

Party Factional Struggle

Two powerful factions seem to have emerged in the PUWP. This development may mark the end of the era of political stabilization in Poland. Detailed analysis is forthcoming but for the moment please refer to the RFE Daily Guidance Summary for today.

Vienna Cardinal Koenig to Visit Poland

Upon the invitation of Stefan Cardinal Wyszynski (cf. Sit. Rep. March 23) Franziskus Cardinal Koenig of Vienna will arrive in Poland in mid-August for a one week visit, Stehle reported in FAZ June 27. The paper added that the Polish regime granted Koenig the visa "after some hesitation". The Austrian cardinal will visit Warsaw, Cracow, Czestochowa and Wroclaw where he will meet Archbishop Boleslaw Kominek.

The political significance of this visit may not only lie in the fact that it will be the first visit of a Western Church prince to any Communist country, but it may also have political influence on internal Polish State-Church relations. There was some exchange of visits and views between Polish and Austrian Catholic intellectuals recently. The visit to Vienna of two Polish Sejm deputies, members of the Znak group, Stanislaw Stomma and Tadeusz Mazowiecki (cf. Sit. Rep. March 23) was followed by a trip to Poland of Dr. Kurt Skalnik, editor-in-chief of the Austrian Catholic weekly Die Furche. Reportedly, Skalnik impressed Cardinal Koenig with a report on his trip and particularly on the approach of the Znak group to State-Church problems which is more pragmatic than that of Cardinal Wyszynski. There is speculation therefore that Koenig may try to bring Wyszynski closer to the views of the Znak

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Polish Initiative in High Level Comecon Meeting

The last high level Comecon meeting in Moscow (cf. Sit. Rep. June 7 and 20) convened at Polish request, Henri Laurent reported from Moscow to Drapeau Rouge, the mouthpiece of the Belgian CP on June 15. Laurent added that the right to take such initiative is a prerogative of every member of the Comecon.

As to the reasons for the Polish request, Laurent attributes them to the progress achieved by Comecon members in the industrial field. "It is this very progress that makes it difficult to establish long term programs: it is necessary to revise them continuously, as progress continues", the Communist writer explains.

According to Drapeau Rouge the introductory report was presented by W. Gomulka. The First Secretary of the PUWP pointed out that the Socialist countries had not yet made full use of "all the laws of socialism." The socialist division of labor has already been felt and will be still more noticeable in the cellulose, chemical and machine industries. "Once more it is to be stressed that the point is not to limit an industry to a certain country, thus depriving another country of it, but, primarily, to establish model standards valid for all members".

This contribution of the Moscow correspondent of Drapeau Rouge seems to confirm earlier information obtained by RFE on a Polish memorandum submitted to the Party chiefs of the Comecon member countries sometime in the second half of April. It was also said that it was Zenon Kliszko who went to Moscow at the beginning of April to hand the memorandum over to Khrushchev and win the Kremlin boss over to Polish proposals. Only after receiving Khrushchev's blessing did the Poles distribute the memorandum among other Comecon member countries, with the exclusion of Albania. According to the information in possession of RFE, the strongest opposition to the Polish initiative came from Czechoslovak and East German Party leaders who had gone so far as to refuse to see Polish ambassadors. It was probably after that show of disagreement that Kliszko went to East Berlin (cf. Sit. Rep. May 21) while Ulbricht was absent from the country (he was visiting Novotny of Czechoslovakia) to sell the Polish memorandum to East German economic experts.

Shift in Distribution of Wages

Percentage-wise more people were drawing higher wages in 1961 than in 1956, the trade union daily *Glos Pracy* reported June 11. The article deals with the average brutto wage of manual and white collar workers of the socialized sector (i.e. excluding individual farming and private enterprise). According to these criteria, there were 6,787 thousand workers in 1956 drawing an average monthly wage of 1198 zlotys. These figures increased in 1961 to 7,230 thousand and 1717 respectively. (Official Polish statistics refers to average nominal wage in 1961 as 1668 or 1667 zlotys; cf. *Sit. Rep.* June 1 and 4. The difference between the nominal and brutto wage may consist in income tax deductions.)

More interesting is the distribution of the wage fund according to wage brackets which is illustrated by the following table of earnings:

<u>Wage bracket</u> (figures in zlotys)	<u>1956</u> (figures in percentages)	<u>1961</u>
below 500	3.3	--
501 - 700	11.9	4.8
701 - 1000	27.3	10.5
1001 - 1500	33.3	28.9
1501 - 2000	14.3	25.1
2001 - 3000	7.9	22.7
over 3000	2.0	8.0
	<hr/> 100.00%	<hr/> 100.00%

While the thesis of the *Glos Pracy* article may be correct, a bit of personal arithmetic points in a different direction: a larger section of the workers were drawing wages below the national average in 1961 than in 1956. Although *Glos Pracy* does not draw a dividing line according to this average, a glance at the tables shows that no less than 44.2 per cent drew wages far below the 1961 average (501 to 1500 zlotys) while in 1956 the respective percentage was 42.5 (up to 1000 zlotys).