

State-Church Relations

"Neue Zuercher Zeitung" (August 26) published an article by Korab on the Communist offensive against the Catholics. The article will be sent in the clear. Dr. Korab covers most of the familiar ground covered by Floyd in the London "Daily Telegraph" (cf. Situation Report, August 23) and concludes that the renewed pressure on the Roman Catholic Church is traced by some Poles to the pressure exerted by Soviet Russia on Gomulka. The concluding part of the article stresses the possibility that this may serve as an excuse to exonerate Gomulka who, according to some observers in Poland, would thus be relieved of the full responsibility for the new, harsher policy. Korab's final remark is interesting but not verifiable. He states that in the circles closest to Gomulka it is thought that the current retrogression is not unlike the nervous tactic of the pre-war leader Pilsudski during the later part of his rule and not the result of a well thought-out policy. (This comparison is rather far-fetched; the analogy is true in certain respects but is not sufficiently true to be considered as really valid.) One does get sporadic reports of the increasingly bellicose attitude of Gomulka, who is said to be subject to occasional fits of bad temper. Even the closest collaborators are rumored to prefer to avoid discussing state affairs which necessitate personal contacts with the First Secretary. This may well be true but it would be dangerous to attribute actions in so important a field as church-state relations, even to a limited extent, to fits of personal irritation.

Pouched: (1) "Glos Pracy" (a) (August 18), K.W. on the weakness of the defence of workers' rights; (b) (August 19), j.r. on the decision to forego acclimatization of Polish athletes participating at the Rome Olympics and the bitterness with which they received the order for immediate return to Poland after their competition dates; (2) "Przeglad Kulturalny" (August 11), A. Malachowski provides another justification for the continued development of coal extraction despite the world-wide search for other fuels. Article also deals with the energetic deficit in Poland; (3) "Kierunki" (August 21), an editorial attack on Alessandrini in connection with the political past of Piasecki.