

The Campaign against the Church in Poland

The text of the minutes of the meeting of officials from Poznan voivodship, dealing with the problem of policy towards the Church, was published in the "Tablet" of May 23 (cf. Sit. Rep. May 25).

This is a unique document, because such minutes do not appear in any official information media. On the other hand, looked at from regime point of view it is a routine document from a confidential Communist file - that is, as routine as such conferences are.

This sort of document rarely being accessible in the West, contains various items of information which are usually not accessible. In this category is information on the Department for Religious Affairs of the CC. It is obvious that there must be a body dealing with these matters on the CC level but so far no reference to it can be found in any official information media. Also, with one or two exceptions, the names of the persons participating in the conference do not appear in the RFE card index, which may be explained by the fact that they are mostly provincial officials of lower status on the one hand and that - as a rule - they do their best to avoid publicity on the other.

As to the content of the document, it reflects accurately not only the current trend but also the actual state of affairs and the Communist tactics pertaining to dealings with the Church. Such points as favoritism shown to other denominations, spreading false information on the clergy, frame-ups of priests, and other not necessarily noble means listed in the struggle against the Church are part and parcel of present Communist practice in Poland.

Regarding another point raised in Sit. Rep. May 25, the text of Stanislaw Stomma's speech in the Sejm on the new Civil Code is available in English translation in Polish Press Survey No. 1711 of May 27.

27 MAY 1964

Protests of Writers continue

The Polish writers' Communist-directed "indignation" over the impact abroad of the letter of the 34 continues unabated. Although a declaration of protest had already been passed by the writers of the western and northern voivodships (i.e. of the former German territories) at a meeting in Poznan (cf. Sit. Rep. May 11), part of them deemed it opportune to protest once again. According to Radio Warsaw, May 25, Silesian writers gathered at an "open meeting of the basic Party cell of the Polish Writers' Union's branch in Katowice", passed a resolution protesting against "propaganda of Western press and radio" which commented "tendentiously" on some facts pertaining to Polish culture and literary life. "Particular condemnation" was reserved in the resolution for RFE. This time new elements appeared in the resolution: 1) condemnation of "cosmopolitanism under any form" ("wszelki"), and of 2) RFE's cooperation with the "activities of unrelentless enemies of Polish Silesia and of Polish Western Territories". The resolution explicitly accused RFE of "diligently ("skwapliwie") taking up the slogans of West-German revisionism". The Silesian writers stated that both cosmopolitanism and RFE deserve "particular condemnation". While the accusation of RFE's cooperation with West German "revanchism" is nothing particularly new in Communist propaganda, the new emphasis on "cosmopolitanism" is. In Communist double-talk this expression is as a rule reserved for the Jews. It is, therefore, quite significant that the latest resolution contains this anti-Semitic accent. This would indicate that the partisan faction of the Polish CP, which is known for using anti-Semitism as a means of gaining influence, has managed to find supporters in the Silesian writers' organization.

In addition to the above "act of indignation", the press continues to carry articles discussing "Western propaganda" and RFE as further background on the letter of the 34. To quote two examples: the weeklies "Kultura" (May 24) and "Tygodnik Demokratyczny" (May 13-19) devoted much space to the condemnation of the role of RFE in what is referred to



27 MAY 1964

as "anti-Polish campaign".

The "Wspolczesnosc" article on the same subject, discussed in Sit. Rep. May 21, appeared in English translation in Polish Press Survey No. 1710 of May 26.

#### Polish-Finnish Trade Agreement

"The first Polish-Finnish long-term trade agreement" was signed in Helsinki on May 23, "Trybuna Ludu" reported the next day. The agreement, which was initialled a month ago (cf. Sit. Rep. April 30), was signed by Polish Foreign Trade Vice-Minister Janusz Burakiewicz and by the Finnish Minister of Industry and Trade Olavi J. Mattila, and it is binding for three years, from the beginning of 1964 till the end of 1966. It provides for a yearly trade turnover of 50 million dollars. Both sides will increase the exchange of industrial goods (machines and installations).