

The 4th of July Reception in Warsaw

Only three top people from among those attending a reception at the US Embassy on the eve of the July 4th celebrations were named by Radio Warsaw. They were: Deputy Chairman of the Council of State, Prof. Oskar Lange, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Adam Rapacki, and Deputy Speaker of the Sejm, Jan Karol Wende. The broadcast also mentioned "ministers, deputy ministers, senior officials of some ministries, generals and representatives of the world of learning and culture".

An extensive analysis of the attendance at these functions during the post-October period was made last year (cf. Sit. Rep. 8 July 1964). It was found that Poland's official representation was at its lowest in 1963. This year it was slightly higher, but still --- with the exception of last year --- much lower than in any other year since 1957. It was assumed last year that Poland had thus shown her displeasure at the results of the then recent trip of President Kennedy to West Germany. It can be assumed that there has now been displeasure at Robert Kennedy's behavior during his recent visit to Poland.

Polish Press Comments on Robert Kennedy's Visit

"Mr. Kennedy worked hard" to show that he had arrived in Poland as "less of a tourist than a politician", the weekly "Polityka" stated on July 4. In an article entitled "Robert Kennedy in Poland," the periodical's staffer Daniel Passent (who for this occasion used as his signature the abbreviation "Pass") summed up, in a rather matter-of-fact tone, the "more than three-day visit", during which Mr. Kennedy "never neglected a single occasion to give a smile and a handshake". "At times the behavior of the guest resembled an election campaign in the United States." Although Passent stated that the arrival itself had been "an expression of an improvement in American-Polish relations", the behavior of the "unofficial guest" was a "far cry from the norms of public life" accepted in Poland. "Polityka" also complained about Kennedy's letting "members of the Polish government" wait for him, while he was busy "politicking for the benefit of passers-by and shaking their hands". The weekly also complained about Mr. Kennedy's evasive answers on the German problem, and specifically on the Oder-Neisse border, but it stressed ~~as~~ with implied satisfaction --- his

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utterances on the Polish role in solving European problems.

More or less the same line was taken by "Trybuna Ludu" of July 5. If a news agency summary of the article from Warsaw is correct, the Party daily concentrated on the positive rather than "negative" aspects of Mr. Kennedy's visit. Putting aside these "episodes", "Trybuna Ludu" said, "we may accept -- with understandable satisfaction -- Kennedy's words on the role and prestige of Poland on the international scene and the high evaluation of the efforts of our government and our initiative in the matters of Laos and stopping the nuclear armaments race". The paper also singled out for "positive appraisal" Kennedy's "emphasis on building bridges between the nations seeking peaceful and constructive solutions to difficult political problems".

It would appear from the tone of the "Trybuna Ludu" article that neither Jozef Winiewicz, the deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, who warned Kennedy about "seriously damaging" Polish-American relations, nor Arthur J. Olsen, who -- in his article in "NY Times" of July 5 -- drew a grim balance of the visit, were quite right in their pessimism. It is possible that the Polish leaders had some second thoughts about all the pros and cons of the visit and decided that, after all, what really mattered was Mr. Kennedy's opinion on Poland's role in international politics.

Poland on the Status of West Berlin

The Polish Government issued on July 3 a statement in connection with the holding of the election of the President of the German Federal Republic in Berlin, reported Radio Warsaw of the same day. Castigating West Germany for carrying out a political act on territory which is not part of the Federal Republic, it stressed that this point of view was not only held by Poland and other socialist states, but that the Western powers also recognized the separate status of West Berlin.

Oder-Neisse Line

An article on the Oder-Neisse line has recently appeared in the official press bulletin of the West German government, Radio Warsaw reported on 4 July.

Complaining about the revisionist character of the article, which contains "a record number of falsifications and historical inexactitudes", Radio Warsaw described it as tactless to publish such views at the moment of Gen. de Gaulle's visit to West Germany, as de Gaulle's contrary opinion on the subject is generally known.

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More on Writers Protesting Against Foreign Interference

As is known, a young writer, Party member Jozef Lenart, complained during the Fourth Party Congress two weeks ago that some writers who were Party members had preferred to be loyal to what he called the "intellectual left" rather than to the Party. This was a reference to those who had refused to sign the protest against RFE and against "foreign interference" in Polish internal (cultural) matters. It has now been reliably learned that the number of these rebels was 57 in Warsaw alone. RFE has also received a copy of an appeal directed to the writers to sign the protest. The document is one of the thousand dittoed copies sent out on May 9 by the Executive of the Party Organization of the Warsaw branch of the Union of Polish Writers. It refers to the first group of "about 150" writers who had already signed their protest (published in "Zycie Warszawy" May 10) and calls for a following of their example. The appeal is directed to "Party and non-Party writers, including also the authors of the letters to the Premier". Answers to the appeal, it stated, should be directed "as soon as possible" to the secretariat of the Polish Writers' Union by "express letter or telegram". (For a balance sheet on the action cf. Sit. Rep. June 15.)

Note: Attention is drawn to Polish Press Summaries No. 1726 and 1727 of June 26 and 30 respectively, which deal with cultural and educational problems. Of particular interest is a sober and matter-of-fact approach to the problem of censorship by Prof. Konstanty Grzybowski. This is not the first time that this Communist professor has taken a non-orthodox stand on vital problems of Polish culture. In this instance, reference is made to his previous article advocating academic autonomy (cf. Sit. Rep. of 14 June and 9 July 1962).

French-Polish Building Construction Agreement

France and Poland signed an agreement on scientific and technical cooperation in Paris, Reuter reported June 30. The agreement provides for such cooperation in one branch of industry only -- building construction -- and forms part of a general protocol on cultural, scientific and technical exchanges, signed last

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February 26 (cf. Sit. Rep. February 28). The agreement was signed after Polish Minister of Building Construction and Building Materials, Marian Olewinski, had toured France for about ten days to acquaint himself with French construction methods and possibilities. He was also the Polish signatory of the agreement, which Jacques Maziol signed for France. Reporting on Olewinski's return to Poland on July 2, Radio Warsaw said that the agreement provided for exchanges of technical experts and documentation, as well as for joint consultations.

Liberalization of Polish-Swiss Trade

A protocol on trade exchange and payments between Poland and Switzerland was signed in Warsaw June 26, "Trybuna Ludu" reported the next day. The protocol is based on the old trade agreement signed 15 years ago (cf. Sit. Rep. 24 June 1963), and is binding for one year only, from July 1 to June 30 next year. However, it contains an automatic extension clause for the following year, provided six month notice of cancellation has not been served. The protocol was signed by Polish Foreign Trade Ministry department director Michal Kajzer and by the Swiss minister plenipotentiary in the Ministry of National Economy, Albert Weitnauer. According to "Trybuna Ludu", both sides agreed to liberalization of trade exchanges between the two countries by doing away with commodity lists (with some exceptions) and by more "flexibility" in clearing. Reviewing the trade exchanges with Switzerland, "Trybuna Ludu" said that thus far the total yearly turnover had hardly exceeded 100 million exchange zlotys (25 million dollars) both ways. The paper also added that the protocol "creates conditions" for increased Polish exports of coal and for the "stabilization" of these increased quantities.