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## TARGET AREA

Poland

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### S I T U A T I O N   R E P O R T

#### \* Conference of Katowice Party Organization

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The accounting-electoral conference of the Katowice Voivodship Party organization took place on January 28 and 29. It was preceded on January 27 by the festivities marking the 20th anniversary of the liberation of Katowice by the Soviet Army. Party First Secretary Wladyslaw Gomulka participated in both these events. He was accompanied by Politburo candidate member and CC secretary Boleslaw Jaszczuk and by two CC members, Stefan Misiaszek, head of the CC Bureau for the matters of Personnel, and Jozef Niedzwiecki, head of CC Heavy Industry and Transport Department.

January is the month in which most Polish cities west of Vistula celebrate anniversaries of "liberation". This January of 1965 was also a month in which many of the 19 provincial Party organizations held their accounting-electoral conferences. As a matter of fact, there are only two provincial organizations, in Gdansk and Cracow, which will hold their conferences in the near future, thus ending what is officially known as "accounting-electoral campaign" (cf. SR October 27 and December 17).

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Against this background of what can be viewed upon as routine events, the presence of Gomulka in a provincial town for no less than three days seems to be more than routine. Indeed, Katowice is the capital of Silesia, the most important industrial region of Poland and the seat of the most numerous and most important provincial Party organization. In the words of Jerzy Zietek, Chairman of the Voivodship People's Council, speaking at January 27 festivities, the tiny province (voivodship) which occupies three per cent of the area of Poland produces 88 per cent of the country's coal, 64 per cent of cast iron, almost two thirds of steel, 21 per cent of electrical power, etc. In general, the province produces almost one quarter of the total national income. The 350 delegates who gathered for the conference represented more than 224,000 Party members, the strongest provincial organization in Poland (against total Party membership of 1,614,273 in November 1964). The organization's first secretary, Edward Gierek is the only provincial Party chief who is more than CC member; he is Politburo member.

Gierek and his Party organization were distinguished last year at the 2nd CC Plenum when the achievements of the organization in implementing Party economic program stood high on the agenda of the Plenum (cf. SR November 19 and 24). The same subject was also dealt with by Gierek in his report at the last conference. "The whole economic activity of our voivodship organization," Gierek said, "is and will be subordinated to the resolutions of the Fourth Party Congress." This declaration of loyalty was probably designed to dispel any possible rumor about Gierek's alleged desires for greater independence, about his behaving like a "Silesian prince" and about his looking a bit higher than mere Politburo membership. Gomulka seems to have understood the message, but deemed it proper not to leave it without additional warning. Speaking on the second day of the conference, Gomulka praised the Katowice Party organization but warned of

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becoming "dizzy with success." It was not the only note of caution sent to Gierek by Gomulka. On a previous occasion, during the 2nd CC Plenum, Gomulka -- while praising Gierek -- expressed also criticism of his views (cf. SR December 10).

There has been no change in the leading position of the Katowice organization: Gierek has been re-elected as first secretary.