

# RADIO FREE EUROPE *Research*

## EAST EUROPE

Poland  
2 June 1966

### SITUATION REPORT

- \* Religious Demonstrations
- \* Polish Delegation at the Czechoslovak Party Congress
- \* Peasant Day Celebrations
- \* New Diplomatic Appointments
- \* Doctors, Nurses to Get Raises
- \* More Cars for Poland
- \* Forthcoming Visits and Meetings

#### Religious Demonstrations

In at least two instances, at two different places, crowds demonstrated in favor of the Church last week, Western agencies reported.

"More than 1,000 jeering young Poles tore down and burned an anti-Church poster in the heart of Gdansk," Reuter reported on May 29. The incident occurred after Stefan Cardinal Wyszynski delivered "a fervently acclaimed sermon" in which he thanked the people for their support during recent attacks launched against the Church by State authorities. He spoke twice: in a sermon to students on the evening of May 28 he warned his young audience not to heed "infamous slogans"; the next day, in St. Mary's Basilica, he assured the faithful that the Church's handling of the Millennium "did Poland good service."

Later, posters with "infamous slogans" reading "We do not forgive -- we do not forget!" were torn down by the young Poles. Police arriving at the place of the incident were greeted by shouts of "Gestapo... Gestapo..." A plainclothes police agent was chased by the crowd until he found refuge inside the Hotel Metropole where he ran almost in the arms of foreign journalists attending the Church Millennium celebrations.

Three Western correspondents who watched the burning of the poster were detained by police. They were: Vincent Buist of Reuters, Gene Kramer of the Associated Press, and Renata Marsch of the West German dpa. They were released after some hours, but the police confiscated a film of the incident.

2 June 1966

Another demonstration occurred on May 26, three days before the Gdansk incident, at the small Lower Silesian town of Brzeg, but was reported by Western correspondents only yesterday. According to Henry Kamm of The New York Times, who visited Brzeg on May 31, some 2,000 to 3,000 people attempted to prevent local authorities from taking over a building in which five vicars and the church organist were living. The occupants of the building were being evicted and transferred to another church building in which the parish priest, Kazimierz Makarski, lived with his sister and servant. The police, "wielding their sticks and tossing tear-gas projectiles into the crowd," dispersed it in a few minutes.

The voivodship Party paper, Trybuna Opolska, claimed that the parish priest had about eight times more space than the legal allotment for anyone in Poland, where the housing shortage is grave. The building from which the five vicars were eventually evicted was being transformed into a local dispensary.

The Trybuna Opolska story and Kamm report leave a number of questions unanswered. First of all, Kamm complained that local witnesses were reluctant to discuss the case with a stranger and the priests involved refused to receive a Western journalist. Hence it is difficult to judge whether the incident had as simple a background as that presented by the Party paper. It is possible that some of the rooms of the 12-room house in which the parish priest lived were for such purposes as teaching religion (and the priest might have refused to register the classes with local authorities), etc. The fact that such a big crowd demonstrated against the decision of the authorities seems to suggest that behind that decision there was either something vital to the interests of the faithful or that they considered the decision unjust.

From the purely legal point of view, the regime decision cannot be questioned. Church buildings in the Western and Northern Territories were taken over by the government after the war as former German property and are now considered Polish government property.

#### Polish Delegation at the Czechoslovak Party Congress

The Polish delegation to the Thirteenth Congress of the Czechoslovak CP is composed of: Politburo member and State Council Chairman, Edward Ochab; Politburo alternate member and CC secretary, Boleslaw Jaszczuk; First Secretary of the Voivodship Party Committee in Wroclaw, Wladyslaw Pilatowski; a Secretary of the Voivodship Party Committee in Katowice, Stanislaw Kowalczyk; and Ambassador of Poland in Prague, Franciszek Mazur.

In a speech at the Congress yesterday, Ochab appealed for putting an end to the "barbarian aggression of American imperialism in Vietnam," and called for "unity of the states of the socialist community, for unity of action of all the Communist Parties, and of all anti-imperialist forces in the whole world." Such unity is the "most important condition for the victorious repulsion of the aggression of the USA." He also accused West Germany of "playing a dangerous game aimed against the vital interests of Czechoslovakia and of other



2 June 1966

socialist countries." He claimed that the problem of the frontier on the Oder and Neisse Rivers does not exist. Instead, "there exists the problem of peace in Europe which is threatened by militarist forces of the German Federal Republic."

### Peasant Day Celebrations

Peasant Day celebrations were particularly important this year, Radio Warsaw claimed, because they were taking place in the year of the Millennium. If so, they were distinct from previous celebrations only by attacks on the Church hierarchy. Otherwise, the speeches centered on the usual review of the "progressive" peasant movement before the war and the achievements of agriculture in the Communist era.

The main event was the so-called central celebration at Zielona Gora, a voivodship capital in the Western Territories. It took place on May 28, the eve of the Peasant Day. United Peasant Party leader Czeslaw Wycech delivered the main speech, in which he reviewed the "historical road" of the nation and its "return to the old Piast soil." Politburo deputy member and Agriculture Minister Mieczyslaw Jagielski spoke about the "achievements and tasks of agriculture."

Wycech stated that the Polish Episcopate's "message" to the German bishops recalled the bad traditions of pro-Western policy by intending to "make Poland a bulwark of Christianity and a cordon sanitaire against the Soviet Union." He also claimed that the Polish peasant living in the Western Territories must have been "indignant" and "enraged" at the words "We forgive," uttered "irresponsibly to the Hitlerite murderers."

Jagielski also devoted the closing part of his speech to the German problem. "We must not forget, still less forgive those who follow the road of revenge and revisionism, who again extend their hands to grab our lands."

Next day, a number of local celebrations took place at which leaders of the United Peasant Party spoke. At the village of Modliborzyce, in Janow Lubelski district, the speaker was UPP chairman Jozef Ozga-Michalski; in Sandomierz, UPP secretary Kazimierz Banach; in Wejherowo, Franciszek Gesing, chairman of the Central Union of Agricultural Circles, and Jozef Tejchma, PUWP CC secretary; at Kutno, UPP Presidium member Antoni Korzycki; Grybow, Cracow voivodship, UPP secretary Jozef Olszynski; and in Pyrzyce, near Szczecin, UPP propaganda department head Waldemar Winkel. The list is far from complete, for in almost every major village and town the local UPP organization did its best to show some activity on the Peasant Day. Many of these events, according to Radio Warsaw, were spoiled by bad weather, and meetings planned in the open had to be transferred to buildings.

New Diplomatic Appointments

The Council of State has appointed some new ambassadors: Henryk Golanski to Greece, Janusz Zambrowicz to Morocco, and Albert Morski to Libya and Yemen, PAP reported on May 28. Morski will hold his appointment along with his ambassadorial duties in the United Arab Republic.

This short PAP bulletin solves the question of the future of Henryk Golanski, who in December 1965 was released from the post of Minister of Higher Education (cf. SR December 16). Golanski, a graduate engineer, was Deputy Minister of Industries from 1945 till 1949, and from 1949 till mid-1950 Deputy Minister and later Minister of Higher Education. Now at 58 he becomes a diplomat, just a few years before reaching retirement age. He is replacing Zygmunt Dworakowski (born in 1905), also not a career diplomat, who was appointed ambassador to Greece on 19 September 1960 and has been long enough in Athens to be due for transfer. But no indication has been given regarding his future.

Janusz Zambrowicz (born 1905), a career diplomat, former ambassador to Rumania and more recently deputy director of diplomatic protocol, replaces a younger career diplomat, Stefan Wilski (born 1909), who has been in Morocco since 1959 and is also due for recall. Again, no indication has been given regarding Wilski's future.

The only routine appointment is that of Morski. He has been ambassador to the United Arab Republic for some months, and in accordance with normal practice has now been appointed to two other countries to which Polish ambassadors in Cairo are usually simultaneously accredited.

Doctors, Nurses to Get Raises

Polish doctors, nurses and health service staff are soon to get higher wages, UPI reported from Warsaw on May 29, quoting PAP from the previous day.

The increases, said the agency, will particularly concern highly specialized surgeons and doctors working in the fields of radiology, radio therapy, and psychiatry. Additional financial incentives are also to be created to encourage doctors to establish themselves in the countryside. PAP did not specify how much the wages would be increased.

Low salaries in the medical profession as well as legislation aiming at curbing private practice and/or two jobs at a time were causing an increasingly difficult situation for the doctors. In Warsaw a young doctor often earned as little as 2000 zloty monthly at a time when the average wage for the country amounted to 1700 zloty. To make their living, doctors were often obliged to take two jobs -- one state position and, normally, a semi-private practice. Mostly because of the primitive conditions in the countryside,



2 June 1966

doctors shunned jobs in small towns and villages. As a result, there was always a considerable disproportion between the number of doctors in cities and rural areas.

As to the nurses, they have always belonged to one of the lowest paid categories of workers. Until now their salaries amounted to a maximum of 1200-1300 zloty per month and their working conditions and working hours (10-12 daily) were very hard. In the spring of 1963, desperate following certain increases in prices, Warsaw nurses staged a demonstration in front of the Ministry of Health, asking for increases in pay and better working conditions. The demonstrations apparently ended in some arrests. The nurses were told that a raise was already contemplated for them but through their action they had lost their cause and would receive nothing. A ten per cent wage increase for nurses finally came through about six months later, in September 1963.

The problem of health services and the necessity of their improvement were the themes of the two-day plenary session of the TU Central Council, held May 6-7. Its final resolutions called for a better attitude of doctors towards their patients, for restricting doctors from holding several jobs at a time, and for developing the cooperative system. The fact was also stressed that too large a percentage of doctors are concentrated in the five largest voivodship capitals. These resolutions augur a tighter control of the medical profession.

#### More Cars for Poland

Poland and Yugoslavia will jointly produce 130,000 cars by 1970 under a Fiat licence possessed by the Yugoslav Crvena Zastava factory, Tanjug reported on May 24. According to Tanjug, Polish-Yugoslav cooperation in this field will reach the value of 144 million dollars, whereby it is estimated that Poland will produce 60 thousand and Yugoslavia 70 thousand cars in 1970. The two countries plan to produce small and medium fuel consumption cars of the Fiat 1300 and Fiat 1500 type, Tanjug said.

The Crvena Zastava factory had already delivered to Poland 6000 Fiat 750 type cars yearly for the past two years.

Another important car deal was recently concluded with a Spanish firm. According to the London Times of May 30, the Spanish truck and bus manufacturer, Pegaso, won a three million dollar order for trucks and trailers from Poland. Commenting on the then forthcoming deal, UPI (May 6) said that the contract was to be signed with the Polish Motoimport company and that a first shipment of 180 tractor trucks was to be made this summer.

Both these deals come in the wake of the multi-million dollar agreement for the manufacture of Italian Fiat cars in Poland which was reported by the Western press agencies last May (cf. SR May 23). So far no comment on these deals has come from the Polish side.

2 June 1966

Forthcoming Visits and Meetings

Foreign Minister Adam Rapacki will pay an official visit to Sweden between June 5 and 10, an RFE Special from Stockholm reported as early as May 18, followed by Radio Warsaw on May 26. During the visit Rapacki will be received by King Gustav Adolf and by Premier Tage Erlander.

"For the first time in Poland," a meeting of scholars from all the world will take place in September this year -- the 16th Pugwash Conference, Radio Warsaw announced on May 30. The site of the conference: Sopot. The subject: problems of a detente in Europe and worldwide disarmament.

The fourth national congress of collective farms will take place in Warsaw on June 16 and 17, Radio Warsaw announced on May 30. The debates will be mainly devoted to increasing production for market supply.