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S I T U A T I O N R E P O R T

* Victory Day Celebrations

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The key event of the 20th anniversary victory celebrations in Poland was a speech delivered on May 8 by Party First Secretary Wladyslaw Gomulka in Wroclaw. It was violently anti-West German (and by definition pro-East German), anti-US and anti-West in general (and, obviously, very pro-Soviet).

Gomulka reviewed the history of "German imperialism" from Frederick the Great, through Bismarck, to the present Bundeswehr, the symbol of German "militarism." He was quite specific on the strength of the Bundeswehr, the number of warships, types of rockets, military budget, etc. For the "rebirth" of German militarism Gomulka blamed the "Western powers, in the first place the USA," which raised the "hackneyed fascist banner of anti-communism," and under this banner created NATO, thus helping West Germany to become an "imperialist German state." The main "revanchist" aim of Bonn policy, Gomulka claimed, was the "absorption" of the GDR under the guise of "reunification. Again, "the attitude of the Western powers to the Bonn idea of

10 May 1965

the unification of Germany determines their stand on the matters of war and peace," Gomulka warned. For all the forces of the Warsaw Pact will not let East Germany be swallowed by West Germany. A unified German state may materialize only out of a "peaceful state, a really democratic one," Gomulka said.

"The road to the emergence of such a unified Germany is being shown by GDR, and only such a unified Germany can be accepted by the socialist states, by Europe," the Polish leader stressed. (Speaking in East Berlin the day before, Premier Jozef Cyrankiewicz stressed the same theme in the following way: "For today the GDR is the conscience of the German nation, for tomorrow it represents the future of that nation as a whole.")

In reviewing the history of the war and of the last 20 years, Gomulka lost no opportunity to criticize and attack the USA. Even a statement about such tragic facts that Poland lost 222 out of every thousand of its citizens had a strong anti-US accent, for that meant that Poland lost in the war "exactly one hundred times more than the United States in relation to the number of population." Gomulka cited the corresponding figures for Great Britain and France, only to show how cheap was the contribution of these two countries to the war in terms of casualties in comparison with the USSR, Poland and Yugoslavia. He strongly condemned the USA for the "genocidal act" of Hiroshima, which could not be explained other than by the American intention of "terrorizing the nations of the world, of demonstrating the jungle law of force to dominate the world," an intention which, Gomulka claimed, had been confirmed by post-Hiroshima events, by the present reality. There followed a catalogue of American and (not clearly specified) "imperialist" aggressions and interventions, from China, Formosa, through Egypt, Congo, to Vietnam and the Dominican Republic. Regarding North Vietnam, Gomulka warned that the "policy of peaceful coexistence" did not mean a "passive observation of aggression," that, if the USA continued its "aggression against the Vietnam Democratic Republic, the flames of war may spread broadly."

10 May 1965

Gomulka was as laudatory to the USSR as he was critical of the West. It was the Soviet Union which carried the main burden of the Hitlerite aggression, Gomulka stated, and it was the Soviet Union which played the decisive role in the "smashing of the Hitlerite aggressor." It was also the Soviet Union, to which the Poles owed their "freedom and independence" as well as the "recovery of the territory on the Oder and Neisse rivers and on the Baltic."

The rest of the speech was devoted to a review of Polish achievements in these recovered territories (Gomulka was the first post-war minister in charge of these territories) and to the achievements of the Polish nation, led by the PUWP. Gomulka ended his speech by appealing for a demonstration of unity by the nation in "unanimously voting for the list of the Front of National Unity" in the forthcoming (May 30) elections.

The Wroclaw celebrations, opened by Voivodship Party Committee first secretary Wladyslaw Pilatowski in his capacity as host, were attended by several top Party and government leaders, including Politburo members Zenon Kliszko, Ignacy Loga-Sowinski, Marian Spychalski, Eugeniusz Szyr, candidate-members of the CC Politburo Boleslaw Jaszczuk and Mieczyslaw Jagielski, CC secretaries Artur Starewicz and Wladyslaw Wicha, as well as by the leaders of the "allied" parties, Czeslaw Wycech for the United Peasant Party, and Stanislaw Kulczynski for the Democratic Party. Among the foreign guests the most important was Soviet marshal of armored troops, Pavel Pavlovich Polboyarov.

The Wroclaw celebration was not the only one in Poland. Almost every town and city had its own celebration. Even General Mieczyslaw Moczar, Minister of the Interior and chairman of ZBOWID (an ex-combatants' association known under the name of Union of Fighters for Freedom and Democracy) thought of making political capital out of the occasion by rallying what was referred to as The Youth 9 May Club. These were the members of a club composed of girls and boys born on 9 May 1945. The Club members met with Moczar and State Council member Jozef Ozga-Michalski on May 8. In the meeting there also took part the "members of the leadership of the Ministry of the Interior," Radio Warsaw reported.