

Brazilian Foreign Minister Visits Poland

Francisco Santiago Dantas, Brazilian Minister of Foreign Affairs has arrived in Warsaw today, Radio Warsaw and agencies report. This visit is in exchange for one of Adam Rapacki, Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs, to Brazil last autumn.

Polish-Cuban Trade

Poland is building 34 complete industrial objects in Cuba, Leon Mackiewicz, director of the respective export agency told Radio Warsaw listeners May 11. Among these objects are two shipyards, one for production of ocean going vessels, the other a repaired dock, steel and iron smelting plants, window and bottle glassworks, TV and radio set factory, as well as 26 grain silos.

Forthcoming Comecon Conference in Warsaw

A rather enigmatic aviso of a Comecon conference was broadcast by Radio Warsaw May 11. It read as follows:

"The debates of the first international conference devoted to the role, significance and tasks of the economy, of the organization of production and work in the development of the national economy of the countries of the socialist bloc will take place in Warsaw July 9 through 14.

The preparations to the conference are coordinated by an international organizational committee composed of the representatives of Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, GDR, Poland, Rumania, Hungary and SU.

120 foreign delegates announced their participation in the conference, Poland will be represented by about 250 persons, scientific workers of scientific research institutes and universities, and executives from economic ministries, industrial trusts, enterprises and project bureaus."

Thus the announcement. While the predominance of Polish participants may be explained by the mere fact that Poland is the host country to the meeting, there are at least two moot points. The announcement fails to make it clear whether the meeting is an official Comecon one, and/or whether the foreign participants include representatives of non-Communist countries as well. The composition of the organizational committee seems to suggest that only the members of the Comecon will take part in the conference, but a clear statement to that effect is not there. Note omission of Albania.

Family Budget

Interesting findings of "Radio University" pertaining to social changes of postwar Poland were broadcast by Radio Warsaw May 9. The broadcast was almost entirely devoted to the family budget.

Average worker family consists of 3.4 persons. However, the "least well-off" family has 6.5 members while the "most well-off" one consists of 1.3 persons. The respective percentages of children up to 16 years old in the two groups of families is 60 and 5. While collar worker families consist of 3.6 persons on an average, with 4.8 persons in the "least well-off" and 1.4 persons in the "most well-off" family. The figures for peasant population were not given.

The lion's share, or almost 50 per cent, of the family budget goes to food, followed by clothing. At least one fourth of the expenses for food goes to meat. Next in order are expenses for dairy produce, followed by bread and flour products, animal fats, sugar, and -- at the end -- by vegetables, fruit and potatoes.

Clothes take about 12 per cent of the family budget, footwear 3.5 per cent, household (including furniture) expenses 6 per cent, and only one per cent is spent for the rent. For cultural and sport entertainment about 6 per cent of the family budget is spent, for hygiene and health 4 per cent, and about the same amount for alcohol and tobacco. Rather insignificant (no figures given) are expenses for lighting and heating, while still less is spent for transport and postage. Income tax (mostly on wages and salaries) takes about 6 per cent, member fees and dues less than one per cent.

Within 1958-1960 nominal income of working families rose by about 17 per cent, while cost of living progressed by about 7.6 per cent, which constitutes a net increase of real family income by 9 per cent.

According to Prof. Kazimierz Romaniuk who prepared the broadcast, outlays for goods and services of "higher order" grow speedier than those for the "lower order" ones.