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Communiqué on the Moscow Meeting

While the full text of the communiqué on the consultative meeting of the 19 Communist Parties in Moscow, which took place on March 1 through 5, was published by the daily press yesterday morning, Radio Warsaw broadcast extensive summaries without comment. Comment was, however, supplied by Radio Moscow in Polish, but it was very little and virtually amounted to no more than a rehash of the communiqué, particularly of the passages pertaining to unity.

Earlier, the London Times (March 4) reported from Moscow that the Polish delegation offered to fly to Peking "immediately to make another effort to reason with the Chinese." While there has been no confirmation of this report, it should be remembered that Gomulka's stand in the Sino-Soviet conflict has always been one of recommending unity, a subject which he has never failed to stress in his pronouncements on the subject.

Polish-British Meeting

The third Polish-British symposium took place on March 5 through 9 at Jablonna, near Warsaw. (The two previous meetings took place at Jablonna in January 1963 and at Ditchley Park near Oxford, England, in October 1963.) The four-day discussions were organized in three groups ("commissions"), political, economic and cultural, Radio Warsaw explained on March 9. The meeting culminated in a plenary session at which speeches were delivered by the chairmen of the two delegations, Sir Eric Berthoud, a former British ambassador in Warsaw, and Prof. Stanislaw Leszczycki, a Polish geographer of international standing (he is an honorary member of the Royal Geographical Society and of the similar societies in Holland and Austria).

The following problems were discussed during the symposium: European security and "other international problems," bilateral and multilateral trade and economic cooperation, further development of trade and cultural exchanges as well as of those pertaining to education. Both sides agreed that bilateral economic cooperation and a further development of trade are in the interest of the two countries. Particularly "desired" are direct contacts between Polish and British plants for the purpose of "cooperation between the industries of the two countries," Radio Warsaw stressed March 9. The communiqué concluded that both delegations were of the opinion that the discussions had brought about "better understanding of mutual positions and, on some matters, the coming closer of views."

(more)

Chopin Competition

Two Poles, two Russians and two Americans were among the 12 competitors who qualified for the third round of the seventh Frederic Chopin International Competition currently taking place in Warsaw, Radio Warsaw reported March 9. The original number of entrants was 83, among whom were seven Poles, five Russians and eight Americans. All the Poles and Russians, but only four of the eight Americans qualified for the second round to which altogether 36 competitors were admitted.

At this stage one of the American competitors, Findlay Cockrell (one of the four who failed to qualify), formally charged the jury with favoring Russian and Polish entrants, David Halberstam reported from Warsaw in The New York Times (March 6). According to Halberstam, the American pianist made the charge in a letter to the Polish Ministry of Culture and Arts. The charges were immediately denied by Prof. Zbigniew Drzewiecki of Poland, chairman of the jury. However, some of the charges made by Mr. Cockrell had, said Halberstam, been echoed privately by one of the Western judges who had told friends that the judging was "most peculiar," if only because no scores of voting were announced. (Of the 21 judges seven are Poles, seven from the Communist countries and seven from Western countries.)

While the jury may be guilty of at least some bias, the fact is that there are simply too many good pianists who gather in Warsaw to take part in a competition which is known for being tough and demanding a particular style of interpretation. This trait of the Chopin competition was stressed (long before the charge of favoritism was made) by a Polish music critic, Jerzy Waldorff, writing in the weekly Swiat (published on March 7 but prepared for print on March 2).