with the "aftermath of a letter protesting censorship sent by 34 intellectuals to the Polish Prime Minister".

While the presence of Krasko at the meeting can be explained by his position, Kliszko's attendance seems to suggest that he is in charge of cultural matters on the Politburo level. According to unofficial information received by RFE about a month ago, Kliszko is chairman of the Ideological Commission whose creation was decided upon at the 13th Plenum of the CC (cf. Sit. Rep. 8 July 1963). There is no direct official confirmation of the setting up of this commission, but "Polityka" of April 25 clearly implied that Kliszko is in charge of cultural affairs (for full English text of the relevant article, already mentioned in Sit. Rep. April 27, cf. Polish Press Survey No. 1698 of April 29).

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Publicity given to the meeting (there was none when Jozef Cyrankiewicz met some of the protesting intellectuals on April 8) may be intended to^{be} a reminder to Polish intellectuals that a proper channel for voicing demands and/or complaints is the Union of Polish Writers, and that the right person to deal with these matters is ^{the} Party First Secretary rather than the Prime Minister. It may also be an indication that the Party leadership is doing something about the grievances of the 34 intellectuals.

Regarding the last subject, the regime continues to do its best to create an impression that there were no reprisals against the 34. Thus Radio Warsaw referred on April 28 to a new reprint of a book by Jerzy Andrzejewski and to a new book by Adolf Rudnicki to be published shortly. On May 1 the same station broadcast a flattering reference to Prof. Wacław Sierpinski, and on May 3 it reported on two articles in the magazine "Swiatowid" by Professors Kazimierz Wyka and Karol Estreicher. (Estreicher's name did not appear among the 10 signatories in the letter to the London "Times".) On the same date, Radio Warsaw also reported about a new book published to commemorate 25 years of scientific work by Prof. Julian Krzyżanowski, who did sign the letter to the "Times".

British intellectuals did not leave the charges contained in the letter of the ten professors unanswered. Thus, John Mander, "one of the organizers of the British statement of sympathy with the 34 Polish intellectuals", stressed in a letter to the editor of the "Times" (May 1) that the allegation that the British intellectuals had based their protest on information "spread especially by the West German press and Radio Free Europe" was entirely wrong. "The facts on which our own protest was based were extremely carefully checked with sources both inside and outside Poland". Mr. Mander again referred to "the banning of certain of the (Polish) signatories from media such as radio, television, and the press, from which they need to make their living". He referred to the "disappearance of Mr. Slonimski's column from the magazine 'Szpilki' and that of Mr. Melchior Wankowicz from Kierunki". (Another non-Communist writer, Stefan Kisielewski who used to contribute this feature on a weekly basis,

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now writes for the Catholic "Tygodnik Powszechny" every second week, his last contribution having been published on May 3.)

Another British reaction to the problem was contained in "Economist" on May 1, and on the same date "The New York Times" reported on a protest of "thirteen prominent members of the faculty of Haward University", the "first of several being prepared on American campuses".

Draft of a New Law on Higher Schools

Amendments to the existing law on higher education were discussed by the Main Council for Higher (university) Education, "Zycie Warszawy" reported April 26-27. The amendments are intended to implement the resolutions of the Eleventh CC Plenum of December 1962 designed to turn out scientists at a greater speed. In this connection, reference is made to Sit. Rep, of 21 November 1963 where plans for shortening the period of university education were discussed. It seems that work on these amendments has progressed in the meantime, for "Zycie Warszawy" referred to a report on the draft of the amendments delivered by Higher Education Minister Henryk Galinski. The new law will give greater freedom to the Minister of Higher Education to appoint university professors (chair holders), directors of scientific institutes, and to transfer them from one education establishment to the other. It also lowers the requirements for appointment of chair holders from the ranks of doctors who can produce some proof of their scientific and/or professional work. In this connection, the present regulations pertaining to scientific degrees will be taken out of the existing law on higher education and shaped in the form of a separate law on scientific degrees and titles. Another important feature of the amendments is the stress on preparation of "highly qualified professional intelligentsia".

New Polish Ambassador to Switzerland

Tadeusz Kropczynski, Foreign Trade Deputy Minister, has been appointed ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Switzerland, Radio Warsaw reported May 4.