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TRAMPCZYNSKI'S HINT ON SINO-SOVIET TRADE

If it is true, as Tass claims (21 March 1962), that this year Poland is to become the USSR's third largest trading partner, the implications for Sino-Soviet economic relations are important. Tass was reporting a statement made by Witold Trampczynski, the Polish Minister of Foreign Trade, to PAP, and the Soviet news agency seems likely to have checked the remark carefully before giving it further circulation.

In the last year for which full figures are available, 1960, Poland came fourth on the list of Soviet trade partners which read as follows (millions of new rubles):

	<u>Imports</u>	<u>Exports</u>	<u>Total Turnover</u>
GDR	836.4	946.5	1782.9
China	763.3	735.4	1498.7
Czechoslovakia	587.2	569.2	1156.4
Poland	348.0	441.7	789.7

(Source: London Times, 4 December 1961)

In 1961 Soviet-East German trade is believed to have increased by 13% approximately (see Tass, September 27, 1961) to about 2,000,000,000 new rubles. In 1962 it is planned to rise again by 12%, under the agreement signed with Mikoyan on March 5th, 1962, and therefore should reach about 2,240,000,000 rubles.

During 1961, Czech trade turnover with the USSR expanded by about 28% over the 1960 level (Rude Pravo, December 24, 1960) and must therefore have been approximately worth 1,480 million new rubles. In 1962, it is expected to increase again by 16%, i.e., to about the 1700 million mark.

Polish-Soviet trade turnover, Trampczynski said, is to exceed 1,000 million new rubles during 1962. If Poland is also to be the third largest trade partner, then China's share must have dropped below the 1,000 million level into fourth (or possibly even lower?) place:

USSR's Major Trade Partners

(turnover estimates in new rubles)

1960

1. GDR
2. China
3. Czechoslovakia
4. Poland

1962

1. GDR - 2,240 million
2. Czechoslovakia - 1,700 million
3. Poland - 1,000 million
4. China?

This order would tend to confirm earlier reports that in 1961 Chinese-Soviet trade fell by about 50% compared with 1960, and would also confirm that no major improvement can be expected in 1962.

r.r.g.