

Cardinal Wyszynski in Austria and Rome

Cardinal Wyszynski arrived in Rome this morning after a three day visit to Austria, planned as early as January (cf. Sit. Rep. January 21). He arrived in Vienna May 1, accompanied by two Polish prelates, Wladyslaw Padacz and Stanislaw Kotowicz, and was greeted at the railway station by Cardinal Koenig. Two officials of the Polish Embassy in Vienna were also present to greet the Cardinal. Wyszynski described the purpose of his trip to Austria as one to "accompany Cardinal Koenig to Mariazell", a shrine for Austrian workers as well as for Poles living in Austria and Germany. In the afternoon (of May 1) the Cardinal told Vienna's Polish colony that one of his major duties was to build up a stronger Catholic faith throughout Poland. He also told them about the preparations for the Church's celebrations of the "Sacrum Poloniae Millennium", Poland's 1966 anniversary of 1,000 years of Christianity. He complained about governmental restrictions limiting the celebrations to a purely religious affair of the Church. (The regime is anxious to celebrate the Millennium on a national scale, but with the exclusion of the Church.) The Cardinal also said that French press descriptions of Polish Catholicism as "backward" were not justified. "We have our faults -- just as an old Polish woman has her faults", the Cardinal said, "but we are trying only to strengthen faith" in Poland. The next two days, May 2 and 3, the Cardinal spent in Mariazell, celebrating High Mass and also speaking to some 800 Polish exiles, whom he told that Polish Catholics would be prepared to go to prison, if necessary, to preserve their faith. "We will save our Catholicism, and if we have to pay for it with imprisonment, we will not be afraid of that".

The Cardinal will stay in Rome for about two weeks to help in preparing the third session of the Ecumenical Council. He is expected in Vienna about May 20 on his trip back to Warsaw, where he is scheduled to ordain a new class of Polish priests on or about May 24. While all this information comes from a number of RFE Specials from Vienna, Radio Warsaw and the regime press contained not one reference to the Cardinal's trip.

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Polish-Chinese Relations

Wang Kuo-chuan, Chinese ambassador to East Germany, has been appointed ambassador to Poland, the Chinese official media reported April 30.

As is known, state and Party relations between Poland and China have not deteriorated to the same extent as between the Soviet Union and China. Thus, May Day celebrations in Warsaw were attended by a Chinese trade union delegation and those in Peking by a Polish trade union delegation.

Andrzej Werblan's Position

A rather surprising reference to Andrzej Werblan's position as being "head of CC Science and Education Department" appeared in Radio Warsaw and "Trybuna Ludu" of May 1, in connection with his receiving the Order of the Banner of Labor, second class. This revives the old problem of who is the head of the CC Science and Education Department: Andrzej Werblan or Zenon Wroblewski? In this connection reference is made to a number of Sit. Rep. items of last year, the last one being of October 24. It is worth stressing that on January 25 "Polityka" referred to Wroblewski as "deputy head", but that reference was not recorded because it was thought that "Polityka" might have made a mistake. But again on April 26 "Trybuna Ludu" referred to Zenon Wroblewski as "acting head" of the department. Unofficial information reaching RFE after October 1963 indicated that Werblan had indeed been deprived of his position. It seems that the only logical conjecture which can be made at present is that Werblan returned to Party leadership's graces sometime at the turn of the new year. There is no indication whatever that Werblan has been ill. In fact, in the autumn of last year, his activity in the Party historical institute was recorded in the press.

Unemployment Figures

Rep.
It was said in yesterday's Sit/that Stefan Jedrychowski's report to a Sejm committee revealed some attempt at glossing over the subject of an increase of labor productivity. Another subject clearly glossed over by Jedrychowski was the problem of unemployment.

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While he admitted that "at the end of March, in certain areas of the country, there were difficulties in employment for all the persons looking for work, particularly for women", he gave no **data** on the number of these persons "looking for work". Instead, he said that, with the coming new season of building construction, gardening and spring activities in agriculture, it is to be expected that the economy will "absorb these surpluses of job seekers". How big are these surpluses? Jedrychowski stated that at the end of February 1964 the number of those employed in the nationalized economy was 8,189,000 (which compared with 8,021,800 of February 1963 means a 2.1 per cent increase). However, Jedrychowski did not say that at the end of October 1963 the respective figure was 8,539,300, which would indicate that by the end of February 1964 no less than 350,300 persons had been dismissed and are jobless now. It is worth stressing that these are official figures ("Biuletyn Statystyczny") which, on a subject like unemployment, should be regarded as rather "conservative".