

Polish-Soviet Relations

The 19th anniversary of the Polish-Soviet "Friendship, Mutual Aid and Cooperation" Treaty (cf. Sit. Rep. of yesterday) was solemnly celebrated in Warsaw on April 20, with Wladyslaw Gomulka and Soviet Ambassador Averky Aristov delivering speeches. They centered mostly on the recent Polish Party and government visit to the USSR and on Nikita Khrushchev's 70th birthday celebrations. The gist of Gomulka's speech may be summed up in the quotation used by "Trybuna Ludu" as a headline: "All Our Achievements are Strictly Bound to the Polish-Soviet Alliance." On the Sino-Soviet split, Gomulka again returned to the theme of unity and appealed to the Chinese comrades to translate into deeds what they had said in the message they sent to Khrushchev on the occasion of his birthday. Aristov was less conciliatory vis-a-vis the "leadership" of the CPC. This was, he said, not the first time that the Bolshevik Party had had to conduct a long struggle for the "purity of Marxist-Leninist teachings", and it had always emerged victorious and "more compact" than before.

There has also been a new development in the economic field. An agreement on Poland's supplying to the USSR 175 vessels to be built in Polish shipyards during the next Five-Year Plan (1966-1970) was signed in Warsaw April 22. The Soviet trade official who signed the agreement stated on this occasion that the total value of the deal was "about 2.5" billion exchange zloty and that the total tonnage of these vessels was 1.5 million tons. He also stated that these deliveries would enable the USSR to increase its "fishing fleet", and that the present order is much higher than the previous one, which was for 114 vessels. Radio Warsaw stated the next day that the total value of the deal was 2.75 billion exchange zloty (i.e. 687,500,000 dollars). It was also stressed that the agreement formed only part of a "big" five-year trade agreement to be signed in the future. (On another big Soviet order pertaining to the next Five-Year Plan -- for chemical plants -- cf. Sit. Rep. February 24 and 28.)

Visit of Swedish Foreign Minister

The Swedish Foreign Minister, Torsten Nilsson, spent five days in Poland (April 19 to 23) on an official visit, at the invitation of his Polish opposite number, Adam Rapacki (cf. Sit.

24 APRIL 1964

Rep. February 28). In addition to business talks and the usual receptions, Torsten made a sight-seeing tour of the country, visiting Cracow, Nowa Huta, Oswiecim, Warsaw and Gdansk. A joint communiqué on the visit refers to Polish-Swedish cooperation in the fields of trade, culture and science, and to a number of international problems, such as ^{the} preservation of peace, solution of conflicts through negotiations, partial disarmament, etc. On the existing plans for limiting the spread of nuclear weapons, the two ministers merely "exchanged views". In this latter respect, particular attention was paid to the Uden and Gomulka plans. Torsten invited Rapacki to visit Sweden in the future (no date was set).

Chinese Ambassador Leaves Warsaw

Wang Ping-nan left Warsaw by train on April 20, Radio Warsaw reported the next day. The diplomatic protocol director Edward Bartol of the Polish Foreign Ministry and "members of the Chinese Embassy" were the only persons who bade farewell to the departing diplomat (cf. also Sit. Rep. April 9).

New Legislation

Two new laws were passed by the Sejm during its latest session (April 22 and 23). The first law abolishes the statute of limitations with respect to war criminals (cf. Sit. Rep. March 23). This is of little practical value in Poland, and was probably introduced only as part and parcel of anti-German propaganda. It was passed unanimously, as was also another law of real importance, namely the Civil Code. The draft of the Civil Code was introduced to the Sejm last year (cf. Sit. Rep. May 24), and it took the competent Sejm committee almost a year to introduce amendments and polish the wording. No specific information on these amendments was given, but there seems to be little doubt that the committee at least saw to it that the wording was clear, even if it was unable to introduce substantial amendments. Radio Warsaw coverage of the debate on the Civil Code indicates that the essence of the new measure, as introduced last year, was not changed. The Civil Code becomes effective as of 1 January 1965, but that part of it which pertains to inheritance of farms goes into effect

24 APRIL 1964

immediately (cf. Sit. Rep. July 2 and August 26).

Polish Delegation to Comecon Meeting

The Polish delegation to the 12th session of the Comecon Executive Committee, which started in Moscow on April 21, consists of the permanent Polish Comecon representative, Deputy Prime Minister Piotr Jaroszewicz, Agriculture Minister Mieczyslaw Jagielski, Transport Minister Piotr Lewinski, Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission Roman Fidelski, Deputy Chairman of the Committee for Economic Cooperation with Foreign Countries Kazimierz Olszewski, Foreign Trade Deputy Minister Marian Dmochowski, Heavy Industry Deputy Minister Zygmunt Keh, and Chemical Industry Deputy Minister Edward Zawada.

Before leaving for Moscow on April 20, Jaroszewicz said that the present session was taking place exactly 15 years after the founding of Comecon (the first session of the Council took place in Moscow on 24 April 1949), which offers an opportunity for reviewing the activities of Comecon. During these 15 years the integration process had gone very far, though its rate and scope were not satisfactory, Jaroszewicz said. This was not an easy task, he stated, since the decisions of the Council had to take into account the interests of every member country and assure the development of each of these countries. The most urgent task ahead was that of further specialization of production so as to produce ^{more}/cheaply and to be able to compete with mass production commodities on the world market.

Trade Agreements with Two African Countries

The first trade agreement ever concluded between Poland and the Republic of Congo-Leopoldville was signed in Warsaw April 23. It is effective immediately and will run for one year, with an automatic renewal clause for further years. Poland will export building, road and agricultural machines and equipment, medical equipment, durable consumer goods, textiles, etc., in exchange for Congolese agricultural produce (palm oil) and zinc ore. The agreement was signed by the foreign trade ministers, Rudolphe Yav for the Congo and Witold Trampczynski for Poland.

24 APRIL 1964

In this connection, it should be recalled that Yav spent four days in Poland last September (cf. Sit. Rep. October 4) devoted to initial negotiations on possible trade exchange between the Congo and Poland.

It also took about six months to conclude a trade agreement between Poland and Kenya. A Kenyan delegation was in Warsaw last October to discuss the possibilities of trade (cf. Sit. Rep. October 21), and an agreement on trade exchange between Kenya and Poland was signed in Nairobi only on April 21. Poland will export machines, industrial equipment, chemicals, textiles and building materials, in exchange for Kenyan coffee, tea and sisal-hemp. Along with the agreement on trade exchange, one on scientific and technical cooperation was also concluded.