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NYC 103 23 MAR 64
NOWAK INFO SMITH BURKS ZAWADSKI
FM WAGNER INFO WASIUTYNSKI MILLER KAUFMANN

URGENT PLEASE PHONE

210P

PHILIP BEN WHOSE STORY ON CHURCH IN POLAND IS ON FRONT PAGE OF "LE MONDE" DATED MARCH 21 HAS APPROACHED US TODAY WITH THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTION: BECAUSE OF POLISH COMMUNIST PARTY CONGRESS IN JUNE HE THINKS IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE TO WRITE A SERIES OF ARTICLES ON CHURCH IN POLAND IN THE WEEKS PRECEDING THE OPENING OF THIS MEETING. BEN INTENDS TO COLLECT INFORMATION BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN WHERE HE WOULD LIKE TO TRAVEL IN APRIL. HE DOES NOT EXPECT TO GET A POLISH VISA BUT MAY GET RUSSIAN AND WILL CERTAINLY BE AUTHORIZED TO VISIT SOME OF THE OTHER PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACIES. MATERIAL COLLECTED THERE BY BEN WOULD LATER BE SUPPLEMENTED BY INFORMATION HE CAN GET IN MUNICH ON HIS WAY BACK FROM BEHIND THE CURTAIN IN THE FIRST WEEK OF MAY. HE WOULD THEN WRITE THE ARTICLES IN PARIS TO BE PUBLISHED BY "LE MONDE". HIS TRIP BEING COSTLY AND FINANCED ONLY IN PART BY HIS NEWSPAPER, BEN NEEDS SIX HUNDRED DOLLARS FOR THIS PURPOSE IN ADDITION HE WOULD LIKE HIS EXPENSES IN MUNICH PAID BY RFE, BUT HE DOES NOT ASK FOR ANY FEE FOR INFORMATION AND REPORTS HE MAY PROVIDE OR FOR ARTICLES HE MAY WRITE. PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER HIS PROPOSAL IS OF INTEREST AND WHETHER BEN CAN GET THE SIX HUNDRED DOLLARS HERE IN ADVANCE, BEFORE APRIL FIRST AS HE INSISTS. END MSG.