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## EAST EUROPE

● Poland  
12 May 1966

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#### Israeli Foreign Minister in Poland

Abba Eban, Israel's Foreign Minister, arrived in Warsaw yesterday for a seven-day working visit, agencies reported. The primary purpose of the visit is to hold a conference with Israeli envoys to East European countries. The event sets at least two precedents in Israeli diplomatic history. Reuter, reporting from Warsaw stressed: it is the first visit to Poland by an Israeli foreign minister and it is the first time that a regional meeting of Israel's envoys to East Europe has taken place in Eastern Europe itself. (The last such meeting was held three years ago in Stockholm.) Israel has ambassadors in Moscow and Warsaw and ministers in Prague, Budapest, Bucharest, Sofia, and Belgrade. No diplomatic relations are maintained by Israel with either East Germany or Albania.

Eban's visit is not considered an official one to the Polish government, agencies reported, although he will pay a courtesy call at the Foreign Ministry. According to an RFE Special from Tel Aviv (May 2), Eban plans to have one or two meetings with his Polish opposite number, Adam Rapacki. According to the same source, it was not expected that Eban would be received by Party First Secretary Wladyslaw Gomulka. However, rather unexpectedly, an RFE Special from London reported on May 9 that he would. The London dispatch quoted a "spokesman for the Israeli embassy" in the British capital.

Significantly, within the 24 hours following Eban's arrival in the Polish capital, Radio Warsaw carried no reference to the visit.

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Visit of the Singapore Premier

The Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore, Lee Kuan Yew, arrived in Warsaw May 10, Radio Warsaw and Western agencies reported. Lee is accompanied by Singapore's Foreign Minister, Sinnathamby Rajaratnam, and Social Affairs Minister, Othman Wok.

Lee is making a tour of East European countries, and Warsaw marks the beginning of the swing. The purpose of the tour is to acquaint leaders of the East European countries with the new Far Eastern nation and to establish useful contacts leading to an expansion of Singapore's trade.

So far Lee had talks with a number of top Polish trade officials, including Foreign Trade Minister Witold Trampeczynski and Prime Minister Jozef Cyrankiewicz.

Singapore and Poland have no diplomatic relations but the possibility of establishing a formal link was considered certain to have come up in these talks, according to Western agencies.

Polish-West German Trade Protocol

The second additional protocol to the Polish-West German trade agreement of 7 March 1963 was signed in Warsaw on May 10, PAP reported the same day. According to the agency, the new protocol envisages a growth of mutual trade turnover and a lifting of quantitative restrictions on the export to West Germany of many Polish products such as ships, certain machines, electrical motors, chemical products, radio and TV sets, and many other commodities.

The dispatch stressed that so far the principles underlying the trade exchanges between the two countries did not correspond to the Polish policy of expanding industrial exports. On the other hand, as a result of Common Market agricultural policy, the exports of some Polish agricultural produce to West Germany were rapidly decreasing. The agency concluded by saying that the partial lifting of quantitative restrictions on Polish exports should stimulate the development of Polish-West German trade exchanges.

In its commentary on the latest Polish-West German protocol, the Sueddeutsche Zeitung (May 11) mentioned that the German side agreed to a partial liberalization in respect to Polish exports under the condition that Polish goods will be delivered at ruling market prices. The paper also stressed that for years West Germany suffered a deficit in trade with Poland. In 1965 West Germany imported from Poland goods worth 436 million marks, while its exports to Poland amounted only to 366 million marks.

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An RFE Special from Bonn (May 11) added an important detail on the subject, namely that the latest agreement was made in the form of a supplementary protocol to the Polish-West German trade agreement of 7 March 1963, thus the procedure obviated the need for re-negotiating the so-called Berlin Clause under which the agreement is also made applicable to West Berlin.

For information on negotiations preceding the latest protocol, cf. SR December 23 and May 5.

### Polish-Bulgarian Trade Agreement

On May 6 Poland and Bulgaria signed in Warsaw a trade agreement for 1966/70 calling for a considerable increase in the reciprocal deliveries of machines and equipment and also in joint production deliveries, Trybuna Ludu reported on May 7. It pointed out that the turnover of goods envisaged in the previous agreement (1961/65) was in fact fulfilled 110 per cent.

Commenting on the last session of the Polish-Bulgarian Commission, Vice-Premier Zenon Nowak stressed the considerable results achieved in the field of shipbuilding, which intends to further increase reciprocal deliveries of ships and maritime equipment.

The Polish-Bulgarian agreement on exchanges of goods and on payments in 1966/70 was signed in Sofia on February 1 (cf. SR February 3).

It is puzzling that Trybuna Ludu of May 7 refers to a new Polish-Bulgarian trade agreement for 1966/70 when this agreement was already signed on February 1.

### Economic Results of the First Quarter of 1966

The latest session of the Sejm Commission for the Economic Plan, the Budget and Financial Matters, discussing the economic situation of the country in the first quarter of 1966, pointed to the fact that diminishing rate of the increase of production was accompanied by increased employment and wages, Radio Warsaw reported quoting Glos Pracy of May 11. It went on to say that it meant that both labor productivity and technical progress were inadequate.

The full texts of speeches from the relevant session are not yet available, but a more detailed commentary on the subject will be included in the next SR.