

Church-State Relations

The uneasy truce on the religious sector has once again reached a critical phase. Cardinal Wyszynski's sermon delivered on June 9 at the close of the so-called Corpus Christi Octave, was an outspoken condemnation of the Communist materialistic creed which fails to satisfy man's spiritual thirst. Paradoxically enough the same problem has recently absorbed the leading Marxist philosopher in Poland, A. Schaff. The Polish Primate made his remarks in protest against the prohibition by the authorities to hold Church processions which traditionally take place throughout the country during the eight days following the June 1 observance of Corpus Christi. The full text of the sermon is as yet not available here (it may never be published), except for some quotes by Reuters (June 12) and the London Times (June 13) which at random refer to the more pointed utterances made by the Primate. Now the official Polish press agency (PAP - June 19) released the full text of an article from the Warsaw Daily Zycie Warszawy entitled "Matter of the Heart or Matters of Politics" - which take issue with the Cardinal and his sermon. Without mentioning the Primate by name ZW attempts in a rather trivial manner to distort what apparently was the guiding thought of the sermon, i.e. that without freedom for the cultivation of spiritual values the materialistic order cannot but fail. Once again the usual charges are being leveled against the Church, accused of tacitly approving the cold war, capitalism and colonialism. Even the recent Vienna meeting between President Kennedy and Khrushchev is brought in to demonstrate that Cardinal Wyszynski "disapproves" of a detente between East and West. The arguments advanced in the article are by now routine and can be summed up as follows: The Roman Catholic Church as such and the Polish hierarchy in particular are overstepping their legitimate domain of religious care and interfere in matters of the political regime of the country. The text of the article as released by PAP is being telexed today.

West German Relations

The sudden postponement by Bonn of the West German and Polish trade talks which were to begin in Warsaw today has evidently caused some consternation in Polish circles (c.f. Stehle, FAZ, June 19). Judging by the interest shown in West German industrial exhibits shown at the Poznan Fair (c.f. Sit.Rpt. June 12 & 15) the Polish side had great hopes in concluding without further delay a long-term trade arrangement with West Germany. It remains to be seen whether aspects other than commercial, which may have emerged from

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last week's private conversation held between Gomulka and Beitz in Poznan, have motivated the postponement of talks for which no new date has as yet been fixed.