

Cardinal Wyszynski in Rome

Cardinal Wyszynski was received by the Pope on May 10, Radio Warsaw and the Italian left-wing press reported. The latter added that the audience lasted for about two hours, and that the Pontiff will once again receive the Polish Cardinal on May 22. The same sources, as well as Reuter and UPI, reported that Wyszynski, accompanied by Archbishop Antoni Baraniak of Poznan and by Mgr. Franciszek Maczynski, Rector of the Pontifical Polish Institute in Rome, paid a one-hour visit to the Polish Ambassador to Italy, Adam Willman.

The Gomulka-Wyszynski meeting on April 26 was confirmed by the Secretary of the Polish Episcopate, Zygmunt Choromanski, UPI reported May 9.

In the meantime Communist propaganda pressure on the Cardinal and on the Episcopate continues. Wieslaw Myslek, writing in the atheist "Argumenty" of May 5 along the already familiar line of contrasting the alleged "progressiveness" of Pope John with the obstinate "conservative" stand of the Polish Episcopate on social problems, appealed for the revision of the latter's views and for the revision of the Episcopate's program for the seventh year of the Great Novena starting May 5 under the motto "Year of justice and of social charity".

Comes Meeting Postponed

A meeting of the European Community of Writers (Comes), planned for May 15-20 in Warsaw, has been postponed "at the request of some countries", Reuter reported from Warsaw on May 10. "Some countries" seems to turn out to be one -- the Soviet Union whose writers are under heavy fire from their own Party. Their meeting with Western writers at this moment could be "embarrassing", Reuter explained. The agency learned from Polish "literary sources" that Evgeny Yevtushenko is "not now expected to make a lecture tour of Poland originally planned for this month or next".

According to "Trybuna Ludu" March 7, about 150 writers from 25 countries were expected in Warsaw, among them, such notables as Jean Paul Sartre, Graham Greene, Alberto Moravia, Hans Helmut Kirst, and, last but not least, Francoise Sagan.

Note: In connection with earlier reports on workers' dissatisfaction attention is drawn to Polish Press Survey No. 1531, May 11 containing two articles by Hanna Krall (Zycie Warszawy May 25 and 26) on "Who defends the Worker?".

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Comecon Meeting

The Sixth Meeting of the Executive Committee of Comecon started its session in Warsaw at noon May 10, Radio Warsaw reported. It is presided over by Poland's representative, Piotr Jaroszewicz. In his opening speech Jaroszewicz explained that the "additional" meeting was called "in view of a large volume of work resulting from the already earlier accepted plan of implementation of the June (1962) session of the Party and government leaders" of Comecon member countries. Radio Warsaw reported that already at the beginning of the meeting, problem committees were formed to deal with: 1) forms of production cooperation in various branches of the economy, 2) cooperation in the field of finance and foreign currency exchange, 3) transport, 4) some problems of foreign trade.

Polish-East German Cars

If there has been little progress in the Comecon integration process, Polish and East German industrial experts reached an agreement, subject to confirmation by the two governments, on joint production of cars, lorries, motor-cycles and scooters, PAP reported May 9. According to the agreement, East Germany will supply complete "Wartburg" propulsion blocks for the Polish "Syrena" car, starting with 3,000 blocks this year and going up to 20,000 annually by 1970. Both countries will also "cooperate closely" in producing five-ton lorries. Each country will have in the future one highly specialized plant each for motor-cycles and scooters. Poland will produce 175 cc motor-cycles and scooters, East Germany will specialize in 125-150 and 250-300 cc ones.

Report on Industrial Production

State Planning Commission Chairman Stefan Jedrychowski, his deputy Tadeusz Gede and Finance Minister Jerzy Albrecht delivered a report on industrial production in the first four months of 1963 to the respective Sejm Committee, Radio Warsaw and UPI reported May 11. Because the two sources contain rather short and differing reports, we are waiting for complete press

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quotations to see what it is actually about.

Gomulka Concerned with High Production Costs

Unit costs in iron metallurgy have increased from 0.2 per cent to 5.1 per cent, with the exception of pig iron, which has shown a four-zloty per ton decrease in production cost, Wladyslaw Gomulka complained on May 11 in a speech at Zabrze. The total increase of expenditure for the production of these goods was 700 million zloty. Particularly bad was the increase in the production cost of steel by 103 zloty per ton. These figures seem to indicate that the trend of increasing production costs continues, and is even becoming alarming. Last year (cf. Sit. Rep. September 6) the cost of producing one ton of steel increased by 82 zloty over 1961, and out of the planned economies in production costs of 710 million zloty, only 22 million was saved.

Gomulka was speaking at Zabrze (Silesia) on the eve of Steelworkers' Day. He also complained about non-fulfillment of the plan in certain branches of the steel industry (rolled goods), which he attributed to the slackening of labor discipline and to the slackening of technological discipline. But he had high praise for the miners, who extracted 1.4 million tons of hard coal "by working Sundays in the first quarter, to make good the delays caused by the disruption of railway transport during the difficult winter months". Thanks to this "selflessness of the miners", the coal extraction plan for the first quarter has been fulfilled. However, the miners will have to produce at least one million tons of hard coal above the plan to restore the balance of fuel in 1963. Gomulka did not say how the miners should achieve this goal, but it will probably be through further "selflessness", i.e. work on Sundays.

It should be stressed that Gomulka, speaking in the pre-war German town of Hindenburg, did not use this occasion to jump on West German "revanchists". His speech was purely on economics, with no political references. (However, the gap was filled in the next day by Aleksander Zawadzki, speaking in Warsaw on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the First Army Division formed in 1943 in USSR under Soviet and Polish Communist control).