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Polish-Hungarian Meeting

A "friendly meeting" of the leadership of the Polish United Workers Party and of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party took place in Budapest on January 18 and 19, Radio Warsaw and PAP as well as the Hungarian official agencies reported last night.

According to these sources the following leaders took part in the meeting: Polish Politburo members, Wladyslaw Gomulka, Jozef Cyrankiewicz and Zenon Kliszko, and Hungarian Politburo members, Janos Kadar, Gyula Kallai, Antal Apro and Zoltan Komocsin.

The talks pertained to a "further development and deepening of the overall cooperation between Poland and Hungary and between the PUWP and the HSWP." Discussed also (emphasis supplied) were the "problems of the present international situation and of the situation in the international Communist and worker movement," Polish official sources reported. The talks had demonstrated "full unanimity of views of both sides on all the matters discussed."

The fact that practically nothing has been revealed on the subject of the talks, as well as the fact that the visit of the Polish leaders to Budapest had not been announced in advance, may suggest the urgency of the topics under discussion and their importance (secrecy!) on the other. (The first news about the visit was broadcast by Radio Warsaw in the late night of January 18 when the Poles had already arrived in Budapest "upon an invitation of the CC, HSWP.")

It is also very probable that the official communique did not necessarily reveal the actual grading of importance of the topics

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discussed and that the international problems had been discussed first and foremost rather than "also." The Yugoslav news agency Tanjug reported from Budapest on January 19 that "the situation in the international workers movement and the Vietnam issue" would be at the center of attention during the talks. As not to leave any doubt on this subject, the Yugoslav agency stated:

"It is believed that bilateral relations are not at the center of the talks on this occasion, which have given way to international problems, especially to the situation in the international workers movement and the Vietnam issue."

At least one argument which would support the Yugoslav contention is supplied by the fact that Polish-Hungarian economic problems were discussed in a separate series of conferences in Warsaw immediately preceding the Budapest meeting. The sixth session of the permanent Polish-Hungarian economic cooperation commission took place in Warsaw between January 14 and 17. Antal Apro, who left Budapest for Warsaw on January 13 was leading the Hungarian delegation to these economic talks, his Polish opposite number being Politburo member and Planning Commission Chairman Stefan Jedrychowski. These two dignitaries signed a protocol at the conclusion of the session on January 17. At the same time the first Polish agreement on cooperation of the motor industries of the two countries was signed. It provides for a long term cooperation in the production of trucks and buses.

If -- as can safely be assumed -- all the important economic problems had been dealt with by Apro and Jedrychowski, it is rather difficult to think of another important strictly Polish-Hungarian problem which would warrant such a high level meeting. Also judging after the composition of the two delegations, one is rather inclined to believe that the Yugoslav agency was closer to the truth than the official Polish and Hungarian communiques. (One must also note, in this connection, the Novotny visit to Moscow. It is quite probable that all these visits recently are connected with Soviet inspired moves toward some kind of concerted action on Vietnam and/or China.)

Polish-Swedish Political Talks

Poland's Deputy Foreign Minister, Jozef Winiewicz, visited Stockholm between January 9 and 11 and held talks with the Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Tornsten Nilsson, mainly on problems of European security and armaments, Trybuna Ludu reported on January 12.

The 17-nation Geneva Disarmament Conference was to be one of the main items on the agenda, according to RFE Specials from Stockholm (January 7 and 9). These sources explained that the Polish diplomat was replacing Polish Foreign Minister Rapacki, who had to cancel his planned visit to Stockholm last May because of ill-health.

On January 10 Winiewicz met with Nilsson and discussed security and disarmament questions, reported RFE from Stockholm the same day. The RFE report added that both sides were concerned about the consequences the Vietnam war might have in other parts of the world.

The Swedish Foreign Ministry source said that Rapacki might visit Sweden this spring. (RFE Special January 10)

A New Appointment at Planning Commission

Janusz Walewski has been relieved of his duties of an under-secretary of state at the Ministry of the Chemical Industry and has been appointed a deputy chairman of the Planning Commission at the Council of Ministers, Radio Warsaw reported January 18.

Walewski thus fills the vacancy created after the appointment of Edward Sznajder as Minister of Home Trade (cf. SR December 16).

Born in 1921 in Warsaw in a family of "working intelligentsia," as Trybuna Ludu stated on the occasion of his nomination at the Ministry of Chemical Industry in mid-September 1960, Walewski graduated from the Chemical Faculty of the Lodz Politechnical Institute and in as early as 1946 started his career from leading positions in the chemical industry. His climb was rather rapid, which is not surprising since after the war there was a chronic shortage of trained engineers and technicians. From a director of a chemical combine ("Boruta" at Zgierz) through the directorship of the Institute of Dyes and Semi-Products (in Warsaw) and of an industrial association (organic chemical industry), Walewski climbed to the membership of the Committee for the Technological Affairs (June 1960) and to the position of a deputy minister a few months after. Needless to say, he is a Party member.

Walewski is a typical young technocrat, capable, efficient and publicity conscious, less concerned about internal Party groupings and intrigues as about his own career.

Students' Congress and Other Youth Meetings

The Polish Students' Association held its Sixth Congress in Warsaw on January 4 to 7. As reported by Radio Warsaw on January 4, the slogan of the Congress was: "For better social and political preparation to profession." The day before, PSA Central Council Deputy Chairman Wieslaw Klimczak explained in a radio interview that this slogan covered three groups of problems to be discussed:

- 1) Better results of studies, their "effectiveness," in other words "the whole complex of problems connected with the efficiency of the establishments of higher learning."
- 2) Social preparation, the "development of the interest in political, intellectual and ideological subjects of the university youth."
- 3) Material conditions, and in particular the correct distribution of "state means allocated for material aid to students," such as stipends and grants, students' homes, etc.

By far the most important was the second group, since -- judging by previous experience -- any political "engagement" on the

part of the PSA augurs a decline and slow death of the organization.

The Polish Students' Association was founded by regime fiat at the turn of 1950 and 1951 to replace the traditional and popular "Bratnia Pomoc" (Brotherly Help) students' organization. The new PSA soon became no more than a department of the then powerful Polish Youth Union (a replica of the Soviet Komsomol). It experienced a rebirth in 1956 when its membership rose commensurate with the hopes of independence from any political interference. The Polish students have in fact always been hoping for at least one independent organization which would take care of their material needs and be completely unpolitical. The PSA was supposed to be such an organization and, for a short time after 1956, it managed to assure itself a measure of political independence big enough to make the organization quite popular among the university youth.

But this was what the regime was not prepared to tolerate. By clever "preparation" of elections, it managed to bring in obedient Communist agents into the provincial and central councils of the PSA. The results of the political pressure on the organization became soon reflected in membership figures.

Although in absolute figures the membership of the PSA increased from 115,000 in 1957 to 130,000 at present, the real picture of the popularity of the organization is reflected in the ratio between the total number of students and the PSA membership. Thus, out of 140,000 students in 1957 some 115,000 or 82 per cent were members of the PSA; in 1962 the respective figures were 170,000 and 96,000, or 56 per cent, while now there are 240,000 students and 130,000 members of the PSA, which means that the membership dropped further to 54 per cent.

Apparently undisturbed by these figures, the Party leadership sent an elite delegation to attend the opening of the Congress: Politburo members, Igancy Loga-Sowinski, Ryszard Strzelecki and Franciszek Waniolka, as well as CC secretary Witold Jarosinski and CC member and Higher Education Minister Henryk Jablonski. (The United Peasant Party was represented by Deputy Chairman Jozef Ozga-Michalski, while the Democratic Party by Presidium member Eugenia Krassowska.)

Jarosinski, who is in charge of ideology and education at the CC Secretariat level, delivered a speech in which he stressed that in the next five years the national economy must absorb 3,200,000 newcomers, a generation "born and brought up in socialist Poland," many of whom will belong to the intelligentsia class. Again, of the bulk of the intelligentsia class no less than 135,000 will be receiving university and other higher education diplomas in the years 1966-1970. The "young intelligentsia," Jarosinski stated, should understand "the policy of the Party, of this motor power of progress in our country;" it should "take inspiration" from the Party and direct its activities according to Party "advice."

The problem of political education and of the role of the PSA in the Party ideological work was also raised by PSA Chairman

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Jerzy Kwiatek. Stating that the Sixth Congress closes 15 years of the Association's activities, Kwiatek defined the character of the PSA as follows: "a general organization dealing with the whole complex of the needs and interests of its milieu, an organization acting within the Front of National Unity under the ideological leadership of the PUWP." The PSA, Kwiatek explained, has become an organization which "fulfills important tasks of the ideological education of the students." (in other words, the PSA is back again where it was in 1954 and 1955).

At the end of the Congress a new chairman of the Central Council was elected. He is Jerzy Piatkowski, a graduate of the Higher School of Economics in Lodz. In the period 1960-1963 he was deputy chairman, then chairman of the local Lodz council of the PSA. He was also member of the Central Council and of its Executive Committee. From June 1964 he lived in Prague where he acted as secretary of the International Students Union. He is a Party member. The fact that Sztandar Mlodych (January 8-9), reporting on his election and giving his short biography, fails to produce any reference to his age seems to indicate that Piatkowski can already be regarded as an educated Party apparatchik on the youth front rather than a genuine representative of the student milieu.

Another youth organization, the Rural Youth Union, will hold its third national congress in Warsaw on February 24 to 26, the Union's chairman, Zdzislaw Kurowski, announced at a press conference on January 13.

According to Kurowski, the RYU has a membership of over 813,000 young people organized in 28,000 "circles." Since at the time of the second congress in December 1962 the RYU had 580,000 members, this means an increase of over 200,000, Kurowski explained. "Such a development of the organization was and is still possible thanks to the general situation in the countryside, the situation created by the agricultural policy of the Party."

In a broadcast on agricultural subjects Radio Warsaw stressed yesterday that the RYU congress will be taking place on the ninth anniversary of the setting up of the organization.

One more meeting of a youth organization has been taking place in Warsaw since yesterday. A plenary session of the Central Board of the Socialist Youth Union convened yesterday for a two day debate on the "role and task of the Union" at secondary (high) schools. CC secretary Witold Jarosinski and Education Minister Wacław Tulodziecki attended the debates yesterday. A paper on the subject of "thorough study and social engagement" of the high school youth was read by Central Board's secretary Ignacy Gajewski. Interviewed by Radio Warsaw, SYU Chairman Stanislaw Hasiak explained that there are over 400,000 SYU members at high schools. (The total membership of SYU is over 800,000).

Polish Credit to North Vietnam

Polish-North Vietnamese economic talks ended in Warsaw with the signing on January 10 of a credit agreement as well as an agreement on mutual exchanges of goods and payments in the year 1966, Trybuna Ludu reported on January 11. (The details of the credit arrangements were not revealed.)

A North Vietnamese government delegation headed by a member of the Politburo of the North Vietnamese CP, vice-premier Le Thanh Nghi, arrived in Warsaw on January 8 and started talks the same day with Polish vice-Premier Piotr Jaroszewicz, said Trybuna Ludu of January 9. Talks were continued by the delegations of the two countries and their experts under the chairmanship of the respective vice-Ministers of Foreign Trade, reported Trybuna Ludu on January 10.

A previous Polish-North Vietnamese aid agreement was signed last summer and was meant to help North Vietnam develop its economy, according to a Reuter dispatch of 28 July 1965.

The first Polish-North Vietnamese trade agreement was signed in Warsaw on 1 March 1961 and covered the years 1961/65. It is interesting that now only trade exchanges for 1966 were agreed upon and no new five-year trade agreement concluded.

Trade Protocols with Czechoslovakia and Morocco

On January 15, Poland signed a trade protocol for 1966 with Czechoslovakia, Radio Warsaw reported the same day.

The pact was within the framework of a five-year trade agreement signed between the two countries last week which called for an overall increase of 43 per cent in trade exchanges as compared with the stipulations of the previous trade agreement.

Poland and Morocco signed on January 13 in Warsaw a trade protocol for 1966, Radio Warsaw reported the same day. The protocol was signed on behalf of Morocco by the Moroccan Ambassador in Warsaw, Abderrahim Harkett, and on behalf of Poland by vice-director of department in the Ministry for Foreign Trade, Marian Minkiewicz, said Radio Warsaw.

Under the terms of the new protocol, Poland is to export to Morocco machines and equipment, chemicals, metal goods, textiles, coal and agricultural consumer goods in exchange for Moroccan phosphates, ores, cork, rice, fruit, sardines and others, added Radio Warsaw.