

Czechoslovak-Polish Relations

It is by now abundantly clear that the five-day visit of the Czechoslovak Party and Government delegation had as its primary purpose to commit the more prosperous neighbor south of the border to some tangible assistance and boost for the ailing Polish economy. Gomulka and other principal figures who played host on the Polish side never failed to bring the economic factor of closer cooperation between the two countries to the forefront before embarking on the routine and to the relatively "non-controversial" anti-German theme.

At the Friendship rally on Saturday and again later that day when bidding farewell to his guests at the station, Gomulka spared no effort to reiterate the importance of the technical assistance, in particular investment, which Czechoslovak industry has rendered to Poland, and which as he put it, "we have jointly agreed should be considerably extended and enriched".

The final joint communique which was signed on Saturday and published in Warsaw Monday (12 Sept), disappointingly enough for the Poles, relegates the economic cooperation to the tail end and according to excerpts broadcast by Radio Warsaw, is couched in the usual general phraseology to the effect that, "planning committees of both Poland and Czechoslovakia are instructed, in accordance with the recommendations of Comecon to cooperate in the coordination of prospective plans and in order to secure mutual needs, and extend the specialization of production, in particular in the machine industry."

In equally general terms, reference is made to greater exchange of industrial consumer goods, reciprocal exchange of experiences in agriculture also closer cultural and scientific relations. The only hint to any possible Czech investments in Poland is made in connection with the exploitation of the newly discovered copper deposits in the western territories.

Otherwise, the main points of the joint communique, as was to be anticipated, follow the Khrushchev line regarding the international situation: disarmament, German revisionism, demilitarization of Berlin, threat of a separate peace treaty with GDR.

13 Sept. 1960

In the ideological sphere, both parties obediently stressed the unity of the socialist bloc and the leading role of the Soviet Communist Party in its interpretation of the Marxist-Leninist gospel and in its practical application.

PARTY

According to today's PAP report the PUWP Central Committee began today the session of its 6th Plenum. Their agenda includes according to the first announcement current agricultural problems and a report from the Bucharest conference of Communist and workers parties. The reference to the Bucharest conference would indicate that Gomulka before departing for New York is hurriedly attempting to be on record that he follows unreservedly the Khrushchev line in the current Sino Soviet dispute.

more...