

Khrushchev's Visit to Poland

On his way to Berlin where he will attend the Sixth SED Congress starting January 15 Nikita Khrushchev will stop at Warsaw "for a few days", Radio Warsaw announced January 9. The broadcast explained that he and the CC CPSU Presidium member and First Party Secretary of the Ukraine Nikolai Podgorny had been invited by Gomulka and Prime Minister Jozef Cyrankiewicz. Khrushchev and Podgorny left Moscow January 9 and are expected in Warsaw today.

Polish Delegation to SED Congress

The Polish delegation to the SED Congress will be composed of: First Party Secretary Wladyslaw Gomulka, Politburo member and CC secretary Zenon Kliszko, CC member and Deputy Prime Minister (economic matters) Eugeniusz Szyr, CC alternate member and first secretary of the Party Voivodship Committee at Olsztyn Stanislaw Tomaszewski (one of the youngest of the voivodship secretaries, born 1925), head of CC Foreign Relations Department Jozef Czesak and Polish ambassador to East Germany Feliks Baranowski.

Polish-Soviet Cultural and Scientific Cooperation

"The biggest agreement which has ever been signed between Poland and USSR in the field of cultural cooperation" was concluded in Moscow January 8, Radio Warsaw reported. The quotation comes from Culture and Arts Minister Tadeusz Galinski who signed the agreement on behalf of Poland. Galinski stressed that the plan agreed upon for 1963 envisages particularly increased cooperation in science. Immediate contacts between the Academies of Science of the two countries will be established as well as those between research institutes of a number of ministries. "For the first time", Galinski said, the Soviet Ministry of Agriculture will cooperate with the Polish Academy of Science. Cooperation will also be increased in the field of medicine and education. Cultural contacts will take varied forms, and there will be more mutual visits and exchanges of students and talents. Long term scholarships will be granted to scientists working at scientific establishments of the inviting country. According to Galinski, 200 Polish undergraduates, 100 postgraduates and 150 scientists will take a longer course of training in the USSR.

Such agreements are routine business but the one concluded for 1963 seems to have a greater scope than the previous ones. Particularly lively cultural exchanges between Poland and the USSR have been taking place in the field of film and theater.

Zawieyski on Visit to Pope

The main purpose of Jerzy Zawieyski when he obtained the audience with Pope John XXIII (cf. Sit. Rep. Nov. 29) was to "pass on the opinions of non-Catholic circles on the attitude and activities of the Holy Father." This statement appeared in "Tygodnik Powszechny" January 6 in an interview made with Zawieyski in Rome by the weekly's editor-in-chief Jerzy Turowicz. According to KNA (German Catholic News Agency), the interview was first announced as appearing in December, then postponed without explanation. Earlier press reports indicated that Zawieyski had quoted the Pope "as expressing sympathy for the Polish Communist leader Wladyslaw Gomulka" (cf. "Baltimore Sun" January 7). This quotation did not appear in the "Tygodnik Powszechny" available here.

English translation of the essential parts of Zawieyski's interview will appear in the Polish Press Survey. At this moment it is important to stress that Zawieyski obtained the audience through Cardinal Wyszynski, and that -- according to Zawieyski -- "the progressing democratization in the socialist camp" on the one hand and "a revision of the views on several problems of contemporary world" within the Church on the other may bring about in the future ^{the} "establishing ^{of} diplomatic relations" between Poland and the Vatican.

In the meantime complaints about increased regime pressure on the Church have been made by Cardinal Wyszynski. As reported by "Il Popolo" January 7, the Cardinal complained in a sermon held January 6 about the regime's demand for presentation of summaries of religious teaching carried out within or without the walls of churches. Previously both Cardinal Wyszynski and Bishop Choromanski (cf. Sit. Rep. January 3) complained about government inspectors insisting on visiting religious classes held by priests, and about the fines imposed on the priests who refused to submit these classes to regime surveillance. Political pressure has also increased. "Il Quotidiano" January 8 quoted the Polish atheistic weekly "Argumenty" as strongly criticizing Polish bishops attending the Vatican Council for failing to obtain any concessions from the Vatican regarding the latter's stand on the problem of the Oder-Neisse border.