

Reaction to Vienna

The excerpts extracted from the official party daily Trybuna Ludu and the first echoes of the meeting reported in today's Die Welt are in tune with the more sanguine treatment of the results by the Soviet sources than by the American public and government opinion. The party daily described the talks as a good start towards changing the international situation, and according to Die Welt Warsaw is pleased because the meetings took place at all and because it was typified by a "realistic atmosphere" (cf. CMD/Agencies: Eastern Comment, June 6). The official Polish reaction is heavily biased of course with considerations arising from the Oder and Neisse problem. President Zawadzki spared no effort at linking the future of the disputed territory with the Vienna talks, an effort which dovetails with the persistent regime propaganda that peace in Europe is contingent on the status quo.

Economy

Item pouched today by G.P. is an attempt to keep a close check on the performance of the national economy in terms of financial discipline (wages and payments for the procurement of agricultural produce) and over-all efficiency (labor productivity). Despite some reservations, the Zycie Gospodarcze expert, probably G. Pisarski, gives a bullish estimate of the foreign trade and the critical investment program and balance of payments.

The annual agricultural census which began yesterday for the first time included poultry farming. Together with the general census taken at the end of last year the results of which are still to be digested and published, such tallies and close reporting as done by the state census takers and Zycie Gospodarcze is symptomatic of the determination to emphasize production and de-emphasize ideology (cf. News Background "The Polish Academy of Science Considers Agricultural Policy," June 5). The trend can also be seen in the deal in wheat with Canada which for the next three years will secure 6.5 million dollars worth of bread and permit greater allocations for cattle feeding. Although there is a persistent lack of statistical data to this day (cf. UN Yearbook of National Accounts Statistics for 1960), more and more data appear to be available to economic experts in Poland. If used properly for pragmatic state planning, such information may prevent painful surprises, as the recent meat crisis and other national contingencies.

6 June 1961

State Planning and Financing: New Appointments

The appointment by the Council of Ministers of A. Zebrowski to the post of President of the Polish National Bank replacing the newly appointed Polish Ambassador to the USA, E. Drozniak and the nominations of E. Bertold and B. Piotrowski as vice-presidents signified little change. Zebrowski is a one time expert on small scale industry and handicrafts who has remained in his government position reportedly at the express wish of Gomulka. He seems to enjoy a fair reputation as a man and is said to be a typical product of the so-called "social advance" under Communism. The appointment of W. Jagusztyn to the post of deputy chairman of the Planning Commission in the Council of Ministers marks an advancement for a cooperative movement expert once connected with the Stalinist collectivization drive. He replaces Prof. B. Struzek who is to devote himself to academic pursuits. A closer look at the nominal party affiliations of the new appointees reveals that the "Key" which traditionally governs the appointments to government posts of members of the ruling PUWP and the collaborationist UPP and DP still applies.

Pouched:Zycie Gospodarcze 28.5.61

G.P.: What Did April Bring? (on the economic situation in April)

Slowo Powszechne 22.5.61

Cat: From London (on the Vienna meeting)

Nowa Kultura 28.5.61

Seidler B.: The Economic Offense --The Topic of the Day

Polityka 27.5.61

Unsigned: Circular No.4 (on school libraries)

Tygodnik Powszechny 28.5.61

Dembinski L.: Polish Foreign Policy