

News Background

1957

① — YUGOSLAV NEWSPAPER ON DIFFICULTIES FACED BY GOMULKA

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+10 Munich, July 8 -- (STANKOVIC) -- "Widespread political passivity" among Polish Communists as well as "revisionism" in the ideological and "dogmatism" in the practical field are "the chief obstacles and dangers against which the Polish (Communist) Party has struggled to reach its final aim", according to the BELGRADE newspaper "Politika" of July 4.

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The paper's WARSAW correspondent, D. MILIVOJEVIC, said in a report dealing with the preparations for the PUWP Third Congress in December of this year that "political passivity is rather widespread among Party members". MILIVOJEVIC added: "This passivity has come as a result of the fact that along with great enthusiasm for Party policies following the October events there also appeared certain negative phenomena of a secondary character. Not all Party members have been able to appraise correctly the real character of these phenomena and to see the reason for them in the previous weaknesses of the Party, but have instead attributed them to the new policies of the Party. These Party members have not realized that under the new conditions it has been very easy to remove the real causes of these negative phenomena."

MILIVOJEVIC further said that "the second danger, although widespread to a less extent, consists of ideological and political deviations from the Party line in the direction of revisionism and dogmatism respectively". "Politika's" correspondent continued:

"At the Ninth plenum revisionism was identified as the chief danger within the Party while dogmatism was said to have been the phenomenon which has separated masses from the Party. Recently, especially at the WARSAW Party conference, this idea was further elaborated. It was said that revisionism was an ideological danger and dogmatism, coupled with conservatism, was the greatest danger in the practical and organizational work as well as in the struggle for the liquidation of factionalism in the Party. At the two Voivodship Party conferences in GDANSK and WARSAW held after the Ninth plenum, the Party line was exclusively criticized by the dogmatists".

MILIVOJEVIC added that there were Party organizations in Poland in which there existed a conflict between "so-called old and new active-groups". "New active groups" consist chiefly of young people "who have become Party activists since the October events". These young people "were not previously engaged in Party work so they have not wanted to bear any responsibility for previous Party policies which they have sharply criticized".

MILIVOJEVIC continued: "Since they are not burdened with old errors, they have been able to understand the new situation; this

① — (1) Yugo paper on difficulties...

was to their advantage compared with the 'old activists'. However, these young people very often did not have enough experience or a solid ideological basis. Yet it is just these young people who are very often very valuable in winning respect for the Party." "Politika's" correspondent stressed the positive role played by these young people in POZNAN, where they were able to prevent "several conflicts which threatened to turn into new strikes." F-83

In the conclusion of his report MILIVOJEVIC said: "Although the process of changing the style and methods of work in the Party and relationship to the masses is rather slow, the results are being felt, especially in the big factories which are very important for the PUWP. Instead of the old mechanical and administrative working methods, instead of a practice which had enabled Party organizations to achieve their aims only by suffocating democracy and free discussion, new methods of political leadership are now being adopted. The chief reason for this is the fact that the social atmosphere in the working collectives is such that old methods are untenable and impossible to apply in practice".

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