

# RADIO FREE EUROPE *Research*

## EAST EUROPE

Poland  
9 March 1967

### SITUATION REPORT

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- \* Gomulka and Cyrankiewicz on a "Friendly Visit" to Budapest

#### Polish-East German Friendship Treaty to Be Signed

The signing of a treaty of friendship, cooperation and mutual aid between Poland and GDR will take place "in the very near future," Radio Warsaw announced on March 7. A similar announcement was released simultaneously by the East German news agency ADN.

The two official sources also revealed that SED leader Walter Ulbricht and Premier Willi Stoph would arrive in Warsaw "in mid-March" following an invitation of the PUWP Central Committee, the State Council, and the Council of Ministers.

According to an RFE Special from London (March 8) and a UPI dispatch from Warsaw (March 9) the East German delegation will arrive in Warsaw on March 14. The London Special added that Ulbricht will proceed from Warsaw to Prague, where he is expected to sign a similar treaty with Czechoslovakia. (Speaking at Varnsdorf, northern Bohemia, on March 3, Antonin Novotny announced that a Czechoslovak-GDR treaty would be concluded shortly.)

There seems to be little doubt that the East German "offensive" of friendship treaties with East European states (the pacts with Poland and Czechoslovakia may well be intended only to begin the series) has been prompted by the initial success of the West German Ostpolitik with the establishment of diplomatic relations with Rumania and by the GDR's desire to stall if not prevent a possible establishment of diplomatic relations between the GFR and other countries of the area.

Similar motives were instrumental in the recent (March 1) renewal of the Polish-Czechoslovak treaty. (See EERA Background Paper "The Czechoslovak-Polish Treaty and the German Problem" by A. Ross Johnson and Stanley Riveles, March 9, which also points to differing nuances in the positions of Prague and Warsaw.)

In preparation for the imminent visit of the East German leaders to Poland, Radio Warsaw has started what seems to be a

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campaign designed to explain to the Polish population the political and economic importance of close friendship with GDR. In at least two commentaries on March 7, Radio Warsaw explained that Bonn's Ostpolitik had been planned for three stages: first, to isolate the GDR; secondly, to swallow it up; thirdly, to establish a position on the Oder-Neisse line in order to start an offensive aimed eastward. "As can be seen," Radio Warsaw said, "these stages of the struggle against the GDR are closely connected with our national existence." For this reason, the broadcast continued, the existence of the GDR, its sovereignty, the integrity of its territory, lie in our "highest state and national interest."

Regarding the economic potential of the GDR, Radio Warsaw stressed that it ranked eighth in the world, which ranking "means much and (that) such a state must be reckoned with." In foreign trade, the GDR ranks 12th in the world and eighth in Europe. Among the "socialist" countries, it is in second place, behind the USSR. The East German per capita foreign trade turnover is 350 dollars per annum -- more than in Italy and only slightly less than in France.

In 1965 the GDR's share in Polish imports was 11.6 per cent, while the corresponding figure for Polish exports was 6.9 per cent. The difference was more than compensated by various kinds of Polish services, Radio Warsaw explained.

It is rather interesting to note this approach to the problem of East German-Polish relations. The two commentaries seem to stress political and economic necessity rather than other factors. This approach seems to offer much room for speculation about the feelings of the Polish population toward East Germany, in general, and toward the Polish leaders' efforts to draw closer to the western neighbor, in particular.

#### Gomulka and Cyrankiewicz on a "Friendly Visit" to Budapest

Polish Party leader Wladyslaw Gomulka and Premier Jozef Cyrankiewicz have been in Budapest since March 8 on what Polish and Hungarian official news agencies described (March 7) as an "unofficial friendly visit." The agencies explained that the Polish leaders had been invited by the HSWP Central Committee and the Hungarian government.

Commenting on this previously "unannounced visit," Reuter (Warsaw, March 8) linked it with the efforts aimed "at buttressing East Europe against the new West German policy of opening up doors toward the East." UPI (Warsaw, March 9) also reported that the visit is viewed "as a possible move in persuading Hungary to reject further West German diplomatic encroachments into the Communist East bloc."