

Poznan International Trade Fair Opens

The 31st Poznan International Trade Fair was ceremoniously opened by Prime Minister Jozef Cyrankiewicz on Sunday morning, June 10. Polish press and radio reports stressed that the Fair is the fourth biggest in the world after New York, Paris and Milan ones. It forms a span between East and West, thus presenting a "perfect example of coexistence." 59 countries participate in this year's Poznan Fair, and no less than 1,200 "capitalist" firms exhibit their goods. All Communist countries sent their government delegations to the Fair. The Polish press meticulously singled out five countries whose delegations were headed by no less than deputy prime ministers: Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Mongolia and the USSR. The remaining Communist delegations from Albania, China, Hungary, Rumania, North Vietnam and Yugoslavia were headed by ministers or vice-ministers, while North Korea delegated its ambassador in Warsaw. The event attracted also some distinguished visitors from the United Kingdom: Board of Trade President Frederick J. Errol and Lord Mayor of London, Sir Frederick Alfred Hoare. The latter arrived at the invitation of Janusz Zarzycki, his Warsaw counterpart. From the US Assistant Secretary of Commerce, Dr. Jack Behrman, arrived. The occasion was used by West Germany to restart trade talks with the Poles (see separate item).

Reuter reported that most interest of the diplomats and businessmen present at the opening ceremonies was centered on "glittering pavilions of the United States, the Soviet Union and West Germany". Wladyslaw Gomulka and Cyrankiewicz spent about half an hour in each of these exhibits.

Polish-West German Trade Talks to Start

Ministerial Director in West Germany's Agricultural Ministry, Dr. Otto Stalman, arrived in Poland for the opening of the Poznan Fair and "to head the West German delegation" at West German-Polish trade talks, Radio Warsaw reported June 9.

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Polish-West German trade relations are based on a trade protocol of 16 November 1956 since prolonged almost every year. According to the last such agreement of 13 April 1960 the then agreed upon trade lists became automatically binding for the years 1961 and 1962 if notice of termination of the agreement had not been given by October 31 of the preceding year. Thus 1962 is the last year of formally binding trade relations between Poland and West Germany.

Trade talks were scheduled twice in 1961, first in January then in June, but were postponed in both instances by political considerations rather than economic ones. The presence of Otto Stalman in Poland at this time seems to indicate that both sides mean business, and that the talks will eventually start and that a sort of trade agreement will be concluded (Stalman negotiated all previous agreements). Polish-West German trade develops favorably for Poland which has accumulated an estimated 50 million dollar credit balance.

Stalman playing host at the German stand at the Poznan Fair greeted visiting Gomulka and Cyrankiewicz "in the name of the Federal Government" and expressed his government's hope that "good trade relations" between Poland and West Germany will have positive influence on relations between the two peoples "as a whole". According to Stehle (FAZ June 12) Gomulka also met at the German stand the Krupp representative Berthold Beitz, but this meeting -- in contrast to the one with Stalman -- was cool. This was due, Stehle explained, to Polish dissatisfaction with what the Poles considered as indiscretions contained in a recent article in the German press about Beitz's previous diplomatic missions to Poland.

Only Two Per Cent of Arable Area Under Water

The area flooded either by swollen river waters or by continuous rains (cf. Sit. Rep. June 4) does not exceed two per cent of the whole arable area, Deputy Minister Stanislaw Gucwa said in a radio interview June 8. Of these two per cent about 64 per cent pertains to meadows and pastures, and the rest to arable soil.

In the meantime weather improved substantially, and swollen rivers continue to recede.

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Cultural Awards

A detailed paper on this subject (cf. Sit. Rep. June 4) entitled "Centralized Literary Prizes in Poland" appeared June 9 and has been pouched.

Note: More on Polish developments (Peasant Day ceremonies, Polish-Austrian Trade Agreement, Rapacki's visit to Cuba, Polish-US relations, etc.) will be sent tomorrow.