

Gomulka's Interview With Reporter of Stockholm's "Tidningen"

This will be discussed when the full text is available.

Attacks on Episcopate

Within the last two days there have appeared three articles attacking the Polish Episcopate. (See Reuter April 25, API April 27). Undoubtedly such a concentration of attack has its meaning but it would probably be as yet premature to speak of any planned campaign of attack on the Episcopate. Further evidence would be needed to talk reliably of this.

The most important is the statement of Witold Jankowski ("Slowo Powszechne" April 25). This is a contribution to a discussion in the W. Pietrzak Club held on April 24, in which participated 13 prominent Pax intellectuals, including three priests. The title of the discussion was "The role of Catholic left in Poland". Jankowski's was one of the two contributions published in full. It seems almost certain that the chief editor of "Slowo Powszechne" delivered an important political declaration. It looks like a new offer of Pax setting up new conditions for cooperation with regime. This article will be published in the Polish Press Survey. In the meantime it is worth stressing that in the article the following suggestion was made: "There is another problem, which comes to the fore in connection with the widening of the socialist democracy and the transferring of attributes of people's authorities downwards, to the district level. It would be for both sides concerned profitable, if this process would somehow embrace the field of Church-State relations, now concentrated at the level of Episcopate and central authorities"...

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Published on the same date was an article by Myslek in "Sztandar Mlodych", starting with the discussion of the latest papal encyclical. It stresses the "uncomprehensive" attitude of the Polish Episcopate toward the Pope's peace action. This is in line with recent regime's attacks, and also in line with Myslek's own (and others) attacks on the Polish Episcopate, immediately after the end of Vatican Council's first session.

The third attack on the Episcopate appeared in "Trybuna Ludu" in an editorial summarizing the discussion of the book of Col. Zaluski "The Seven Polish Deadly Sins". This book has been the latest and greatest stir in Polish intellectual life, and there has hardly been a writer worthy of his name who would not participate in this heated historico-political discussion. "Trybuna Ludu", after the discussion had subsided, summarized it editorially, thus giving an official view of the problem. The passages on the Church form only a dozen of lines of a 10 column article, though the same theme about the reluctance of the Polish Episcopate to engage in the cause of peace can be observed.

Cardinal König to Visit Poland

Cardinal König, Archbishop of Vienna "will take up next week a long-standing invitation to visit Poland" reported RFE Special, Vienna, on April 25. This news has set off a long line of reports and speculations about König's movements.

This visit is the result of an old invitation. The Cardinal was invited and intended to visit Poland round August 15 last year, but as the feast of Ascension of Our Lady, coupled with the anniversary of Poland's victory over the Red Army in 1920 (The Miracle on Vistula) is particularly disliked by Communists, and traditionally draws hundreds of thousands of pilgrims to Czestochowa, the Cardinal was not granted visa in time, and thus the visit was

cancelled, or rather postponed (cf. Situation Reports March 23, June 28, July 12, August 9, 16 and 21, all of 1962).

Cardinal König will arrive in Poland on April 30, and his visit will be of purely private character (Reuter April 26, UPI April 29). He will visit several dioceses and on May 3 will be in the famous Black Madonna Shrine in Czestochowa. One cannot say that the timing of König's visit to Czestochowa is for the regime much more pleasant than the last year's intended August 15. First of all this is an anniversary of the Polish 1791 Constitution. It was Poland's National Holiday for over 150 years, till it was abolished by the Communists in favor of July 22. Furthermore this is also an important day, a feast-day of Black Madonna, "The Queen of the Polish Crown", and though this important Marian holiday before the war was overshadowed by the national holiday, it is now, after August 15 and 26, the most important day in Czestochowa, and there can be little doubt regarding the symbolic meaning of the timing, even though there will be few pilgrims, as at this time of the year peasants can ill afford any interruption of their farm work.

Cardinal Wyszynski to Leave for Rome

Cardinal Wyszynski, two days after the visit of Cardinal König, will leave Poland to attend a Commission preparing for the second stage of the Vatican Council, reported Reuter on April 26.

Polish Ships Banned by the USA

"No Polish vessels are scheduled to pick up US grain since a special Presidential Executive Order excludes them from the privilege of docking at American ports, because of their involvement in the Soviet bloc-Cuba trade" (RFE Special, New York April 26.)

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Turning necessity into a virtue, Polish information media do not mention the ban, but enlarge proudly on the largest American vessels, visiting the Baltic for the first time (Radio Warsaw April 4 and 15, "Trybuna Ludu" April 16).

Much Talk about Agriculture

In the wake of the Trade Union's Central Council Plenary Session (cf. Situation Report April 25) there have been several other plena, meetings and sessions reported by Radio Warsaw.

The Eighth Plenum of Supreme Committee of the UPP was held on April 25 and 26. On April 25 there was also a Plenum of the Warsaw voivodship Party committee, on the 26th Plenum of the Central Board of Agricultural Workers Trade Union, a conference of students of the Agricultural Colleges, a meeting of agricultural secretaries of Party voivodship committees and a conference of physicians from rural medical cooperatives.

Most of them discussed the two problems raised at TU Plenum, i.e., agricultural schools and PGRs.

US Students to Receive Polish Scholarships

Poland and Yugoslavia are among a group of countries offering graduate fellowships to US students for the 1964-65 academic year, USIS of April 29 reported.