

# RADIO FREE EUROPE *Research*

## EAST EUROPE

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#### Party and Government Appointments

Upon the "recommendation" of the Politburo, Jerzy Muszynski was elected First Secretary of the Lodz Voivodship Party Committee on December 28. He thus replaces Stefan Jedryszczak, who was elected chairman of the Central Union of Collective Farms 10 days earlier (cf. Polish Situation Report/93, Radio Free Europe Research, December 20).

According to Radio Warsaw (December 28) and Trybuna Ludu (December 29), that plenary session of the Lodz Voivodship Party Committee was attended by Politburo deputy members and CC Secretary Mieczyslaw Moczar, whose job it was to inform the Lodz comrades about the Politburo "recommendation."

Muszynski is not a stranger to Lodz. According to a short biographical note published by Trybuna Ludu, the 48-year-old secretary "entered Lodz University" in 1945. At the same time, he also "began working in the leather industry." A Party member since January 1947, he obtained a responsible position at the Lodz Party School in 1950, and a year later was appointed director of professional education in the Lodz area. In January, 1955, Muszynski "returned to work in the Party apparat," first (till 1957) as head of the Propaganda Department of the Lodz Voivodship Party Committee, then as propaganda secretary. In 1962, he was transferred to Warsaw to work in the CC Propaganda and Agitation Department, of which he became deputy head in 1964, the position he held until his latest transfer to Lodz.

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An earlier Party appointment which was effected without any publicity was that of Stanislaw Kania to the post of head of the CC Administrative Department. Trybuna Ludu (December 15) simply referred to Kania as attending a Party event in that capacity without bothering to explain then that the appointment had been made or what had happened to Kania's predecessor, the notorious hardliner Kazimierz Witaszewski. (The latter was dropped from the CC at the last Party Congress, while Kania advanced from deputy to full CC member.)

Kania started his political career in the mid-Fifties as a youth (Polish Youth Union) activist. The October 1956 upheaval must have been a political disaster for Kania. He emerged in the autumn of 1960 as agricultural secretary of the Warsaw Voivodship Party Committee, which position he still held when he attended the Fifth Party Congress in November, 1968.

Two under-secretaries (vice-ministers) have been appointed at the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Jozef Grenda and Ryszard Brzozowski, Radio Warsaw reported on December 31.

Grenda, born in 1916, studied medicine at the Jagiellonian University in Cracow and graduated in 1947. In the early Fifties, he was sent to North Korea with a Polish Red Cross hospital. Probably in this connection, he received a high state decoration in February, 1954. Ten years later, Grenda emerged in Kielce Voivodship as a trade union and Party activist. He was elected delegate to the Fourth and Fifth Party Congresses, in 1964 and 1968 respectively. Before being appointed vice-minister, he was chief physician of the Surgical Department of the Voivodship Hospital in Kielce.

Less is known about Brzozowski. Born in 1925, he graduated from the Medical Academy in Warsaw in 1952. His last known position was that of head of the Health Department of the Warsaw Voivodship People's Council.

Earlier, Wlodzimierz Lejczak was appointed Vice-Minister of Heavy Industry, Trybuna Ludu reported on December 15. Born in 1924 in Cracow, "to an intelligentsia family," Lejczak graduated from the Mining Academy in Cracow in 1949. He worked with the mining industry for 17 years, starting in 1948. In 1965, he was appointed Vice-Chairman of the Higher Mining Authority (Wyższy Urząd Gorniczy), which post he held till his latest promotion. He is a Party member.



"Spiritual Leaders" of Student Revolt on Trial

Two Warsaw University assistant lecturers, Jacek Kuron and Karol Modzelewski, alleged to have been the "spiritual leaders" of the student troubles last March, went on trial January 2, before the Voivodship Court of the City of Warsaw, accused of belonging to a secret organization, Western agencies reported from Warsaw on the same day. The accused were indicted under Article 36 of the "Small Penal Code" covering "offenses especially dangerous in the period of the reconstruction of the state," the agencies reported and recalled that some articles in the Polish press before the trial opened alleged that the defendants were the leaders of an opposition student group at Warsaw University known as the "Commandos," said to have been instrumental in last March's student demonstrations. According to the agencies, court officials refused to issue tickets to Western correspondents, although they had applied in writing to the court weeks in advance.

Kuron and Modzelewski face the court for the second time. They were first tried in Warsaw in summer, 1965 (July 13-16) and sentenced to three and three-and-a-half years imprisonment respectively for distributing a manifesto described by the Polish press as anti-state in nature. Released in 1967, before serving their full sentences, they were arrested again following the student demonstrations last March.

According to the Warsaw correspondent of the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (January 3), the main reason why the Polish authorities have again brought Kuron and Modzelewski to court is to scare others who might be contemplating open opposition. The fear that the ideas of such oppositionists might gain broad support is considered only a minor issue.

For more information on the first trial of Kuron and Modzelewski, see Polish Situation Report, Radio Free Europe Research, 22 July 1965.

Coverage of Flight of Apollo Eight

"A great and risky experiment.... The greatest problem of this adventure is the safety (of the astronauts)... the margin of the risk involved is enormous.... May the element of sour competitiveness, of prestige, of the urge 'to be the first regardless of price' never accompany any such flights," stated Radio Warsaw (December 21) on the eve of the flight of Apollo 8. These apprehensions about risks involved,

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undertaken in competition with the USSR, were echoed by Zycie Warszawy (December 22-23 and 24-26), which also stressed that the Apollo 8 flight would not have been possible but for earlier Soviet efforts, such as "producing the first pictures of the other side of the moon and discovering the radiation belts."

All this was said when the results of the flight were still uncertain and when Polish information media were reprinting (from the Moscow Pravda of December 23) the gloomy prediction of "Professor Pietrov, member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences."

However, when it became obvious that the flight was going to be an unqualified success, the tone of the Polish information media warmed up and a note of enthusiasm even crept into their comments. The same Zycie Warszawy reported on the final success of the flight in an article entitled "These Magnificent Men" (December 29-30) and Radio Warsaw stressed that a new era has begun (December 29) and that the flight was the result of "the beautiful, sacred sense of adventure," (Radio Warsaw on the previous day).

It is interesting to note that the news coverage remained factual throughout the preparations for the flight and during the flight itself; it was extensive, nearly all newscasts containing an item connected with Apollo 8. The news about its start was broadcast as the first item at 1400 hours, December 21, nearly all following newscasts beginning with the latest information on the progress of the astronauts.

On December 27, at 1709 hours, the regular feature program "Afternoon with Youth" was interrupted by Radio Warsaw, to broadcast the news about the successful splashdown of Apollo 8, which took place only a few minutes before, at 1652 Warsaw time.

As regards the human side of the flight, two voices are outstanding. Cardinal Stefan Wyszynski, in his traditional Christmas sermon in Warsaw's St. John's Cathedral, hailed the courage and skill of the astronauts: "... we are united in our thoughts with those children of God, with those emissaries of the human family, who -- giving proof of extraordinary courage of the spirit and of the maturity of the human intellect, explore distant space." (UPI, December 25.) And on the previous day, when broadcasting the Christmas message of good will, Radio Warsaw's commentator emphasized that "the astronauts are not feeling lonely. They know that our thoughts and our wishes for a happy return to the earth accompany them."



### Foreign Economic Relations

Sweden. Polish-Swedish trade exchanges in 1969 will remain at their 1968 level, estimated at 280 million exchange zloty, Radio Warsaw reported on December 23, quoting from the respective exchange of letters between the Polish ambassador to Stockholm and the Swedish Foreign Minister.

The Polish-Swedish trade talks in Stockholm in the middle of last month did not result in the signing of a proper trade protocol for 1969. According to an RFE Special from Stockholm (December 17), both sides agreed that the best solution would be to prolong the current quota list. This, according to the Special, quoting a Swedish spokesman, was not surprising considering that Poland and Sweden engaged in major talks only six months before when a five-year trade agreement was signed and a 1968 quota protocol drawn up (on May 31).

Great Britain. Polish-British negotiations for a new five-year trade agreement have been "amicably" suspended for an indefinite period, after more than 10 days of talks before Christmas, an RFE Special reported from London on December 23. The Special quoted a British Trade Ministry spokesman as saying that this was to allow further consideration by both sides on how mutual trade can be increased. The spokesman said that the current agreement expired officially at the end of 1968 but would continue in force until a new agreement is negotiated.

According to comments preceding last month's negotiations (Reuters from Warsaw, December 7), in view of her unfavorable balance of trade in Poland in 1968, Britain was expected to press the Poles to remedy the deficit by increasing their purchases. A presumed reluctance by the Poles to reverse the trend seems a logical explanation for the suspension of the talks.

Hungary. Trade exchanges between Poland and Hungary are to increase by about 16 per cent in 1969 compared with the estimated results of 1968 according to the trade protocol signed in Budapest on December 29, Radio Warsaw reported the following day.

The broadcast quoted Polish Vice-Minister of Foreign Trade Marian Dmochowski as saying, in the interview with the PAP agency, that the development of economic cooperation between Poland and Hungary will also represent realization of the decisions of the Fifth Party Congress to strengthen economic links with the "socialist" countries.