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Munich, August 16, 1963 (Target Area Research and Analysis, Polish Unit/Zamorski) --- A young man, Stefan Olszowski, has recently been appointed head of the CC Press Bureau. He replaces Artur Starewicz, who was elected CC Secretary at the last CC Plenum early in July

An important factor in the appointment is Olszowski's youth. Born in or about 1933, he belongs to the generation of "thirty year olds", i.e., to the new Party generation of "engineers and masters". These terms call for a note of explanation. A series of articles on this young Party talent was run by the Party weekly "Polityka" last year under the heading "Generation of Thirty Year Olds", and the term has penetrated the minds of Polish society to stay. Another term, synonymous with "thirty year olds", is also in use: "engineers and masters", meaning postgraduates of technical higher education establishments and of universities (diplomaed engineer and master of...) These are managers and technocrats educated in post-war Poland, the rising stars of present-day Polish society and of the Party. The latter is more applicable, for to be a rising star one has to apply for Party membership. This younger generation of "engineers and masters" is being looked upon with awe or slightly by the worker, with pride or envy by the less fortunate member of the intelligentsia class, and with utmost suspicion and fright by the Party apparatchik. It is a problem for the Party, a problem which some Party apparatchiks of the older generation try to fight without knowing how to solve it. At the last CC Plenum, Gomulka condemned the defunct "Przegląd Kulturalny" for initiating a discussion "on the subject of the so-called struggle of generations". Gomulka fought the problem by suppressing the discussion. Broad-minded Party leaders, e.g. the Silesian Party boss Edward Gierek, do their best to solve the problem by offering the "thirty year olds" executive positions. Gomulka creates an appearance of doing the same by appointing, here and there, younger Party workers to responsible jobs. Olszowski is one such example.

He has been appointed to the responsible job of head of the CC Press Bureau, not only because he is young, but, above all, because he is trusted. This is already at least his second appointment for that reason. In the hot October days of 1956, the much hated and discredited ZMP (Union of Polish Youth) dissolved, and in its place new youth organizations sprang

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up. One of these organizations was the Association of Polish Students (ZSP). It was not a new organization, but it gained much through the dissolution of the ZMP which, before October 1956, totally dominated the student movement. Then in October the Students' Association regained its freedom and, like other newly-formed youth organizations, began to grow rapidly and to play a political role. The Party leadership was desperately looking for ways and means of curbing and controlling these organizations, including the Students' Association. The best way was to appoint a "proper" leadership for the Association. Former leaders although trusted by the Party, were too discredited in the eyes of the students to be acceptable. A plenary session of the Polish Students' Association was called for early November 1956, and it was no secret that the old leaders had to go. Who would be the top new leader? One of those hot-headed "democrats" or "revisionists" elected by the students and much distrusted by the Party? Or a man acceptable to the students and trusted by the Party? There was such a man, whose sins of the Stalinist past were not known to the broad electorate, if only because, during the critical year preceding October 1956, he was in Prague, Czechoslovakia, officially as the Polish representative to the International Students' Union, actually as an assistant lecturer at the Party Institute of Social Sciences. Stefan Olszowski reportedly lectured at the courses organized by the Institute for African Communists. (His fluent knowledge of English might have helped him in this respect.)

During the preparations for the Plenum of the Polish Students' Association, the head of the students' section at the Science Department of the CC, PUWP, a young man called Jaroslaw Ladosz, suggested Olszowski for the new leader of the Association. Olszowski was recalled from Prague to Warsaw, and through clever "electioneering" managed to be elected Chairman of the Polish Students' Association on 6 November 1956. He sounded anti-Stalinist, not only during the Plenum, but also after, which helped him to be re-elected a year later, in December 1957, at the Congress of the Association. He continued as chairman of the Association till March 1960, when he was appointed to the less conspicuous, but not less responsible position of a secretary (for propaganda matters) of the Poznan Voivodship Party Committee.

Stefan Olszowski is a postgraduate of Lodz University, but no "master". He studied Polish language and literature, and

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graduated as a "bachelor of arts" ("absolwent 1 stopnia"). During his university studies, he became chairman of the Lodz area Students' Association, then chairman of the Lodz Voivodship Board of the Polish Youth Union. Needless to say, he was already a Party member when he was entrusted with these responsible positions. From Lodz he moved to Warsaw, where he was assigned to work in the students' department of the Polish Youth Union (ZMP), then to Prague.

During his more than three year chairmanship of the Polish Students' Association, he managed to become popular by sousing anti-Stalinist and to increase the Party confidence in him through a slow but systematic removal from the Association's leadership of the more active "October men". In addition to leading the Students' Association, Olszowski became active in the Socialist Youth Union (successor to the ZMP), climbing to membership in the Union's CC in December 1957 and to the Union's Secretariat in October 1958. In the course of his activities "on the youth sector", Olszowski traveled a lot, not only to Moscow or Peking, but also to Stockholm, Marseilles and Vienna.

His Poznan assignment also did not stop him from traveling. Within the last three years, he has been at least twice to Moscow and once to Sofia. On each occasion, he was a member of an important delegation. Last February it was reported that Olszowski had been sent to Poznan to get acquainted with Party work in the field, and that the assignment was temporary, i.e., before an appointment at the CC. Those who know Olszowski say that he is "devilishly" capable, shrewd, rather taciturn and honest.

His last advance is being interpreted as the expression of a tendency to bring in to responsible Party jobs more and more young people. It is said that Gomulka is tired of the incessant strife among Party factions composed of the representatives of the older generation. To which the pessimists reply that the youngsters will know how to fight each other no less well than the "old boys".

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