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Raul Castro in Poland

Raul Castro, younger brother of Fidel, spent almost five days (March 19 to 23) in Poland on the invitation of the Polish Central Committee. Raul was returning from the Moscow conference of 19 CPs. He was accompanied by his wife and by the Cuban ambassador in Moscow, Carlos Olivaros Sanchez. Both Radio Warsaw and the press gave the visit quite an extensive coverage.

On March 20 Raul was received by Gomulka. This was followed by inter-Party talks in which Raul was joined by Sanchez and by Fernando Florez Ibarra, the Cuban ambassador in Warsaw. On the Polish side, in addition to Gomulka, Cyrankiewicz,

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Kliszko, Spychalski and Szyr were present from the Politburo. From the Central Committee, Jozef Czesak, Grzegorz Korczynski, Mieczyslaw Moczar and Andrzej Werbaln were present. Judging from the presence of these last four Central Committee members, one may assume that the talks covered the following subjects: Party foreign relations, intelligence, security and Party ideology.

From Warsaw, Castro and his group left for Katowice where they visited a coal mine and took part in a public meeting in their honor on March 22. In their trip they were accompanied by Kliszko, Korczynski and CC candidate member Marian Renke. (On this occasion Renke's position was revealed as that of deputy head of the CC Foreign Department. His previous job was one of the chairman of the Socialist Youth Union - cf. SR October 23.) In the morning of March 23 the Cuban guests, accompanied by the two ambassadors, Sanchez and Ibarra, left Poland for Budapest.

Polish-East German Talks

East German Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister, Lothar Bolz, paid a visit to Poland on March 17 to 19. According to Trybuna Ludu (March 18), Bolz came to Poland "on the invitation" of his Polish opposite number, Adam Rapacki. The two ministers exchanged views on "current problems of the international situation, with particular emphasis on the problems of European security," a communiqué released at the end of the visit explained. The talks showed "complete identity of views on all the problems under discussion." Bolz was also received by Prime Minister Cyrankiewicz.

Many circumstances seem to suggest that it was a business visit and had been meant as such. First of all, Bolz came with an impressive group of experts. They were, his deputy Herbert Krolikowski, three departments directors, Michael Kohl, Ferdinand Thun and Rudi Helmer, as well as section chief Herbert

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Barth. The Polish party was equally impressive, with Deputy Foreign Minister Marian Naszkowski, the Ministry's director general Maria Wierna, department directors Tadeusz Findzinski and Mieczyslaw Lobodycz, as well as deputy department director Stanislaw Piotrowski, taking part in the discussions.

In the absence of any official statement on the subject, one may only speculate on the details of the talks, but a safe guess is that among the "current problems" was the West German-Arab-Israeli relations and a possible abandonment of the Hallstein Doctrine. The East Germans might have tried to work out the details of a common foreign policy line.

Visit of Austrian Minister of Education

Dr. Theodor Piffl-Percevic, Austrian Minister of Education (also in charge of culture and arts), was a guest of the Polish Minister of Culture and Arts, Lucjan Motyka, between March 17 and 22. Piffl-Percevic was accompanied by Dr. Franz Hoyer, director of higher education department and Dr. Alfred Weikert, director of the department of arts. After a visit to Foreign Minister Adam Rapacki on March 19, the Austrian guests discussed business with him and Ambassador Henryk Birecki, director of the Foreign Ministry department of cultural and scientific cooperation with foreign countries. They probably discussed, among other things, the cultural and scientific cooperation agreement to be concluded between Poland and Austria. (Before leaving Poland, Piffl-Percevic revealed in a press conference in Warsaw that an Austrian delegation would go to Poland in May to discuss and conclude such an agreement.)

One of the purposes of the Austrian Minister's trip to Poland was to attend a formal opening of the Austrian cultural institute in Warsaw's Marszalkowska Street, an RFE Special from Vienna reported March 15. According to this source, this

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institute had been open to the public for about two weeks. It was a bit of delayed reciprocity for the establishment of a Polish institute in Vienna's Schwindelgasse 17, which has existed since March 1961. In this connection it is interesting to note that no reference either to the formal or informal opening of the Austrian institute in Warsaw has yet appeared in Trybuna Ludu. Only once, on March 20, did the paper refer to the institute in connection with the reception given by Piffel-Percevic "on the premises of the Austrian reading room." (Earlier, on January 27, Trybuna Ludu also referred to the "Austrian reading room" in Warsaw in connection with the announcement of Piffel-Percevic's forthcoming visit to Warsaw.) Another detail which was omitted by Trybuna Ludu was Piffel-Percevic's trip to Czestochowa, to the shrine of the Black Madonna, which the Austrian Minister was expected to make, according to an RFE Special from Vienna March 17. However, the Polish radio and press duly reported other details of his stay in Poland, including visits to Cracow, Nowa Huta and Oswiecim (Auschwitz) on March 20 and 21.

Brezhnev and Kosygin Expected in Warsaw?

The two top Soviet officials, Party First Secretary Leonid Brezhnev and Prime Minister Alexei Kosygin, are expected to pay a visit to Poland next month for the signing of a new 20 year treaty of friendship and mutual aid, Reuter reported from Warsaw March 24. This news, based on "diplomatic sources," sounds plausible and logical. The previous pact, signed in Moscow, expires on April 21, and its renewal -- according to the diplomatic protocol -- is due in Warsaw. (In his speech at the last CC Plenum -- cf. SR March 18 -- Gomulka referred to the forthcoming renewal of the treaty.)

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Rapacki to Visit Sweden

Foreign Minister Adam Rapacki will pay a visit to Sweden as from May 11, Radio Warsaw reported March 20. He will do so on the invitation of his Swedish opposite number, Torsten Nilson, who visited Poland last year (cf. SR April 24). According to Swedish Foreign Ministry sources, the visit will be a courtesy one and will last till May 15 or 16, an RFE Special from Stockholm reported March 22. No negotiations on foreign policy or trade are expected, although a tour d'horizon will be carried out as last year in Warsaw.

Poland Joins the Kennedy Round

During the plenum of the contracting parties of GATT in Geneva on March 18, it was agreed to admit Poland to the Kennedy Round of tariff negotiations. Thus Poland will, as from April 1, participate in the current talks, Radio Warsaw announced on March 19.

Further comments on this subject were supplied by an RFE Special from Brussels (March 19). It was stressed that Poland's case is remarkable in that the question of a tariff list has now been quietly dropped. The submission of a list of commodities, on which Poland is ready to make concessions on the basis of reciprocity, has been accepted instead. The Warsaw government's five-year long obstinacy in declining to submit a tariff list is now, according to GATT officials, beginning to be tacitly overlooked.

For previous information on Poland's relations with GATT and the participation in the Kennedy Round cf. SR May 12, June 5 and October 5.

Polish-Rumanian Trade Protocol

Rumania and Poland signed on March 19 a trade protocol for 1965, reported UPI from Warsaw quoting PAP (March 19). The new protocol expands the trade volume between the two countries by 24 per cent. Poland is to export electrical appliances and machines,

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mining equipment, automobiles, chemicals and textiles in exchange for Rumanian^{oil} drilling machinery, Diesel engines, petroleum products, tires, fruit and wines.

It should be added that the present trade protocol falls under the terms of Polish-Rumanian trade agreement signed on 28 May 1960 and covering the years 1961-65. This agreement envisaged an increase of trade turnover between the two countries of 65 per cent as compared with the preceding five-year period.

West German Industrialists Visiting Poland

A group of representatives of West German industry and trade visited Poland on the invitation of the Central Export-Import Office of Polish Textile Industry, called CETEBE, Radio Warsaw reported on March 20. The aim of the visit was to get acquainted with Polish textile production as well as with the possibilities of expanding reciprocal trade relations, the broadcast explained.

The visit may reflect Polish endeavors for a West German "reorientation" with respect to imports from Poland which should not necessarily consist of agricultural produce only, but should include also Polish industrial items (cf. SR, December 1).