

Church-State Relations

The earlier report of the Primate's visit in Rome to attend the June 12 meeting of the Ecumenical Council (cf. S.R. May 29) originated from Vatican sources and appears to have been erroneous.

An interesting sideline to the deteriorating Church-State relations and the Primate's I-forgive-you-all sermon in Warsaw can be read in last Friday's radio commentary by M. Kozakiewicz in the cycle "Morality Yesterday and Today." The radio editor, who is a member of the Presidium of the Association of Lay Schools, took a live-and-let-live approach to the moral questions facing Polish intelligentsia. He drew on topical examples by discussing the dilemma faced by physicians and pharmacutists in connection with the official policy on birth control, the movie theatre operator who must show a film condemned by the Church("Sister Joan of the Angels"?), and the librarian who lends books placed on the Papal Index. These moral conflicts, says Kozakiewicz, are resolved because "public duties and functions can be defined only by the State...and that is why all democratic states, including capitalist democracies, have carried out a division of the State and Church a long time ago and have established that before the law various religious beliefs of the people have an exclusively private and personal character and should not bear on the public affairs..." What made Kozakiewicz's formula for dealing with some of the "doubts" and possible "double-facedness" which may be the lot of those citizens who may want to apply it interesting is that he quoted the Evangelical dictum "Render Unto Ceasar..."

Western Broadcasts

The confiscation of BBC pamphlets and the consequent closing down of the BBC stand at the annual trade fair in Poznan is symptomatic of the regime's detestation of all foreign radio programs, even those which are clearly devoid of political content. Reuter's report (Poznan, June 11) makes it obvious that the BBC officials sought to promote listener interest in the shortwave English lessons rather than contest the Communist rule in Poland. Although the English language is one of the most popular choices of West-struck Poles and its knowledge is officially encouraged by the regime, instead of being thanked for its pains BBC was reminded of the adverse commentaries on the Stalinist rulers penned by its Polish editors a decade ago. This development is all the more surprising since it comes several days after the signing of a three-year

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trade treaty with Great Britain that augments commercial relations between the two countries. The merits of BBC foreign service broadcasts have been well known since its war-time effort to present the Polish listeners with reliable reporting on world news and a well-tempered commentary on world affairs. The move against two BBC editors of the Polish Section, whose pictures appeared in the pamphlets, one of whom is reported to have had visa difficulties, signifies Warsaw's lack of interest in seeking collaboration with Great Britain in the field of radio. It also recalls the strictures imposed on foreign correspondents accredited in Warsaw since the expulsion of Rosenthal.

German Relations

Following closely on the heels of Bonn discussions relating to foreign policy towards the Eastern Bloc, especially Poland, that appear to reiterate the prior determination to guard the interests of German resettlers from the Oder and Neisse, comes the NY Times dispatch that Polish top leaders had met at the Poznan Fair with B. Beitz, general manager of Krupp, and Chancellor Adenauer's unofficial ambassador of good will who journeyed twice to Poland within the recent past for exploratory talks with Cyrankiewicz and others. Cool relations continue to this day, and the West German press relegates news of the coming of the West German trade delegation June 17 to back pages. Expanded goods exchange may be expected soon, to judge from the descriptions of West German commodities displayed at the Poznan fair, without any appreciable warming up of state relations.

POUCHED:

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Polityka 3.6.61 - OLES A.: A Practising Doctor's Opinion (on the situation of the medical profession)

MAJEWSKA Z. & KOZAKIEWICZ Z.: A Certain Sad Questionnaire (on the results of a poll organized among young doctors - clinic assistants)