

Powers Trial

Warsaw news media are adhering to a well-tempered style of reporting the Moscow trial. They do not appear to engage in the pernicious commentary on the courtroom proceedings (cf. Radio Moscow comment interspersed within the text of questions and answers) and are more akin to the objective Western reporting. S. Kozlowski's correspondence from the trial broadcast by Radio Warsaw yesterday may be considered typical. The special commentator highlighted the reaction of the simple Russian upon discovering Powers. The reaction was described as that of simple untutored men who never considered the possibility that a foreign aviator could appear on the Russian soil. This would be in line with the Soviet effort to stress the invincibility of their air defenses. The Polish radio commentator also concentrated on the human angle in the trial when he described the murmur of "easily understood emotion" which greeted some of Powers' testimony. The other highlights provided by Polish commentator were U.S. pilot's equipment, markings of the U-2 and the rather standard accusation against the Pentagon which is the real culprit on trial. Only at one point did the commentator stray from the almost sympathetic treatment of Powers when he is described as a man who attempts to dodge the responsibility of his deed. This occurred when the Chairman of the Tribunal asked Powers whether he realized that his overflight might lead to war. In the words of S. Kozlowski, at this point Powers tried to dodge the question by saying that those who sent him on the mission should have thought about the consequences.

Harvest

Rains continue to impede the ingathering of crops in the central, southern, Baltic and Wiekopolska areas (Radio Warsaw, August 19). In many localities, the harvesters had to interrupt their work. The only state farms reported to have been able to carry out 80% of the planned deliveries of qualified seed grain were in the Lodz voivodship, while in others only 15% to 30% of the grain has been thrashed. Still, it is felt here that the calamitous harvesting weather will not necessitate increasing the planned grain imports which during the next five years will average about 1,700,000 tons per year. The harvest entails the combined efforts of conscripts and voluntary labor, but thus far is not involving a desperate effort

around the clock as in Czechoslovakia, where large groups of men have pledged to work nights (UPI, Vienna, August 19). As pointed out before (cf. Situation Report August 17), the largely collectivized members of the socialist bloc like Czechoslovakia and East Germany may encounter greater difficulties in completing this year's harvest than the largely uncollectivized Poland, where farm labor in the overpopulated village is readily available.

Agriculture

Trybuna Ludu (August 11) provides statistics on the sale of tractors to the agricultural circles for the period ending in mid-August (some $7\frac{1}{2}$ months). Out of the 8,800 tractors scheduled for sale in 1960, 2,704 actually have been delivered. Although it is reasonable to assume that a substantial acceleration of sales will occur during the autumn when more abundant cash is had in the village, it may be assumed that peasants will be more willing to spend money on land drainage than on tractors which, in many parts of the country, could not be brought into play due to soggy soil conditions.

COMECON

COMECON statutes have been published in the official journal of law Dziennik Ustaw. The text reveals nothing overtly prejudicial to Polish interests as might have been expected.

Poland stands to lose in her trade within the socialist camp not because of the formal terms of COMECON agreements, but rather due to the character of exports to which she is limited. These appear to be primarily raw materials and semi-finished commodities such as coal, sulphur and rolled metal. The credits which have been accorded Poland by Czechoslovakia and East Germany most likely will aid Poland in strengthening her extraction industries. These yield slow returns over a period up to 30 years. Instead, what appears to be Poland's most pressing need are credits for developing her consumer and food processing industries. These would afford greatly increased exports and an appreciable increase of the standard of living.

Economy

Two articles appearing in the Zycie Gospodarcze (August 14) may be considered important primers in the question of investment planning. One makes a plea for concentrating economic effort in developing foreign trade in such a way that the ailing balance of payments may be cured effectively. The article was written by

S.S. and is entitled "Foreign Trade At The Half-Way Mark". In the crypto language of Zycie Gospodarcze, the article argues strongly for further development of consumer and food industries. The second article by W. Brus "The Law of Value and The Market Mechanism in Socialized Economy" also deals with investments. When stripped of Marxist jargon, the discussion undertaken by the author primarily deals with the percentage yields of various investments. Since this question is connected with the broad social considerations, the author could not afford to stick to the purely economic (or dogmatic) point of view. As an economist, he had to keep his arguments from making too strong a case for purely economic considerations as guide to investments. Extensive excerpts from both articles will be translated and sent in the clear since they mark another significant point in the protracted economic dialogue in which various economists associated with the Zycie Gospodarcze have undertaken to reform the national economy.

Church-State

In reference to a report by Bayerischer Rundfunk heard yesterday at 7 a.m. (cf. Situation Report August 18), West German newscast on the worsening situation on the Church sector has related to the convoking of the Polish Episcopate Assembly in Czestochowa August 26 by Cardinal Wyszynski. According to RFE Special by Wilson, Rome, August 18, the festival of the oath of allegiance to the Virgin Mary of Czestochowa is an annual event at which no Vatican representative attends.

The situation on the Church sector, not bright just now, cannot be described as worsening in a significant way. Sniping would be a better word to describe the propaganda made by the regime against the Church. One example of this can be seen in the Glos Wielkopolski (August 4) article which takes a Poznan priest to task for trying to persuade couples living out of wedlock to take the holy sacrament of matrimony. Failing this, according to the paper, the priest had attempted to persuade women into breaking off relations with the fathers of their children.

News Media

Radio Warsaw launches its new program schedule September 5. It will be considerably revamped in order to give more economic, labor and entertainment topics. A full appreciation of the changes will have to await a report by the Polish monitors of RFE. At this point it may be said that the changes are in line with recommendations made by A. Starewicz, director of the Press Office of the CC, PUWP, and

Director of Radio Warsaw W. Sokorski. Radio Warsaw will introduce programs in topical blocs not unlike those programmed by RFE (cf. Situation Report June 30).

Press Exports

The circulation of Polish press within the socialist bloc countries is the subject of an article by S. Strobiszewski in the Prasa Polska (August). Extensive excerpts of this article will be sent later in the clear. The quarter-million copies of Polish periodicals circulated in the USSR annually reflect the rather intense interest in Polish affairs among the broad segments of the Soviet population and the faithful readership of Poles domiciled in the USSR. Surprisingly, the important party daily Trybuna Ludu does not appear at the top of the list. The greatest circulation of periodicals is found in areas of popular interests (film, women, satirical, scientific and technical). By comparison, the numerical distribution of the Polish press to other members of the socialist bloc is insignificant. The Polish periodical in Russian Polsha appears in more than 80,000 copies in the USSR, again testifying to the great popularity of the Polish press in the USSR.

Silesian Anniversary

The 40th anniversary of the outbreak of the second Silesian uprising has been given perfunctory observance in Silesia. They were limited to a meeting of Silesian veterans with soldiers in Zabrze and a procession.

Law

A new statute on the protection of public criticism and penalties for libel has been drafted by the Ministry of Justice (Radio Warsaw I, August 19). The law seems to aim at doing two things: (a) engendering justified social criticism of abuses and (b) stemming the largely uncurbed character assassination and rumor-mongering so widely prevalent in Poland. According to today's Zycie Warszawy, the new law now regulates criticism appearing in radio, television and film chronicle which have been left out in the decree dating back to 1938.

Economy

Trybuna Ludu deals today with some of the finer points of investments in the next Five Year Plan (Radio Warsaw I). The daily stresses that the formation of teams of specialists responsible for revising and formulating costs and plans

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"documentation" are only the beginning of basic work towards reforming state investments. Trybuna Ludu notes that considerable delays in the work of these teams has been noted and that administration and local party organs have not always appreciated the importance of timely revisions of economic plans during the current year. According to the daily, the choice of personnel nominated to these teams has often been limited to officials from a given establishment involved in the revisions, therefore, they were representing investors who may have special interests foremost in mind. Outside representatives who would keep in sight the overall national considerations in developing new investment plans are now recommended.

Shipyards

One of the major undertakings of the Polish economy during the second Five Year Plan will be the further developing of the shipbuilding industry. Zycie Warszawy today mildly gloated over the fact that unlike foreign shipyards, Polish shipbuilding industry is busy with orders extending up til 1965. The great leap in shipbuilding is expected in 1963, and the total income in the next five years is expected to reach close to two billion export zloty for ships built for eight countries, among them USSR, Indonesia, Switzerland, Brazil, Czechoslovakia and Albania.

Pouched

(1) Slowo Powszechne (August 12), unsigned article devoted to Osservatore Romano attack on PAX and its leader B. Piasecki; (2) Trybuna Ludu (August 8), J. A. Szczepanski on the lack of socialist ideology in the Polish theater; (3) Sztandar Mlodych (August 11) AJK on the economic penalty which Poland must pay for the use of outdated steel processing equipment; (4) Rada Narodowa (July 30), S. Gabryl on the new responsibility for consumer services which has fallen on national councils in accordance with a decree by the Council of Ministers June 9.