

# RADIO FREE EUROPE

*Research*

## EAST EUROPE

● Poland  
2 February 1967

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#### Ochab on Millennium Celebrations and West Germany

A plenary session of the All-Polish Committee of the Front of National Unity took place in Warsaw on January 31 to draw a balance sheet of the Millennium celebrations of the last year and to draw up the "main tasks" of the Front's committees in the "new period of their activities," Radio Warsaw reported.

More than a year ago (cf. SR 17 January 1966), a similar session marked the beginning of state Millennium celebrations. The present meeting, as explained by Radio Warsaw on February 1, was the last event of these celebrations.

Just as a year ago, the session was attended by representatives of all walks of life, including top Party and government leaders.

The main speaker was State Council Chairman Edward Ochab. Although he did not refer directly to either the Church or to the Episcopate, he sounded like First Party Secretary Wladyslaw Gomulka a year ago when he spoke about "how disastrous the policy directed against the East has been for Poland" in the past, a policy which was "inspired by the reactionary and insane concept of the bulwark of Christianity."

Although patriotism "has today linked itself irrevocably with the ideas of socialism and internationalism, thus forming a new type of civic thinking," Ochab said, there are heard at times "reactionary voices of people, denizens of another epoch," and "there still exist individuals whose hatred of socialism is stronger than the welfare of their own nation." These people try to "create anti-Communist feelings, and put believers up against non-believers, praise Poland's imperialist enemies, and blacken its socialist friends and allies."

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While Ochab made the attack on the Episcopate, or at least on its "reactionary part," by implication only, another speaker, Piotr Gajewski, a trade union high official, referred to "the well-known message of the Episcopate" [i.e., the Polish bishops' letter to their German brethren]. Gajewski stressed that on this matter the Polish working class had taken a clear stand: only the Polish government is entitled to speak in the name of Poles.

Ochab, in his speech, also repeatedly stressed the advantages of Poland's friendship with the USSR. "Thanks to the alliance with the Soviet Union, we have built the foundations of our house and of Poland on the traditional Piast borders," Ochab said. "All patriots realize that the alliance and friendship with the Soviet Union and with the brotherly socialist countries are dictated by the most vital interests of Poland," he continued.

"A real threat to world peace is created by US aggression in Vietnam," Ochab stated. The Polish nation "is giving and will continue to give manifold support and help" to Vietnam.

While Ochab devoted no more than two passages of his speech to Vietnam, he was more explicit about the German problem, which is understandable in view of West Germany's new Ostpolitik and the recent establishment of diplomatic relations between Bonn and Bucharest.

"The crisis of the German Federal Republic's war policy is forcing the Kiesinger government into various maneuvers," Ochab stated. "It is difficult to find in the German Federal Republic Chancellor's declarations on the readiness to normalize the relations with the countries of Eastern Europe any change in assumptions and in political aims." The changes which Ochab would like to see were enumerated in the following passage: "It is difficult to find any real change in the German Federal Republic government's attitude toward the question of armaments, or to the question of frontiers, or to the recognition of the GDR, the second sovereign German state, the integrity and security of which is a basic condition of peace in Europe."

Of these three basic Polish conditions enumerated by Ochab, the most clearly defined was the last: the recognition of the GDR. It almost seemed that this was the main condition and that the vital problem, for the Poles, of the Oder-Neisse line was minimized by Ochab in his laconic reference to "frontiers." Perhaps this passage of Ochab's speech was addressed to Walter Ulbricht in East Berlin rather than to the Poles.

Ochab concluded his expose on the German problem by supporting the recent Soviet statement (29 January) on the danger of neo-Nazism in West Germany. According to Ochab, the statement contained "a deep analysis of the dangers with which Europe and the world are threatened through the revanchist and adventurous policy of the German Federal Republic government, of the neo-fascist forces in West Germany."

#### Soviet Bloc Meeting on West Germany Planned

"Soviet and East European foreign ministers are likely to meet in East Berlin early next week for urgent discussion of relations with West Germany," Reuter reported from Moscow on February 1. The agency, quoting "reliable sources," reported that the meeting appeared to have been urgently advanced "at Polish initiative."



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These sources also said that Wladyslaw Gomulka "was heading the drive to prevent a spiralling movement towards East European relations with Bonn."

The meeting was likely to "aim for joint tactics in extracting concessions from Bonn before other East European nations agree to establish relations."

"The main concessions sought by East Germany and Poland are that West Germany should recognize East Germany's existence as a sovereign state, and should formally accept Poland's post-war Oder-Neisse borders," Reuter reported.

Reuter reported further that "combined Soviet-Polish arguments were said to have persuaded the Bulgarians to delay a final decision" on the establishment of diplomatic relations with West Germany. The position of Hungary and Czechoslovakia was still uncertain.

Reuter's Moscow report was confirmed by the same agency's dispatch from East Berlin (February 1) to the effect that Walter Ulbricht has called on the Soviet Union and other Warsaw Pact states "to send their foreign ministers to East Berlin soon for a meeting on European security and relations with West Germany." Reuter (from East Berlin) reported also that "Rumania has caused chagrin and uncertainty in Warsaw by not insisting on Bonn's recognition of East Germany and the Oder-Neisse frontier between Poland and Germany as conditions of the new diplomatic exchange."

#### European Communist Summit in Warsaw this Spring

At least three sources reported that a conference of European Communist Parties is planned to convene in Warsaw in the spring.

Bernard Margueritte reported from Warsaw for Le Monde (January 31) the preparations for the conference are "well advanced" and that a "preparatory commission," consisting of the representatives of the Polish and French CPs, has already been established.

At the same time, UPI confirmed the news in a dispatch from Paris. The agency quoted Raymond Guyot, member of the French CP Politburo, as saying that "preliminary work was being accomplished by the French and Polish Parties and that a preparatory conference would be held soon."

Guyot insisted that the meeting would not deal with the Sino-Soviet rift. Instead, he declared: "The very important problem of collective European security has been the object of consultations between the Communist Parties of all of Europe with the view of holding a conference of the Parties concerned."

A somewhat different account was provided by Reuter from Moscow (February 1). According to "reliable sources," "East European Communist Party leaders" were considering holding a "summit conference" possibly in Warsaw in February. In April, leaders of West European Parties were expected to meet, perhaps in Helsinki.

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Both meetings, plus a possible Latin American Communist conference, are seen as preparations for an eventual world Communist conference, Reuter explained.

### Polish-North Korean Trade Protocol

Poland and North Korea signed, in Pyongyang, a trade protocol for 1967, providing for a 20 per cent increase in trade over the previous year, Radio Warsaw reported on January 31. Poland will supply North Korea with, among other things, mining machinery, equipment for cement factories, machine tools, and port equipment. North Korean exports to Poland will include various types of machine tools and other goods.

The protocol covers the second year of the long-term trade agreement, 1966-70, signed in Warsaw on 27 December 1965 (cf. SR 10 January 1966).

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