

Church Affairs

"Proud and arrogant" men eliminated the Church from the recent (cf. Sit. Rep. May 12) celebrations of the Cracow University, Stefan Cardinal Wyszynski complained in a sermon in Warsaw yesterday, Reuter reported. Cracow's archbishop Karol Wojtyla had not even been invited to the ceremonies, the Cardinal added. He also referred to the celebrations as "godless", and explained that "proud, small men came and ordered that not a single mention of the Church and its work must be made" at these celebrations. The Cardinal was speaking at the ceremony of the ordination of 40 new priests of the Warsaw diocese.

The itinerary of Cardinal Koenig during his visit to Poland between August 7 and 21 was given by an RFE Special from Vienna May 22. The Austrian Cardinal will visit a number of dioceses, and participate in the Jasna Gora (Cezstochowa) ceremonies on August 15.

Catholic Sejm deputies of the "Znak" did not necessarily agree with the new Civil Code (cf. Sit. Rep. April 24), although they eventually voted for it. Their criticism of the new law was only vaguely referred to by "Trybuna Ludu", but much more details have been learnt now from "Tygodnik Powszechny". The Catholic Church continues to be an organization with no legal rights, individual or corporate, Stanislaw Stomma stated in the parliamentary debate on the Civil Code. In his speech (published in "Tygodnik Powszechny" of May 17) Stomma complained that in spite of his and Konstanty

Lubienski's demands, this legal problem is settled only by a provision that reads: "organizational entities, which are not units of socialized economy, have a status of corporate bodies only when separate regulations grant them^{the} that status".

Another point deals with /vexing question of Church possessions in the Regained Territories. "Art 265 says that if the user of state property is a non-socialist institution then utilization cannot last longer than ten years", complained Stoma, rightly seeing the implications.

It is to be doubted that the regime will at the same time draw all the extreme conclusions of that provision and deprive the Church of all places of worship in the Regained Territories on 1 January 1965, when the Code comes into effect. But both points

25 MAY 1964

permit the authorities to exert pressure both on the Church as a whole and on its individual units and clergymen, as the authorities can demand the return of some buildings if not the whole property or draw conclusions from the lack of status as a corporate body of some Church institutions.

Attention is also drawn to the article headlined "The Campaign against the Church in Poland" which appeared in the London weekly "The Tablet" (cf. F-54/55 of today). The next Situation Report will discuss this document.

Pre-Congress Activities

After a series of Party conferences at the lower level, the first four voivodship conferences took place on May 23 and 24 in Szczecin, Koszalin, Gdansk and Bialystok. Politburo and CC Secretariat members attended, with First Secretary Wladyslaw Gomulka heading the list at Bialystok. In each of these voivodships local first secretaries delivered a report on the advance of the region in the last 20 years. This is in accordance with the pre-Congress theses concentrating on the achievements of Communist Poland as compared with the pre-war "bourgeois" Poland. Then high Party dignitaries delivered their routine speeches (Zenon Kliszko in Gdansk, Edward Ochab in Szczecin and Adam Rapacki in Koszalin). At the end of each conference delegates to the Congress were elected.

Regarding the number of the delegates, the previous estimate (cf. Sit. Rep. March 16) of over 1,500 is no longer valid. According to Radio Warsaw May 18, it is expected that about 1,630 delegates will be elected, the great majority of them at voivodship conferences (out of 19 voivodships, Poznan will have the biggest number of 143 delegates), and 235 elected directly and independently from voivodship conferences by Party organizations at the factories and establishments counting more than 500 Party members.

Owing to this procedure, the number of the delegates does not necessarily reflect the actual strength of the Party (one delegate for 1,000 members), which -- according to the latest available data -- is 1,560,000. This figure, valid for May 1, was revealed in a radio interview of May 22 by the head of the CC Organizational Department Mieczyslaw Marzec. Of this total, there are in the Party 650,000 workers (which corresponds to eleven per cent of the the total number of manual workers in the country) and 175,000 peasants.

25 MAY 1964

These two "proletarian" groups account for 53 per cent of the Party membership. Marzec did not quote specific figures regarding social composition of the rest, but he revealed that no less than 31 per cent of the country's engineers belong to the Party, 36 per cent of the technicians, 31 per cent of the teachers and 10 per cent of the physicians. (For previous data on Party membership cf. Sit. Rep. May 12.)

More Writers Sign Protest Against "Foreign Interference"

197 writers joined the previous two groups of 155 and 233 in their protest against "foreign interference" in Polish internal affairs, a Western agency from Warsaw reported May 24. As usual (cf. Sit. Rep. May 21), the text of the protest and the signatures of the new group appeared in Warsaw Sunday papers. This brought the number of the protesters to 585 which is about one half of the Polish Writers' Union's membership of about 1,200. (The figure of 585 is not quite correct, since at least three writers signed the protest twice, and their names appear on the first list of 155 and on the second of 233.)

The confusion about the numbers is not limited to those who signed the Party-sponsored protest. The regime is doing its best to create the impression that the original number of the signatories of the letter to Prime Minister Cyrankiewicz was not necessarily 34 but much less. Thus, Jaroslaw Iwaszkiewicz, in his interview for "Zycie Warszawy" (cf. Sit. Rep. May 20), stated that 34 is a "symbolic number", since the "number of the persons who had signed that letter to the Prime Minister had managed to decrease considerably". Again, Chairman of the Committee for the Matters of Radio and Television Wlodzimierz Sokorski referred to the "unfortunate letter" of less than 20 (there is no English word for Polish "kilkunastu" which means from eleven to 19) "mised writers". Sokorski was speaking in his regular "Radio Problems" on May 24, and in connection with the letter of the 34 he triumphantly declared that at the end of the controversy "only the facts remain, and the facts are a hard matter".

25 MAY 1964

Sino-Soviet Disagreement at Warsaw Trade Meeting

The second International Professional Conference of Commercial Workers in Warsaw (cf. Sit. Rep. May 21) did not end, as expected, on May 21 because the Soviet and Chinese delegates could not agree about the text of a common resolution. Radio Warsaw did not report either on the conflict or on the prolongation of the conference, but simply stated that the conference ended on May 22. It did, however, state that a resolution was passed "at the end of the debates". The Chinese agency Hsunhua was more outspoken on the subject, claiming a victory for the Chinese point of view. It seems that the resolution was a result of a compromise. The Soviets eventually abandoned their claim for inclusion of the Moscow partial nuclear test ban treaty, while the Chinese consented to include a general desire of and/or demand for an all-round prohibition of all nuclear tests.

Notes

1) Polish delegate at the ICC in Laos Jerzy Dudzinski left for Warsaw May 22, a Special from Vientiane reported on the same date. Dudzinski was previously recalled to Warsaw in connection with the "blockade" of the Polish delegation (cf. Sit. Rep. May 21).

2) Attention is drawn to an article by Sarah Gainham in the "Spectator" of May 22 on the economic situation in Poland (cf. F-41/42 of May 23). Particularly useful and to the point are the author's comments on private enterprise and artisans. These are often referred to in the Polish press under a general heading "Services", and the pre-Congress theses contain a number of passages on the problem.