

Berlin

Coverage of Berlin continues along lines already established. Emphasis contained in one commentary was on "normalcy" in Berlin as regards trains and motor cars. Radio Warsaw also announced that the Mayor of Warsaw has been invited by the Lord Mayor of Coventry along with the mayors of 15 other cities to attend a conference on Berlin. Perhaps somewhat unusual was the reported regime initiated propaganda campaign of resolutions coming from factories, etc. in support of the policy of the East German regime.

The dispatch by Wetz probably reflects elite opinion and is interesting in that it suggests that the basic artificiality of the Berlin crisis is known to this group and that the true urgency of the problem is to be found in the refugee flow. The attitude attributed to these circles concerning the "'Stupidity'" of the Ulbricht regime tallies with previous information.

Church/State

In the first test of the regime's attempt to downgrade the traditional and high Catholic holiday - the Feast of the Assumption - the Church has carried the day, according to news agencies and Stehle. Both Reuter and other agencies speak of "millions of Poles" crowding the churches - either before or after work. The Cardinal Primate moved the center of the celebrations from the Shrine of the Black Madonna to the Western Territories. In the Cathedral of Frombork the Cardinal, according to Stehle, delivered a strong anti-protestant and heavily accented nationalist sermon. Stehle reports also on a Pastoral Letter from the Episcopate dated last week in which the peasantry (also those on the state farms) were urged to bring in the harvest in time. Stehle suggests (and it would seem to be the case) that the Cardinal is developing more flexible tactics against the regime by the above moves. (Stehle will be sent as soon as translated).