

CC Plenum on July 4

The 13th CC Plenum will take place on July 4, Radio Warsaw broadcast June 29. There will be two points on the agenda: 1) a report of Gomulka "on actual problems of ideological work of the Party", 2) organizational matters.

The latter point sounds rather ominous, for it might include some personal moves and affect the present, already precarious, balance between the moderates and hardliners. In this context it should be worthwhile to record the absence of Roman Zambrowski since April 11 from any official functions. As from that date RFE has also failed to record any reference to him.

Gomulka in East Berlin

Gomulka arrived in East Berlin June 30 "to take part in the celebrations of the 70th birthday of Walter Ulbricht." He was greeted at the airport by three SED Politburo members, then went to congratulate Ulbricht. In his speech at the airport Gomulka stressed a peaceful character of East Berlin as opposed to West Berlin "which is being used by Bonn heralds of cold war and by some statesmen in the West as a pawn in a game so dangerous to peace". He also expressed hope that during his "short" stay in East Berlin he would be able to discuss West Berlin and international problems with Ulbricht, Khrushchev and also with "other comrades". Gomulka's stay in East Berlin was indeed short, for he returned to Warsaw this morning.

There is no evidence at this moment whether "international problems" under discussion included Sino-Chinese differences, but the absence from the meeting of any high level Rumanian representatives is at least indicative.

Coverage of Kennedy and Khrushchev Visit to Berlin

In blatant contradiction to the reports of Western journalists, the Polish press reported June 29 that the welcome awarded Khrushchev in East Berlin "beat all the records", and that such welcome "had not been seen during any visit of any statesman to any city" ("Sztandar Mlodych"). To support its highly dubious contention "Sztandar Mlodych" referred to the testimony of Western journalists.

The general political line adopted for coverage of both visits (i.e. those of Kennedy and Khrushchev) was based on a comparison of speeches. Although Kennedy had been talking about the purpose of his visit to West Berlin as being the settlement of that city's problem, his speeches gave

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only food for "Bonn political appetites directed against the East, and increased (German) nationalistic megalomania". Khrushchev, in contrast to Kennedy, did not pay any "cheap compliments", but stressed that the citizens of the GDR are "pioneers in building socialism, since they are the first to build it in such a big Western country as Germany".

#### The Party and Hospitals

Secretaries of basic Party cells of voivodship and of some district hospitals gathered for a conference at CC headquarters in Warsaw June 26 to discuss "the results of work" and the role of these cells "as co-manager in thrifty management and in shaping human relations" (Ed. note: this passage is as nebulous with regard to sense and style in Polish as it is in its English translation!)

Although two physicians, Health Minister Jerzy Sztachelski and his deputy Feliks Widy-Wirski took part in the conference, the latter was opened, led and summed up by head of CC Administrative Department Kazimierz Witaszewski. His deputy Wladyslaw Niesmialek read a report intended to be the basis of discussion. It was stressed that in the last years there has been a "marked increase" of Party membership among hospital personnel, particularly among physicians and nurses.

A safe guess is that the conference was prompted by the nurses' demonstration about low pay (cf. Sit. Rep. April 4 and May 9). The nebulous phrasing of the communiqué, broadcast by Radio Warsaw June 26 and 27, seems to have been intended to cover the real issue of the conference.

#### Soviet Party Visit to Poland

A group of high officials of the CPSU, including the head of a section of the Soviet CC, Nikolai Mironov, arrived in Poland June 27, Radio Warsaw broadcast the next day. While the broadcast explained that the purpose of the visit was to continue an exchange of experience in Party work, Soviet experts at RFE (cf. CNR, F-112 of June 28) found that Mironov is identical with Lt. Gen. Nikolai Romanovich Mironov who since 1959 has headed the Administrative Organs Department of the CC. No doubt, Mironov will have much to discuss with its Polish opposite number, Gen. Kazimierz Witaszewski.



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Paul VI Acknowledges Congratulations

In answer to congratulations upon his election, Pope Paul VI assured the Polish State Council Chairman that "peace among the nations" is a "constant concern" of the Church. The Pope also expressed thanks for congratulations sent him "from a country with which he is linked by old and dear memories", Radio Warsaw stated June 27.

Multilateral Clearings in Comecon Foreign Trade

A turning point had been reached in Comecon foreign trade, Polish Foreign Trade Minister Witold Trampczynski told the press June 27, Radio Warsaw reported. Trampczynski was commenting on the resolution passed by the Comecon Foreign Trade Commission deliberating in Warsaw June 24 through 26. According to the resolution, bilateral trade agreements between Comecon countries will continue, but the clearing will be made on a multilateral basis. "This will increase the turnover of goods, particularly of those of interest to many consumers", Trampczynski stated. He also said that the Communist bloc prices will be put, as from 1 January 1964, on the world market level. Since these prices are already, at least officially, on a world market basis, Trampczynski was probably referring to much overdue revision of the prices used in inter-bloc trade.

Polish-Swedish Trade Protocol

Sweden and Poland signed a trade protocol on a commodity exchange from May 1963 to end of April 1964, PAP and Reuter reported from Warsaw June 28. The new protocol provides for a turnover increase of about 3,750,000 dollars over last year, when it amounted to over 53 million dollars. This protocol was the last under the three year trade agreement with Sweden (cf. Sit. Rep. June 24). PAP stressed that the talks on a new long-term trade agreement will start next year.

Further Trade News

A team of French economic planners returned recently from a six-day exchange of views with government planners in

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Poland, RFE Special from Paris reported June 28. A spokesman of the French Economic Planning Commission told RFE that the meeting was "a debate of technicians" and that "no more meetings were planned with Poland for the moment".

In this connection a question arises whether the trip of French planners to Warsaw had anything to do with possible negotiations of a long-term trade agreement in which both sides are reportedly interested (cf. Sit. Rep. June 14).

West German Foreign Minister Gerhard Schroeder said in Duesseldorf June 28 that the recent Polish-West German trade agreement (cf. Sit. Rep. March 11) confronts the GFR with a set of new problems which cannot be solved easily. "We have to import Polish products which we have either in abundance or which we already import from Western countries."

#### Poland Imports Meat

In order to "ease up market difficulties" Poland imports "certain quantities" of meat from abroad, Home Trade Minister Mieczyslaw Lesz stated June 27. Thanks to these imports, the meat supply for the home market will be the same in the third quarter as it was last year.

Since last year was also one of meat shortages, particularly in the provinces, Lesz's assurance may only mean that this year cannot be better. Lesz confirmed it in an article in "Zycie Gospodarcze" (as reported by Radio Warsaw June 30) where he said that the meat supply "in the few months to come" will not be sufficient. He consoled readers by saying that "after a difficult last year and winter" there are signs of improvement, such as in cheaper vegetables.

#### Note:

Recent Sejm legislation and cultural issues will be covered tomorrow.