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Preparations for May Day Celebrations

The May Day parade in Warsaw is expected to supply more than one clue to the internal Party situation. It has already been announced that the parade will be preceded by a speech by First Party Secretary Wladyslaw Gomulka, which will be televised and broadcast by the nation's radio network. However, probably more indicative than what Gomulka will have to say will be the slogans shouted during the parade and inscribed on posters and banners which -- like those evident during the famous Gomulka speech of March 19 -- might conflict with the intention of the Party leader and even challenge him to fall in line with what Radio Warsaw often refers to as "the refreshing wave of Party activity."

The situation continues to be uncertain, to say the least. A recent speech by Politburo deputy member Boleslaw Jaszczuk in Opole (on April 25) was heavily censored by Radio Warsaw, and Trybuna Ludu (April 26) also failed to refer to a key political passage in which he said that "Zionism in itself is not our main enemy." As quoted by UPI on April 25, Jaszczuk stated that "the main adversary is social reaction and revisionism, in whose ranks Zionists have found almost ideal stimulus for their activity." He thus voiced the Gomulka line on the problem, which after Jozef Kepa's speech and the Polityka counter-attack (cf. Polish Situation Report/36, Radio Free Europe Research, April 25), may serve as further evidence of Gomulka's efforts to regain control of the situation.

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However, anti-Zionist slogans and demands for the relentless purge of all possible enemies of the People's Poland are reported daily by Radio Warsaw (which seems to be almost entirely controlled by Mieczyslaw Moczar), in the form of resolutions from the most remote parts of the country and in some cases from bodies whose existence one would hardly have even suspected. UPI (April 26) reported that, among the banners displayed in Warsaw in preparation for the May Day celebrations, was one reading: "Political bankrupts, reactionaries and Zionists will not halt the socialist development of our homeland!"

Polish Delegation to the Budapest Preparatory Meeting

Politburo member and CC Secretary Zenon Kliszko; head of the CC Science and Education Department Andrzej Werblan; and deputy head of the CC Foreign Department Marian Renke were members of the Polish delegation to the meeting of the preparatory commission of the Communist and workers' Parties, which took place in Budapest from April 24 to 28. They arrived in Budapest in the evening hours of April 22, Radio Warsaw reported the next day.

Polish coverage of the meeting seemed to reflect not only the atmosphere of secrecy surrounding the event, but also the uncertainty about its duration and/or outcome. Reporting from Budapest, Radio Warsaw correspondent Witold Wieromiej had stressed on April 26 that the debates were taking place behind closed doors and suggested that the meeting would last "till the end of the month." He then quoted the Hungarian weekly Magyarország, which dealt with the problem of unity of action and the necessity to exclude all factors which would hamper such unity. Two days later, on April 28, Wieromiej simply reported on the conclusion of the "five-day debates" of the commission.

Students Fail to Protest

An earlier student threat to start demonstrations if their demands were not met by April 22 (cf. Polish SR/28, RFER, April 1) has not materialized. An unknown number of student leaders were arrested on April 20 and 21, UPI reported on April 23. In addition, on the same date, Jonathan Randal reported for The New York Times that university authorities had warned the students that the entire university would be closed down if new demonstrations started. Other repressive measures, such as drafting into the army for two or three years, might also have acted as a deterrent to further opposition. (Instances of such conscription have been confirmed by official media.)

In the meantime, demands have been voiced by the official

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media and several conferences of various youth and Party organizations, as well as of university authorities, for the reorganization of the system of admissions to schools of higher learning (with preferential treatment being given to candidates of working class or peasant origin), for the rewriting of the laws on the structure and functioning of such schools, and for granting a major say in university life to "youth organizations" (which, as is known, are under Party control). Stress was also laid on the necessity for intense political education of the students, i.e., on the complete reintroduction of the teaching of Marxism-Leninism. At least two university rectors also have suggested that students should complete their military service before applying for entrance examinations, and that they should also take care of such chores in their dormitories as cleaning, plumbing, and gardening. This last suggestion was obviously based on the assumption that too much free time was being left to the students, thus allowing them to make trouble.

Purges, Dismissals, Appointments

Trybuna Ludu of April 24, which is now available here, lists the names of some persons purged and dismissed in addition to those enumerated in the UPI and Reuter dispatches (see Polish SR/36, RFER, April 25). Thus Ludwik Engelman, former director of the Medical Industry Association, has been ousted from the Party; no reasons were given. For an "attitude incompatible with the PUWP statutes," Michal Grynberg, deputy director of the Coordination, Supply and Sales Unit (zespol), and Mieczyslaw Galecki, director of the Production Programming and Engineering Development Unit, were dismissed from the Party. No reasons were stated in the case of the dismissal from the Party of Wlodzimierz Moroz, former deputy director for technical supply in the Institute of Electrical Engineering, and of Marek Thee, head of the Asian Countries Section in the Polish Institute of International Affairs.

Juliusz Katz-Suchy, former ambassador to India and to the UN, was ordered to retire from the chair of the history of diplomacy and international relations at Warsaw University, PAP reported on April 27. The order for this retirement was issued by the Ministry of General and Higher Education, although he is only 56, and the normal retirement age is 65.

Longin Cegielski, doctor and engineer of agricultural science, was appointed undersecretary (deputy minister) in the Ministry of Agriculture, Radio Warsaw announced on April 27. A Reuter dispatch of the same day, announcing this appointment, added that Cegielski, 48, has been administrative director of the Office of Deputy Prime Minister Stefan Ignar. Like Ignar, Cegielski is a member of the United Peasant Party.

Upon her own request, Irena Brzozowska was released from the post of chairman of the Main Board of the Public Health Employees Trade Union, Radio Warsaw reported on April 27. She was replaced by Associate Professor Aleksander Mul.

The State Council appointed Feliks Pisula, former Minister of Food Industry and Purchases (he was dismissed from that position on April 11 -- see Polish SR/33, RFER, April 17) to the post of vice-president of the Supreme Chamber of Control on April 25, Radio Warsaw reported on the same day.

On the same day, Radio Warsaw announced that the Presidium of the Society for the Popularization of Knowledge ("Towarzystwo Wiedzy Powszechnej") had accepted the resignation of Czeslaw Bobrowski from the post of chairman of the society.

Several changes have also affected the voivodship national councils. According to Radio Warsaw, on April 26, Antoni Zarajczyk, former secretary of the Committee for National Council Affairs, PUWP CC, replaced Antoni Mierzwinski, former chairman of the Kielce Voivodship National Council. On the following day, Radio Warsaw announced more changes: Franciszek Adamiec was dismissed from the post of chairman of the Opole Voivodship National Council. In Bydgoszcz Voivodship, Tadeusz Nowinski replaced Walenty Gorzach as chairman of the Voivodship National Council, and in Zielona Gora, Pawel Puterman was dismissed from the post of deputy chairman of the Voivodship National Council.

In its Polish program on April 28, Radio Tirana claimed that Leon Kasman, who had been dismissed from the post of editor-in-chief of Trybuna Ludu on 20 December 1967 (cf. Polish SR, RFER, 22 December 1967), was appointed deputy chairman of the Polish National Bank. To date, this is the only known reference to any such appointment.

Czechoslovak-Polish Relations

Czechoslovak-Polish relations have reached a new stage with the presentation of a verbal protest by the Polish Ambassador in Prague, Wlodzimierz Janiurek, to the Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry over the allegedly unfair coverage of Polish political events by Czechoslovak radio and press media. Reporting this, Reuter and UPI added that on Tuesday, April 23, the Jewish writer Arnold Lustig had criticized the "anti-Semitic trend" in Poland when he spoke on Prague television. The London Times of April 27, reporting on the protest, stressed that Lustig had recently visited Poland. "Although the protest was over

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an unofficial and private view ... it reveals some of the pressures that the new leadership in Prague is exposed to and the mistrust and sensitivity of Czechoslovakia's allies to the changes here," the Times said.

On the other hand, Polish information media have devoted more space than previously to the circumstances of Jan Masaryk's death in 1948. An Interpress agency dispatch (published in Sztandar Mlodych of 17 April 1968) gave a detailed account of the case and of the present stage of the official investigation. Quoting Jiri Hochman's article in Rude Pravo, Interpress referred to "the Beria gang" as having been responsible for Masaryk's death (see also Polish SR, RFER, of April 22).

Economic Results for the First Quarter of 1968

The first quarter of 1968 was one of unusual activity in practically all economic fields. Zycie Gospodarcze (Economic Life) of April 28, quoting a PAP dispatch, said that over-all industrial production in the first quarter of this year was higher by 10.4 per cent than in the same period last year (3.3 per cent higher than called for by the national economic plan), and ranks among the highest reached over the last eight years. The best results were achieved by the engineering, chemical, building and building materials, small-scale, and food and purchases industries. Other industries either reached or slightly surpassed the planned targets. The two main factors which determined industrial growth in the first quarter were: the persistent demand for machines and equipment, for both the foreign and domestic markets, and the changes in the structure of domestic consumption caused by increases in the price of meat (late last year). Employment increased by 4.2 per cent, against a planned 2.8 per cent, but labor productivity increased by as much as 6 per cent. In agriculture, purchases of fertilizer increased by about 16 per cent, though purchases of livestock for slaughter decreased by 2.2 per cent. Foreign trade turnover increased sharply; exports increased by 13 per cent and imports even more (no percentage given). Domestic trade turnover increased by 8.5 per cent, as against a planned 5.7 per cent (for the whole year), mainly due to increased purchases of durable consumer goods last January, due to nervousness of the market caused by various rumors. The paper concluded by saying that in spite of the favorable over-all results, there were certain shortcomings, such as: difficulties in meeting the demand for investment goods, in adequately supplying the domestic market, and in achieving a balance of payments.

Radio Warsaw's (April 23) reports and commentaries on the results of the first quarter are characteristic of the present practice of mixing Party propaganda with everything. The increased industrial production is repeatedly being interpreted as a manifestation of the workers' solidarity with the Party and "Comrade Wieslaw."

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East-West Contacts

A Polish-Danish protocol on cooperation in the field of education, science, protection of health, culture and art in the period up to 1970 has been signed in Copenhagen, Radio Warsaw announced on April 25.

Poland is taking part in the International Fair at Lille, which opened on April 26, Radio Warsaw reported the next day, adding that the Polish pavilion had been visited on the opening day by the French Postal and Telegraph Minister and Prince Albert of Belgium, accompanied by the Belgian Foreign Trade Minister.

Centrozap, the Polish foreign trade enterprise, has concluded its fifth consecutive contract with Italy on cooperation in building zinc mines in Sardinia, Radio Warsaw reported on April 27. The broadcast added that the contract provides also for deliveries of Polish mining equipment and that the value of the five agreements concluded thus far already exceeds one million dollars.