

Church-State Problems

Wladyslaw Gomulka and Stefan Cardinal Wyszynski met eye to eye in a Warsaw villa April 26 to discuss, for full seven hours, Church-state problems, FAZ reported from Warsaw today. The meeting was not mentioned by any Polish information media, and the nature of the talk was not revealed to outsiders, but FAZ stated that both leaders had parted "in a good mood". Although FAZ referred to the last meeting of the two leaders as their fourth, RFE files reveal that it was the third, the previous two having taken place 7 January 1958 and 11 January 1960.

The sequence of events following that meeting seems to indicate that the dead point of Church-state relations has been overcome, and that the present activities of both sides are preparatory to a new restatement of the *modus vivendi* conditions inside the country and to a possible establishment of some sort of diplomatic or consular relations between Poland and the Vatican.

Wyszynski is in Rome now. Radio Warsaw announced a few hours after his departure May 6 at night that he had gone to take part in the work of the Secretariat for Extraordinary Matters of the Ecumenical Council, but all Western agencies agree that the Secretariat is not in session. Wyszynski was accompanied by Bishop Antoni Baraniak of Poznan. They were joined in Rome by Archbishop Boleslaw Kominek of Wroclaw and Bishop Franciszek Jop of Opole. According to information received by RFE, all four Church dignitaries will return to Poland by May 25, leaving Rome on May 23. During a short stopover in Vienna, Wyszynski was welcomed and seen off at the station by Cardinal Koenig and Papal Nuncio Ottavio Rossi, as well as by two representatives of the Polish Embassy (but not by the Ambassador himself). Again, in Rome the Polish Cardinal was greeted at the station by the Vatican Under Secretary of State Mgr. Angelo Dell'Acqua and the chief of the Vatican protocol Mgr. Iginio Cardinale, as well as by the Polish Ambassador to Italy Adam Willman.

While the Western press continued its speculation on the purpose of Wyszynski's trip, a significant release of the Kathpress news service in Vienna took place on May 7, i.e. on the day of the Cardinal's stopover in the Austrian capital. The Kathpress editor-in-chief in Vienna referred to information received from Kathpress in Rome on "speculations" that the Polish Primate was going to Rome to discuss the possible establishment of diplomatic ties between the Vatican and Warsaw. At this moment the views prevail that these ties will take form of consular rather than diplomatic relations. In this connection it should be noted that the Vienna Kathpress chief, Dr. Barta, accompanied Koenig during the latter's trip to Poland. Another interesting personal link to "speculations" may be the person of Mgr. Cardinale who is credited with having strongly supported the establishment of relations between the Vatican and Communist bloc countries on the consular level.

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In the meantime, the Communist propaganda pressure on the Episcopate continues through the "Pax" and Communist press. It is also helped by the Italian "L'Unita" which stated May 5 that "the Cardinal's trip will principally be the occasion to perfect the line of action of Poland's upper-level Catholic hierarchy after the publication of the latest Papal Encyclica 'Pacem in terris'". The paper also added: "It is a secret for anyone in Warsaw that contacts at different levels were established and maintained for a certain period of time. The audience accorded by Pope John to Jerzy Zawieyski, influential Catholic leader who is also a member of the Council of State and as such part of the Presidency of the Republic, indicated the proportions of the clearing of the horizon in this field".

Regarding the latter point, the full text of "Tygodnik Powszechny" May article (cf. Sit. Rep. May 6) is available here. It contains a part of Jerzy Zawieyski's Sejm speech delivered March 29 (note the delay in publication). It turns out that the UPI summary of the speech was correct. The following additional points seem to be important. Zawieyski was received by the Pope (November 20) as a member of the State Council, "which found its expression in the diplomatic protocol employed in that connection". According to Zawieyski, the Pope is interested not only in Poland, but also in "that part of Europe" to which Poland belongs.

Please note that "Slowo Powszechne" article by Jankowski (cf. Sit. Rep. April 29) is available in English translation in Polish Press Survey No. 1528 May 8.

Signs of Dissatisfaction of Population

Six nurses and one physician have been prohibited from working in Warsaw for four years, because they headed an illegal demonstration (cf. Sit. Rep. April 4), Reuter and "Il Popolo" reported May 7. According to unofficial information reaching RFE, the regime admitted the poor salaries and bad working conditions of the nurses and was ready to increase their salaries by 20 per cent, but it is not known at this moment whether this intention has become a fact. Also slated for similar increase were two more groups of state employees, the transport workers (particularly railwaymen) and the Security Services, including Militia. The latter two categories are considered essential for the "maintaining" of order in the present tense situation.

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Indeed, both Reuter and "Il Popolo" added that there had been Warsaw students' demonstrations recently. The students were demanding better living conditions in their hostels and higher state stipends. Some were arrested. According to unofficial information obtained by RFE these demonstrations took place on April 27 and 28, and their center was Warsaw Polytechnical University. Same source reported that the workers of the Silesian coal basin are also restive and talk about a strike. Particularly "unruly" among them are re-emigrants from France.

According to "Daily Telegraph" May 8, Polish Militia used tear gas to break up a meeting of the Poznan Cegielski workers demanding higher pay at the end of April. Again, unofficial earlier reports reaching RFE refer to various workers' demonstrations, including Poznan (on April 6 and 8). These reports indicate that the trouble spots are rather widely spread (Silesia, Poznan, Cracow-Nowa Huta, Lodz and Warsaw).

Comecon Executive Meeting in Warsaw

The Executive Committee of the Comecon convenes today or tomorrow in Warsaw. This is being deduced from Polish and Hungarian radio newscasts referring to the arrival in Warsaw of the Hungarian and Soviet representatives. While the exact date is not known, there is no doubt that such a meeting was planned, for already on April 29 Stefan Jedrychowski of Poland announced that the Committee would meet in Warsaw within "the next 10 or 12 days". Since the Bulgarian delegation left for Warsaw only today it is rather tomorrow that the meeting starts.

Polish-Austrian Trade Talks

Talks will open in Vienna May 14 to fix the list of goods to be exchanged between Austria and Poland during the year 1963-1964 under the current five year trade agreement, RFE Special from Vienna reported May 8.

Heavy Industry Minister Zygmunt Ostrowski arrived in Vienna May 6 on an official visit during which he will be touring various industrial establishments in Austria. On May 6 he participated in an opening ceremony of the "Elin" automatic foundry in Moellersdorf for which Poland had supplied part of the equipment.

Note: Attention is drawn to "Polityka" interview with Deputy Premier Julian Tokarski on the subject "Are we investing too much" in Polish Press Survey No. 1529 of today.