

Cyrankiewicz in Mexico and Rome

Cyrankiewicz's six-day visit in Mexico (cf. Sit. Rep. March 7) ended and on March 12 he started his return journey.

Both Polish and Western information media agree that his visit was a success, reception warm and cordial. Numerous speeches at various opportunities stressed the ties of friendship between the two nations, and their respective contributions to the cause of peace. In this connection Cyrankiewicz praised President Mateos for his stand during the Cuban crisis. These speeches found its reflection in the joint Polish-Mexican communique, which says that the two statesmen agreed that:

"they would continue to struggle through the United Nations for a ban on nuclear tests and for total and general disarmament under adequate international control.

It was desirable that governments should make unilateral decisions excluding nuclear weapons from their territories as well as launching sites for such weapons.

The creation of atom-free zones in various parts of the world would contribute to general disarmament.

The policy of both governments contributed to the liquidation of colonial system.

All controversial problems should be regulated peacefully. Differences in the economic and political organization of the two countries did not constitute an obstacle to a trade turnover which would be mutually advantageous.

Cultural cooperation should be strengthened still further.

(PAP, March 13)

Although the communique makes just passing references to economic problems it was suggested that Cyrankiewicz's visit has got "more to do - indirectly - with the European Common Market than with anything else" (Washington Post, March 9). But while Cyrankiewicz did not touch Polish-Mexican economic relations, he said that they would be discussed

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during the President Mateos's visit in Warsaw (UPI, March 6, Reuter, March 12, UPI March 13). However he used his two stopovers in New York to advocate development of trade and economic relations with the United States.

The return route of Cyrankiewicz, like his outward journey, also contains elements of surprise. Announced to return via Havana (UPI, March 9) he went again through New York, thus keeping the bloc's troublesome ally out of the picture. In New York, he said "I had no specific plans to go to Cuba" (UPI, March 13). From New York, where he was entertained by U Thant, again entirely unexpectedly he took course to Rome (Reuter, March 12, UPI, March 13, RFE Special NY, March 12). The purpose of the Rome trip also looks puzzling. UPI of March 13 and 14 expressly states that it will be a state visit, while Radio Warsaw of March 13 speaks only on a flight to Warsaw via Rome, and Reuter of March 14 on the stopover in Rome. That Cyrankiewicz intend to have some meetings in Rome is nowhere stated, but it can be inferred from his statement that he had no plans to visit the Pope, to whom "we feel great respect for his attitude toward the question of peaceful coexistence among nations and for his attitude during the crisis in the Caribbean, when he called for moderation" (UPI and Reuter, March 14).

#### Forthcoming Visit of Mexican President to Poland

Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs has released the schedule of President Adolpho Lopez Mateos visit to four European countries, UPI of March 13 reported (cf also Situation Report March 11). According to the schedule Poland is the only country in which the President will sign a joint declaration with his host (Aleksander Zawadzki, Chairman of the Council of State). According to Cyrankiewicz the economic matters will be discussed during the President's visit to Poland (see item above).



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Polish-French Trade Agreement

The Polish-French agreement on trade in 1963 was signed in Warsaw on March 11, Radio Warsaw reported same day. It provides for a 20 per cent increase of turnover over the preceding year.

In contrast to the reticence with which the recent Polish-West German agreement was reported by Radio Warsaw (cf. Sit. Rep. 11 March) this is hailed as being negotiated after "businesslike talks in an atmosphere of mutual understanding". The signing of the document by negotiators was performed in the presence of the Polish Minister of Foreign Trade and his deputy and the French Ambassador. The agreement was commented upon already next day and on that occasion "Zycie Warszawy" revealed that in a few months another French delegation is due in Warsaw to negotiate an agreement "to last for several years". "Zycie Warszawy" was also quick to point out that this is the third advantageous agreement with a Common Market country (cf. Sit. Reps of 28 February and 11 March) and that a Benelux delegation is "shortly" due in Warsaw to negotiate an agreement (Ceteka 12 March).

Polish Bishops to Rome

The two Polish Prelates, Archbishop Boleslaw Kominek and Bishop Herbert Bednorz, passed through Vienna on 13 March en route to Rome. They were supposed to participate in the session of the Ecumenical Council's Commission for the Lay Apostolate and Entertainment which lasted from 4 to 9 March. They did not get their passports in time (cf. Sit. Rep. 7 March) and have got them only now. (RFE Special Vienna 13 March).

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"Trybuna Ludu" on the Polish-West German Agreement and Ochab on PGR's will be treated in the next issue of the Situation Report.