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The Third Plenum

The third Plenum of the PUWP Central Committee started in Warsaw on March 16, as scheduled, and ended next day in the early afternoon. It produced a Politburo report on the preparation of the electoral platform of the common Front of National Unity, a speech by Party First Secretary Wladyslaw Gomulka, and a report of Politburo member and CC secretary Zenon Kliszko on the Moscow meeting of 19 Communist Parties. A number of prominent workers of people's councils, non-members of the Central Committee, took part in the debates as well, Radio Warsaw reported March 17.

The Politburo report, which formally is subject to approval by the Front of National Unity, presents an electoral platform almost identical with the resolutions of the Fourth Congress of the PUWP of June last year, i.e. it concentrates on the execution of the current and future five year plans. This

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program will be presented to the electorate in the course of the "electoral campaign." On a long list of tasks facing the nation is also that of ensuring "an employment increase in all branches of the national economy of about 1.5 million persons." The report stresses the role of people's councils "in the development of socialist democracy," particularly those on the district level which are the "basic link" in the system of people's councils. "Of great importance for animating smaller towns is the construction of industrial plants, the development of crafts, cottage industry and services," the report states. The document also reveals that "candidates for Sejm deputies and councillors from the Polish United Workers' Party will be elected, as before, by secret ballot at special Party district, municipal and regional conferences" and that "the procedure for the nomination of candidates from the United Peasant Party and the Democratic Party will be worked out by the central authorities of those parties." Regarding non-party candidates, they will be nominated by "social organizations," the report explains.

Gomulka's speech or "introductory report," as Radio Warsaw referred to it, contained three basic elements: 1) the doctrine of people's democracy, 2) criticism of and/or attacks on West Germany and the US, 3) polemics with ideological foes at home and abroad. Regarding the system of people's democracy, Gomulka repeated the theory of the alliance of the three parties being the "backbone of the Front of National Unity" and of the alliance being "based on the independence of every party," with, however, the PUWP playing the "guiding role". As in the past, the three parties present a joint list of candidates of the Front of National Unity for the forthcoming elections. Gomulka defined the immediate tasks of these parties as follows: first, to nominate, "through wide consultations with the working masses," the most suitable candidates as Sejm deputies and local councillors, and secondly, to popularize the election platform among the population. (Regarding the method of nominating candidates,

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Gomulka seems to be in contradiction with the Politburo report which does not refer to "wide consultations with the working masses." Instead, the Politburo report seems to stress secret balloting at special Party conferences.) It would follow from Gomulka's theorizing that the Front of National Unity is a sort of an umbrella extending over the whole nation, but held firmly by the PUWP, and a haven for non-party people. "The Front of National Unity," Gomulka explained, "has a permanent place for non-party people who are guided by patriotism and a sense of civic duty and who want to serve their country in building socialism irrespective of their religious beliefs or political past." However, "it has a place for social and political groupings of lay Catholics, not as representatives of the whole of the followers of the Catholic religion, but as representatives of milieus whose Christian world outlook prompts them to have a positive attitude toward the people's government and to indulge in patriotic activity." This reservation is particularly important in view of the fact that it is clearly addressed to the "Znak" group deputies who have always claimed to represent all Polish Catholics.

On the problems of foreign policy Gomulka referred to West German "revisionist conceptions" based on an "international war conflagration" which, according to him, is being planned by the Bonn government. Under normal circumstances, territorial claims by one country (West Germany) against another country (Poland) from which it is divided by a third country (East Germany) would be nonsensical, Gomulka said. But the "crux of the policy of the Bonn government" is that it counts on a future war. Hence, for the sake of peace in Europe, Poland demands that the Western countries officially recognize the Polish-German frontier on the Oder and Neisse. Such a recognition would have no influence on Polish-Soviet relations, the Polish Party chief stressed, since -- contrary to enemy propaganda -- the Polish-Soviet alliance does not depend on the Soviet guarantee of the

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Oder-Neisse border. This alliance is of^a lasting character and is "of no less importance" now than it was a year after the war. (In this connection Gomulka announced that the Polish-Soviet treaty of alliance will soon be renewed for another 20 years.) Gomulka had also some harsh words for the US and for its "intervention in South Vietnam," its "gangster-like methods of black-mailing the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, the bombing of its territory, and the killing of innocent people women and children"; all this was creating a situation dangerous for world peace.

While all these quotes come from a PAP summary of Gomulka's speech of March 16, the next passages are based on Radio Warsaw's "extensive fragments" broadcast on the same date. These passages were simply left out of the PAP release. They refer to the "foes of socialism and People's Poland of various shades," who do not like the system of "alliance" between the three parties, and who devise various ways and means to fight socialism. These foes know that socialism has won through in Poland, Gomulka said; hence they masquerade of reformers of socialism and wage a propaganda war against Communism under the pretext of "improving socialism." These enemies also aim at undermining Polish-Soviet friendship. They play on nationalistic feelings by claiming that the only reason of the Polish-Soviet alliance is Soviet support for the Oder-Neisse border, Gomulka said.

Another important point of the agenda of the Plenum was Kliszko's report on the Moscow consultative meeting. This will be dealt with on Monday.

Scientific Cooperation with Foreign Countries

Polish scientists participated in about 200 international scientific organizations in 1964, Professor Dionizy Smolenski stated in an interview with PAP published by Trybuna Ludu on March 12. There was an exchange of scientific publications

with more than 120 countries, Smolenski continued, and over 80 international scientific and technical congresses, meetings, etc. took place in Poland last year. Furthermore, 1400 Polish experts took part in over 100 scientific meetings abroad. Smolenski, who is deputy chairman of the Committee for Science and Technology, stated that over 2,000 Poles went abroad last year for scientific training under various grant schemes and that in Poland there are at present over 100 persons from a few score of countries continuing their training under similar arrangements. Smolenski also stressed the cooperation with foreign countries of Polish nuclear physicists (35 of them are doing research at Dubna), particularly with Comecon countries, among which Poland is leading in the field of the industrial application of isotopes. Within Comecon, Poland is also a "leading" country with respect to geophysical survey apparatus, magnetics, photosynthesis and the selection of plants with high protein content.

Need for a More Informative Press

"The newspaper reader is not told why a new person appears in a certain prominent post to replace somebody who leaves," Zbigniew Kwiatkowski complained in Zycie Literackie (February 28) in an article titled "Information on Information." The article contained a review of a book by Michal Sulczewski on The Press and Society. For more on the subject cf. Polish Press Survey No. 1827 (March 16).

Polish-Chinese Trade Protocol

The Chinese deputy Foreign Minister, Dzian Min, and his Polish counterpart, Marian Dmochowski, signed on March 16 in Warsaw a protocol on goods exchange and payments between the two countries in 1965, reported Radio Warsaw on the same day.

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According to the same source, Poland is to deliver to China passenger cars, tractors, Diesel motors, ships and machine tools, in exchange for metal ores, minerals, tea, textiles and others. The exchange of goods between the two countries is to increase considerably compared with last year.

The previous trade protocol between China and Poland was signed in Peking on 5 February 1964 and covered the exchange of goods in 1964 (cf. SR 6 and 10 February 1964.)

It should be noted on this occasion that 1965 will be the second consecutive year showing an increase in trade exchanges between China and Poland after a certain slackening in previous years. It is also interesting to note that the phrase about the "atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding", conspicuously absent from previous reports on such occasions, reappeared this time in Radio Warsaw's reporting.