

May First Celebrations

The people of Poland enjoyed three consecutive days free of work, May 1 through 3. (To make up for Saturday, May 2, workers and employees worked on the preceding Sunday, April 26.) The May First celebrations were prepared by the regime more thoroughly and more in a "good Stalinist tradition" than in the previous few years. According to Radio Warsaw's coverage of the festivities, there were more slogans, flags and portraits of Communist leaders, dead and alive, such as Marx and Lenin, or of Khrushchev, Gomulka, Cyrankiewicz and Aleksander Zawadzki (the still ailing but allegedly recovering Politburo member and titular head of state). "Proletarian discipline" also manifested itself in the mass participation of workers and employees of various plants and institutions in the traditional parade in Warsaw and in other provincial cities.

Party First Secretary Wladyslaw Gomulka delivered the traditional speech (at the so-called "central" demonstration in Warsaw). In his speech the following points deserve attention. Production results for the first quarter 1964 are good, Gomulka said. The global industrial production increased by over 10 per cent, of which that of the chemical industry by 18.4 per cent, machine industry by 12.9 per cent, all in comparison with the first quarter of 1963. Work efficiency in industry and in building construction increased above the plan, as well, Gomulka claimed. Regarding the "international workers' movement", Gomulka appealed for "unity of action" and sent greetings to the "bulwark of world peace, our sincere friend and best ally, the fatherland of Lenin and the pioneer of Communism, the great Soviet Union". Then he directed his greetings to "our neighbors and friends, brotherly nations of Czechoslovakia and of the German Democratic Republic". Next came "the great Chinese nation which is building socialism" and the "heroic Cuban nation". No other nations were addressed by name. Speaking on international problems, Gomulka, as usual, singled out for criticism "cold war imperialistic forces, above all the aggressive imperialist circles of the USA and the militaristic, revanchist forces in the German Federal Republic".

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The Third of May was a traditional Polish national holiday to commemorate the anniversary of the adoption of the 1791 Constitution. The Communists abolished this holiday, replacing it with First May celebrations. What remains of the old tradition are radio broadcasts and press articles on the occasion of the anniversary. These are tinted with Marxist logic and, if only for this reason, critical of the Constitution as a "bourgeois" one. This year was no exception in this respect.

#### First Quarter Plan Fulfillment

Gomulka's claims of plan successes rest on a comparison with the first quarter of last year, which was particularly bad because of the weather. In fact, the plan for the first quarter of 1964 has been fulfilled in 102.4 per cent, the country's chief planner Stefan Jedrychowski revealed in a report to a Sejm committee on April 28. Thus, the overfulfillment of the plan is one of 2.9 per cent. Particularly good performances were noticed in the chemical, machine and building material industries which have shown an increased growth rate. The same pertains to production of market commodities. However, Jedrychowski's report, as published by "Trybuna Ludu" April 29, singles out serious shortcomings in certain key branches of industry. Thus, there are deficiencies in the production of lathes, ball bearings, trucks, spare parts, bricks, roof tiles, textiles, etc. Jedrychowski expressed his satisfaction at an "improvement" of work efficiency (labor productivity), but quoted no figures. The text of his report reveals some attempt at glossing over this point, and the increase of employment figures (by 2.1 per cent over the corresponding period of last year) seems to indicate that the improvement is rather small.