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Papal Visit to Poland Abandoned

A visit to Poland this year by Pope Paul VI would be "inopportune," the Polish government told the Vatican, an RFE Special from Rome reported March 31. The respective message was handed to Msgr. Agostino Casaroli, undersecretary of state for extraordinary affairs of the Church, by Polish ambassador to the Italian government Adam Willman, the Special explained.

In this connection Vatican sources stated that the Pope had abandoned any hope of going to Poland this year, at any rate for the May 3 Czestochowa celebrations. "He still holds a glimmer of hope that he could attend one of the later events," one of these sources elaborated.

On this latter point Bernard Margueritte wrote in Le Monde (April 2) indicating that "Polish sources" had let it be understood that August 15 would be a "much more opportune date" for a possible papal visit.

Regarding the immediate future, Stefan Cardinal Wyszynski told the congregation at Warsaw's St. John basilica yesterday to be prepared for sufferings during the forthcoming celebrations marking the Millennium of Christianity in Poland, agencies reported.

Not only will the Pope be barred from attending the Czestochowa celebrations; many Catholic bishops, including some American ones, have recently learned that neither they nor the prospective participants of special pilgrimages will obtain entry visas to Poland.

Thus Franz Cardinal Koenig of Vienna and a number of Austrian bishops who applied for visas more than a month ago are still waiting for a decision on their application, while several Catholic pilgrims

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have been told by the Polish official travel agency in Vienna that no visas will be issued by Polish authorities at the border between April 15 and May 22. The reason has been given as the "expected increase in local traffic in Poland," an RFE Special from Vienna reported March 31. Two days earlier a spokesman of the Polish embassy in Vienna told callers that the Austrian quota of visas to permit visits to the Millennium celebrations at Czestochowa would be limited to between "one hundred and two hundred." The limitation was explained by the Polish government's intention "to spare visitors inconvenience in competing with the one million Poles who are expected to visit the Czestochowa shrine," another RFE Special reported. The embassy spokesman also said that more than 25 radio and television teams and many journalists had been refused visas to cover the event. Instead, the Polish state radio and television service will provide foreign countries with coverage of the Czestochowa celebrations. Earlier a specially chartered train for Austrian Catholic pilgrims had to be cancelled either because of "repair work on the track" in Poland or because of expected "overcrowding of railway facilities in Czestochowa." Commenting on these restrictions, The Times of London stated on March 30 that:

"Whatever reasons may have compelled the Polish government to impose what is evidently a ban on foreign pilgrims, the decision itself and even more so the clumsy way in which it was announced -- the disguised pretext and ridiculous official explanations -- can hardly have enhanced Poland's prestige abroad."

In the German Federal Republic, Julius Cardinal Doepfner of Munich, chairman of the German Catholic bishops' conference, has not received an answer to his application for a Polish visa. However, he was "definitely optimistic," a press spokesman explained to RFE on March 30. But members of the Federation of German Catholic Youth in (West)Berlin had no reason for optimism. As reported by an RFE Special from Berlin on March 30, they had planned two trips, one from April 1 to 20 and another one at the beginning of May, but both trips had to be cancelled because Polish authorities failed to grant permission.

Also in France prospective travelers were told that no visas would be issued until May 20, RFE Specials from Paris reported on March 30 and 31. At least two local travel agencies have even been informed that no visits to Poland should be organized in the month of August. Poland will be "full of tourists" till May 20, a Polish consulate spokesman in Paris said in partial explanation.

The Roman Catholic Primate of Britain, John Cardinal Heenan, is waiting for an answer to his application for a visa. According to an RFE Special from London (March 30), he is expected to lead 50 lay and clerical pilgrims on a pilgrimage planned to last May 1-8 visiting Czestochowa and Cracow.

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London travel agents said that visas would not be granted for travel to Poland between April 14 and May 22. A similar ban will also operate during the end of June to cover the June 22 solemn procession of the "Black Madonna" from Czestochowa to Warsaw cathedral and also from August 8 to 31 in connection with the feasts of the Holy Virgin on August 15 and 26.

At least one American Catholic archbishop, William E. Cousins of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, has been told he will not be granted a visa to Poland, UPI reported today. Along with about a dozen Milwaukeeans, he was planning the pilgrimage from April 26 to May 8. The Polish consulate in Chicago confirmed that it was not authorized to grant visas during April and up to about the second half of May.

(The two articles mentioned in SR of March 28, "Portrait of a Cardinal" by Kerzy Burzynski in Polityka of March 26 and "Facing a Choice," an editorial of Kultura of March 27, are available in English translation in Polish Press Surveys No. 1982 and 1983 respectively, both dated April 2.)

More on the Document of a Rival Communist Party

The new clandestine Polish Communist Party is genuine, a spokesman of the Belgian pro-Chinese Communist paper Voix du Peuple stated on April 1 in answer to what an RFE Special from Brussels referred to as a "direct enquiry."

The enquiry was prompted by an additional explanation published in the errata column of last week's edition of Voix du Peuple that "the document of the Provisional Committee of the Polish Communist Party is dated -- Warsaw, October 1965" (cf. SR March 31). Asked to elaborate, the paper's spokesman explained that the document had come to them "only very recently," direct from Warsaw, already translated into French. There was no copy of the Polish original in the paper's possession, he said.

Trade Protocols

At least four protocols on trade exchange and payments in the current year have been signed recently:

- 1) A Polish-Swedish trade protocol for 1966 was signed in Warsaw on April 1, Radio Warsaw reported the same day. The spokesman for the Swedish delegation underlined on this occasion that the trade relations between Poland and Sweden have been growing constantly closer and that Poland is the first country to benefit from the latest liberalization of Swedish foreign trade policy, said the broadcast.

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2) The Polish-Indian trade protocol, covering 1966, was signed on April 1 in New Delhi, PAP reported on April 2. It calls for Polish deliveries to India of mining and building machinery, machine tools, tractors, power equipment, rolled products and bearings in exchange for Indian tea, mica, pepper, iron ore, textiles and other goods, PAP said. According to the agency, the two countries also signed an agreement covering coproduction and scientific technical cooperation, especially in the shipbuilding, and chemical and engineering industries.

The trade talks were conducted on the Polish side by Foreign Trade Minister Witold Trampczynski, Radio Warsaw reported on March 28.

3) Polish-Turkish trade talks ended in Warsaw with the signing of a trade protocol on exchange of goods between the two countries in the year beginning April 1, Radio Warsaw reported on March 28. The protocol envisages further increases in trade between Poland and Turkey, said Radio Warsaw. According to the broadcast, Poland's exports to Turkey will consist mainly of artificial and synthetic yarns, chemicals, machine tools, optical and laboratory instruments and sewing machines in exchange for Turkish cotton, metal ores, chemical raw materials, hides and citrus and dried fruit.

Trybuna Ludu of March 29 added that the value of Polish-Turkish trade exchanges in 1965 amounted to 66 million exchange zloty (16.5 million dollars) and that they are expected to increase in 1966 by about 15 per cent.

4) A Polish-Chinese trade and payments agreement for 1966 was signed in Peking on March 22, Trybuna Ludu reported on March 23. Poland is to deliver to China machine tools, building and mining machines, passenger cars, agricultural machines, ships, metallurgical goods and textiles in exchange for Chinese non-ferrous metals, minerals, raw materials for light industry and various foodstuffs.

Polish-Yugoslav Economic Talks

Polish-Yugoslav talks on economic cooperation ended in Belgrade on April 2 with the issuing of a communique on proposed development of economic relations between the two countries, Radio Warsaw reported the same day. According to the broadcast, it is expected that during the next five years the weight of the machine industries in trade exchanges between the two countries will increase considerably. The broadcast added that the goods exchange between Poland and Yugoslavia had doubled in the past five years and that further increases are expected in the next five years.

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The two-day talks were conducted on the Polish side by vice-premier Piotr Jaroszewicz. On his arrival in Belgrade on April 1 Jaroszewicz was reported by Radio Belgrade as saying that the aim of his visit was to examine the possibilities for the promotion of the economic collaboration between the two countries, above all the production of transport means. Such production is expected to have great importance for the further development of motorization in both countries.

According to Radio Belgrade of April 3, Jaroszewicz said that a long-term trade agreement would soon be signed in Belgrade.

The trade talks were conducted on the Polish side by Foreign Trade Minister Witold Gromadzinski. Radio Warsaw reported on March 28 that a long-term trade agreement would soon be signed in Belgrade. The Polish-Turkish trade talks ended in Warsaw with the signing of a trade protocol on exchange of goods between the two countries in 1966. According to the broadcast, the protocol envisages further increases in trade between Poland and Turkey, and Radio Warsaw said that the protocol will consist mainly of artificial and Poland's exports to Turkey will consist mainly of artificial and instruments and sewing machines in exchange for Turkish cotton, metal ores, chemicals, hides and skins and dried fruit.

Polish Trade Minister Witold Gromadzinski said that the value of Polish-Turkish trade in 1965 amounted to 66 million dollars. Further trade between the two countries is expected to increase by about 10 per cent. A Polish-Chinese trade and payments agreement for 1966 was signed in Peking on March 22. Trybuna Ludu reported on March 23 that it is to deliver to China machine tools, building and mining machines, passenger cars, agricultural machines, ships, metallurgical goods and textiles in exchange for Chinese non-ferrous metals, minerals, raw materials for light industry and various foodstuffs.

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