

The Fourth Congress of the PUWP

The Congress began today as scheduled with the following four point agenda:

1. Central Committee Report
2. Central Auditing Commission Report
3. Amendments to the Party Statutes
4. Elections to the Central Committee and Central

Audit Commission.

The Congress is expected to last about a week (Radio Warsaw, June 14).

As of now the report entitled "Report of the Central Committee and Outline of National Development During the 1966-1970" is being delivered by Gomulka. The very title of this document shows that Gomulka intends the Congress to concentrate chiefly on the economic problems. Nothing particularly spectacular in Polish internal political policy is expected from the Congress deliberations (cf. David Binder in NYT of June 15). At the moment only scattered reports of Gomulka's speech are available but these make clear that on the subject of a world conference of Communist Parties, Gomulka has backed down from his previous stand. PAP quotes Gomulka as saying: "A number of fraternal Parties are calling for the convening of a new world conference. The preparations for a conference should begin when the majority of Communist and Workers' Parties says so. The refusal of a single or of several Parties cannot be considered as an insurmountable obstacle to the convening of such a conference. It seems advisable in the existing situation to begin the preparatory work for a conference soon, with the participation of Parties representing the most important regions of the world." Reuter quotes him as being more blunt. The holding of a conference could not depend on the whim of China, the agency quotes him as saying. Any Parties who did not attend such a conference would "put themselves beyond the pale".

The first day's session of the Congress is under Edward Gierek's chairmanship and this can be interpreted as a distinction for the "Prince of Silesia".

It is interesting to note that only 11 foreign Parties have sent delegations to the Congress and they are all European Parties.

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These are the USSR (Podgorny), the CSSR, Hungary, Bulgaria, Rumania, Yugoslavia, France, W. Germany, E. Germany, Italy and Finland. The obvious intention of the congress organizers was to play down international aspects and to avoid the congress becoming the arena for international Communist disputes. The presence of Yugoslavia should be noticed as should the absence of any "dogmatist" Parties.

A Situation Report will be sent tomorrow when Gomulka's speech will be available.

Balance Sheet of Writers' Protests

An analysis of the third group of writers who signed a protest against "foreign interference" in Polish cultural affairs, published in "Zycie Warszawy" of May 24-25, leads to a conclusion that this group of 197 writers hardly differs from the previous ones with respect to literary quality. If anything, the quality of the signatories is lower. At least 13 persons whose names appear on the list have no claim to be members of the Writers' Union. They are two university professors (Feliks Araszkiewicz from the Catholic University in Lublin and professor emeritus Stanislaw Helsztynski), two architects (Anzelm Gorywoda and Roman Husarski) and three plain journalists. The remaining six could not be identified. No less than 40 protesters could be identified by reference to bibliographical indexes only. The list contains also two names of "Pax" writers: Mikolaj Rostworowski and Marek Antoni Wasilewski.

To sum up all the three lists (for an analysis of the previous two groups cf. Sit. Rep. May 21 and June 4), the total number of protesters is 581. Of this number 536 persons have sound reasons to be members of the Writers' Union. The difference of 45 is made up as follows: ten plain journalists, one composer, two professors, two architects, eleven persons who have been identified but who have no literary background, and 19 known only from their signatures on the lists of protesters. With a fair amount of good will it can be said that all the three lists contain the names of no more than 22 relatively well known writers, but none of these can be of

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the caliber of a Jerzy Andrzejewski or of a Jan Parandowski. No less than 13 "Pax" writers signed the protest, one member of Christian Social Association and two Catholics who may be expected to be loyal to the Catholic hierarchy (one member of the Catholic Intelligentsia Club and one professor of the Catholic University in Lublin). One more figure deserves attention. If RFE card index is a measure of the fame of a writer, then no less than 97 names out of a total of 581 could not be initially identified by reference to this index. (The figure of 97 does not contain the 19 who still defy every effort at identification. Thus it can safely be said that all the three lists contain no less than 116 hardly visible starlets in the Polish literary firmament.)