

From a number of foreign press dispatches over the weekend on events in Poland, the following merit attention:

Riots in Gdansk

The UPI, London report dated October 8 about a recent incident at a mass rally of workers in the Gdansk shipyards, offers an outspokes illustration of the existing attitude of the Polish workers to empty propaganda phraseology which conveniently overlooks their own plight. The expressive discontent among the workers in the Gdansk shipyards in particular confirms earlier information about existing tensions and a brief survey of the situation may be in order. The Gdansk shipyard employs about 11,000 people and is the largest in Poland. Working primarily on Soviet orders, which in the course of the next five years are to amount to 114 vessels to be constructed for Russia, this constitutes about 95% of the total tonnage produced by this shipyard. Despite the ambitious ship construction program and an indeed substantial increase in productivity and output, the number of men employed in the Gdansk shipyard has grown in the last few years by barely several hundred men. Nor have the living conditions and wages of workers been improved. In fact, the opposite trend took place. In the autumn of last year, supposedly to put to a better use the working day, the discipline of work was tightened. Moreover, last winter the norms were raised out of proportion with the possibilities provided by the existing installations and machinery. The new norms caused indignation among the workers who were said to have sent a special delegation to the Central Board of the Amalgamated Ship Building Industry in Warsaw. At the same time a meeting of the workers was demanded in order to discuss the question of new norms. The meeting reportedly took place in January and its course was very stormy. The management acquainted the workers with the new production plan and explained the necessity for the revision of norms. The shipyard workers then protested that the workers council is not being sufficiently informed and does not participate in the economic decision of the shipyard. They demanded that the shipyard finances and the accurate estimate of every 10,000 ton vessel built in the shipyards for the Soviet Union be presented to them. There prevails among the workers the belief, not without good reason, that the construction of these ships considerably burdens the financial plan because the Soviets do not pay for them properly and, at best, the ships are being built at cost. Equal annoyance was expressed by the Gdansk shipyard workers about the Soviet experts who supervise the construction of ships built for the USSR. The current report is a further example of the existing discontent of the Gdansk workers with the tightened discipline of work and raised norms, which as in this instance, found expression at the least expected occasion.

### Church-State

It now appears that the withdrawal of the pastoral letter had its final epilogue in the current issue of Tygodnik Powszechny, which as reported uniformly by various Western correspondents from Warsaw (cf. items telexed today) published a formal protest by the secretariat of Cardinal Wyszynski. While the protest is primarily addressed to an "underhanded" exploitation of the unpublished letter for political purposes, it is a further indication how careful the Polish Episcopate is today to forestall any possible charges which the regime may bring up later in order to exploit the Church-State conflict for its own ends.

### The Albanian Incident

The rather amusing details about the incident involving the Albanian Ambassador in Warsaw who was supposed to have been declared "persona non grata" (cf. items telexed today from the Münchner Merkur and the FAZ) we believe require no comment. It merely goes to show how preposterous the intra-bloc relations tend to become sometimes.

### Gomulka and the UN

The accent on "world affairs" continues to follow a by now routine pattern. On the one hand fullest publicity is given to Gomulka's "special role" in the US; i.e., his meeting on Saturday with Secretary of State Herter, his "lecture" on the international situation and Polish foreign policy which he delivered on Friday at the invitation at the Council for Foreign Relations, etc. are all scrupulously noted with unhidden satisfaction. On the other hand, a standard Soviet line treatment is accorded to all the "unresolved" issues at the UN such as Red Chinese membership, colonialism, disarmament, etc. Topping all, however, is still the anti-Bonn campaign which is kept ablaze by the supplementary aide-memoire addressed to the governments of the NATO alliance.