

RADIO FREE EUROPE *Research*

EAST EUROPE

● Poland
21 February 1966

S I T U A T I O N R E P O R T

- * Bulletin on Fulfillment of Plan
- * The Death of Cat-Mackiewicz

Bulletin on the Fulfillment of the Plan

On February 15, a communique of the Main Statistical Office was published on the results of the implementation of the economic plan for 1965 and on the initial results of the implementation of the Five-Year Plan (1961-65). It appears from the communique, that the basic targets of the plan for 1965 were implemented, but that economic development, and especially the standard of living, fell short of what had been planned for the whole Five Year Plan period.

The value of overall production in socialized industry rose by 9.1 per cent, compared to 1964. The targets were fulfilled to 102.5 per cent. Noteworthy is the rapid rate of increase in the processing of oil products (by 82 per cent over 1964) and in sulphur production (an increase of 19 per cent). The rate of growth of consumer goods was still below that of the means of production. As for agriculture, 1965 was generally a good year. The overall agricultural production was higher by 7.4 per cent, although live-stock production growth was not as large (6.2 per cent). Investments increased by 9.2 per cent over 1964 investments.

The foreign trade turnover, in keeping with the plan targets, rose by 6.3 per cent in exports and by 12.9 per cent in imports.

The national income grew by 6.0 per cent over 1964, while the part of national income assigned to consumption rose by 5.0 per cent.

The birth rate was lower in 1965 than in 1964 and amounted to 10 per cent. Employment (not including apprentices) in the national economy reached the figure of 8,280,000 persons in 1965 and was higher by 4.1 per cent than in 1964. Average real wages did not increase, according to official data, and if the increase of

prices in both commodities and services is considered, they continued in 1965 to fall.

In order to tone down the effect of admitting that the Five Year Plan, as a whole, had been a failure, it was evidently decided to incorporate the communique on this (the Five Year Plan) into that which announced the success of the plan for the single year, 1965.

In the Five Year Plan, the value of the overall production of the socialized industry did reach the planned target (100.9 per cent of the plan), but the planned production of consumer goods was not achieved (97.5 per cent). Overall agricultural production fell below the target (94 per cent).

The most basic shortcomings were noticeable in employment, labor productivity and real wages.

Employment increased by 1,244,000 persons in the period 1961-65, while the planned increase was only for 734,000 persons. The planned increase of labor productivity was implemented to only 70 per cent.

According to the communique, the increase of expenditures on consumption between 1960 and 1965 from personal wages per capita was only 18 per cent, instead of the planned 23 per cent. In actual fact, however, there was probably little or no increase at all since the cost of living rose by 18.5 per cent in the same period. Moreover, the data offered by the communique indicate that the cost of living base used in official calculations was below the actual cost of living. For instance, the figures do not make allowance for the fact that a large part of the costs of housing construction has been transferred to the population. When factors such as these are taken into consideration, real wages per capita not only failed to increase during the last five years, but actually decreased somewhat.

The Death of Cat-Mackiewicz

Stanislaw Cat-Mackiewicz, one of the signatories of the letter of the 34, the most controversial writer and journalist of Poland, died in Warsaw of a heart attack, reported Radio Warsaw and UPI on February 18. He was 70.

A full treatment of such a complex character is not possible here. Even before the war he almost defied description: an ardent admirer of Jozef Pilsudski, yet he was put in the Bereza Kartuska concentration camp by people who were equally ardent followers of the Marshal.

During the last war, in England, he contributed from time to time to various exile periodicals. He tried to found his own publication but was thwarted by war-time restrictions on licences for publications. He did, however, manage to evade these restrictions by turning out monthly political pamphlets, each under a different title.

21 February 1966

After various vicissitudes in exile, he returned to Poland in 1956 and began his cooperation with Pax, writing for its press and publishing books under its imprint. In 1964 Cat-Mackiewicz was one of the 34 Polish intellectuals who signed a letter to Prime Minister Cyrankiewicz, condemning government censorship and demanding greater allocation of paper for writers.

From October 1964, under the pen-name Gaston de Cerizay, he wrote several articles for the Polish exile Paris monthly Kultura on various aspects of the intellectual freedom (or the lack of it) in Poland. His pen-name became known to Polish authorities and there were fears that he would have to face a trial similar to those of Melchior Wankowicz and Jan Nepomucen Miller. He was not, however, criminally prosecuted but, on 11 November 1965, he was expelled from the Polish Journalists' Union on the grounds that he had published in Kultura articles that "slandered the good name of People's Poland." Till he died, however, he remained a member of the Polish Writers Union.

Cat-Mackiewicz had been ill for several years.