

# RADIO FREE EUROPE *Research*

## EAST EUROPE

● Poland  
7 March 1966

### SITUATION REPORT

- \* Italian Communist Leader's Visit to Poland
- \* Polish Action Against Rhodesia
- \* Correction

#### Italian Communist Leader's Visit to Poland

Luigi Longo, Secretary-General of the Italian Communist Party, left Poland on March 5, after four days of discussions with the leaders of the Polish United Workers Party, Radio Warsaw reported the same day.

The visit, since it became known on February 28, was a subject of many speculations and it was generally assumed that Longo would discuss matters connected with a possible visit to Poland by the Pope on May 3. Initially there were rumors that Longo "was in Warsaw as a mediator on behalf of the Holy See's relations with the Polish regime," to which the Vatican thought it necessary to publish an official denial (cf. RFE Special, Rome and Osservatore Romano both of March 2).

At the conclusion of the visit the PAP published a communique. From the resume broadcast on March 5 by Radio Warsaw it appears that representatives of the two parties "exchanged information regarding the struggle and the activities of both parties", stressed the danger of the "American aggression in Vietnam", considered that the preservation of the inviolability of frontiers in Europe and "the recognition of both German states" is in the interests of peace. Both parties also "expressed conviction that further Polish-Italian relations should be developed, and that obstacles which upset normal economic relations and the cooperation of all European countries independent of their social structure, should be removed."

Thus, according to the communique, the conversations looked quite unconcerned with the most topical subject of recent Polish politics, i.e. Church-state relations.

7 March 1966

However, Longo, once back in Italy, in his first statement to the press given at the Rome airport, devoted only a few words to the subjects which had loomed large in the Warsaw communique. The bulk of his Fiumicino remarks was devoted to the Polish and Italian parties' relations with the Church. His statement seems to reflect the talks with more precision than the communique. Longo stated first that he had "illustrated the political line of the [Italian] Party", in particular emphasizing the "activity for the creation of a new cooperation of the left-wing forces, laymen and Catholics". He also "fully emphasized the development of a dialogue with the Catholics...". On their part "the Polish Comrades informed [the Italian delegation] of present problems in the development of the Socialist state with particular regard to the present economic expansion." After these two points, showing the complete lack of common language between the two parties, Longo passed to the Polish Millennium program. This gave him the opportunity to attack Cardinal Wyszyński in this connection, and he repeated several strictures that were earlier put forward by the Polish regime. (cf. RFE Special, Rome March 5).

Thus far there is insufficient information to determine the atmosphere of the talks. The great divergencies in approach to Church problems by the respective parties do not, however, appear to have lessened. In this connection it is worth noting that what Radio Warsaw broadcast was presented as "communique on the talks between..." with no hint that the communique had been accepted by both Parties.

At the airport Longo was greeted i.a. by Mr. Adam Willmann, Polish Ambassador, Mieczyslaw Stefanski, the Embassy's First Secretary and Brigadier General Artur Jastrzebski.

#### Polish Action Against Rhodesia

Poland has notified the United Nations that she has severed all telecommunication and mail services with Rhodesia, UPI reported on March 4.

#### Correction

Information on Mr. Michael Stewart's interview regarding the Oder-Neisse Line was published in the Polish Situation Report of March 3 under the wrong title. Instead of Michael Wilson on Oder-Neisse Line it should of course read Michael Stewart on Oder-Neisse Line.