

More on Warsaw Pact Meeting

A joint communiqué on the meeting of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Pact Organization was published early this morning by TASS and other official agencies of the member states participating in the meeting. It would appear from the document that the main, if not the only, subject on the agenda of the conference was the danger of "proliferation of nuclear arms and, particularly, the granting of these weapons to West German militarists," irrespective of whether this would be brought about through a realization of the "United States MLF, supported by the German Federal Republic," or of the British plan for the "Atlantic Nuclear Forces." Both these plans are "incompatible with the efforts of many states to set up nuclear-free zones in different parts of the world." Should "the NATO countries" implement the plans for MLF, "no matter in what form," the member states of the Warsaw Treaty Organization "would be forced to carry out the necessary defense measures to ensure their security." The communiqué did not elaborate on these "measures."

There has been no news yet about the departure from Warsaw of the Soviet delegation (the Hungarians left yesterday afternoon after calls on Gomulka and Cyrankiewicz). It is, therefore, possible that the Soviet leaders are holding separate talks with the Poles.

A Prior "Little Summit" Meeting?

A least three Western sources reported a possibility of a meeting of Soviet, Polish and Rumanian Party leaders, which allegedly preceded the Warsaw Pact conference. "Il Tempo" of Rome reported on January 18, under a Warsaw dateline of the day before, that, according to "unconfirmed rumors," such a meeting took place in Minsk. The rumors were based on the departure from Moscow, on the evening of January 16, of the Soviet delegation, and on the news of the almost simultaneous departure of the Rumanian delegation from Bucharest. The rumor was fed by the conspicuous absence from Warsaw of Wladyslaw Gomulka (cf. Sit. Rep. January 18). There was no confirmation of the rumor, UPI reported January 19; the agency merely quoted "diplomats" as speculating on the possibility of a "little summit." Angela Nacken in FAZ of January 19 also stressed that it had taken

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the Soviet leaders two days to reach Warsaw, hence it was "assumed" in Warsaw that they had met with Gomulka and with the Rumanian Party chief, Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej, on their way to the Warsaw Pact conference. If there is any substance to these rumors, Gomulka must have returned to Warsaw just early enough to pretend that he had never left, for "a few minutes before nine o'clock" on January 18 at the Warsaw railway station, he greeted the East German delegation; "about ten o'clock" the Rumanian; and, "at 11:15," the Soviet, all of which was duly reported by Radio Warsaw.

There was also much secrecy surrounding the Warsaw conference itself. From Angela Nacken's reports in FAZ, it was evident that Western correspondents were kept in the dark about either the exact place where the conference would be held or about the duration of the meeting. And it was not only the Western ones which were kept uninformed. According to the Yugoslav agency Tanjug report of January 19, the conference was expected to last for three days, while it actually lasted only for two days.

Rapacki Visit to Iran

Polish Foreign Minister Adam Rapacki will leave, "in the next few days," for an official visit to Iran, Radio Warsaw reported on January 18. On the way to Teheran, he will stop in Rome for at least two days, an RFE Special reported from Rome January 20. His arrival in the Italian capital is expected on Sunday, January 24. An Italian government official predicted that Rapacki would be asking for a meeting with Premier Aldo Moro (who also acts as foreign minister until a new one, replacing Giuseppe Saragat, is appointed). Commenting on this meeting, "L'Unita" stated on January 21 that Moro would thus have the possibility to obtain "first hand information" about the Warsaw Pact meeting just concluded in Warsaw. In this connection, "L'Unita" indicated Saturday, January 23 as the date of Rapacki's arrival in Rome.

Polish-Italian Trade Agreement

A long-term trade agreement between Poland and Italy for the years 1965 to 1969 was initialled on January 19, Radio Warsaw and PAP reported. It is expected that in the very first year the trade exchange between the two countries will already increase by 15 per cent. Far more details on the subject were obtained from an RFE Rome Special on January 20. The agreement was initialled by Italian Minister Plenipotentiary Giovanni Luccioli and by Michal Kajser, director of the Treaty Department of the Polish Foreign Trade Ministry. (The decision about the signing of the agreement will be made after the return from Tokyo of the Italian Foreign Trade Minister Bernado Mattarella.) It is expected that the value of the annual turnover will exceed 115 million dollars in a two-way turnover. Italy's chief exports will consist of ships, synthetic fibers, chemicals, drugs, steel products, rice and citrus fruits, in exchange for Polish livestock, lumber, raw materials and coal.

The previous agreement provided for an annual turnover of about 128 million dollars' worth of goods, but fell substantially below that target. Only after consideration of this latter circumstance, is it possible to reconcile Radio Warsaw's claims about the future increase of 15 per cent with the facts. An Italian Foreign Trade Ministry spokesman stated yesterday that the new targets are more realistic than the previous ones, an RFE Rome Special reported. "If this lower target is attained, we will consider the result highly satisfactory," the spokesman was quoted as saying.

Death Sentences in Meat Trial Demanded

Prosecutors called for the death penalty for three men involved in the "meat scandal" (cf. Sit. Reps. October 27 and November 24), UPI and Reuter, quoting PAPA, reported from Warsaw yesterday. The three men are two directors of Warsaw meat sales organizations, Kazimierz Witowski and Stanislaw Wawrzecki, and the meat department chief of the State Trade Control Agency Mieczyslaw Fabisiak. The prosecutors also demanded confiscation of the property of the three and fines of one million zloty for

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each of them. Two of the remaining defendants would get life imprisonment, and none of them less than 13 years in jail and a 400,000 zloty fine apiece if the trial judges follow the recommendations of the prosecution..