

Harvest

The maximum effort entailed in the timely ingathering of crops adversely affected by late maturing and recent rains is being exerted according to news media. Heavy rains in northern Poland and the new flood fears in the south have necessitated the cooperation of farmers from other unaffected areas. While the rains are a natural calamity, the absence of an overall system for regulating the Vistula and its tributaries -- a burning need not coped with successfully even before the war -- is the main source of trouble. UPI Warsaw (August 17) reports that the head waters in the Vistula river system in the southern mountains are reported rising again due to new rains, but were still below the flood alert levels. The most spectacular display of bad weather has occurred in Warsaw, where hailstones the size of marbles have fallen at high noon August 17, turning the streets white and nearly paralyzing traffic.

Warsaw has appealed to peasants from unaffected areas to aid those faced with greatest additional field work. Thus, agricultural circles in the Poznan, Bydgoszcz, Zielona Gora and Wroclaw areas have commenced gathering of hay, straw and grains in the Cracow voivodship. Similar aid will be extended to peasants in the Kielce, Katowice and Opole voivodships (Radio Warsaw, August 17).

The natural calamities which have inundated the Polish fields on the eve of the delayed harvest have given pause for thought to the Ministry of Agriculture. Vice-Minister of Agriculture J. Okuniewski was interviewed by Radio Warsaw on the prospects of land amelioration. The Vice-Minister recalled the 1958 floods and the 1959 drought have contributed towards a difficult situation in Polish agriculture over the past three years. Therefore, the program of ameliorating arable land during the next five years will require a three-fold increase of investments for improving and building up the drainage system. The Vice-Minister estimated that the losses to national economy due to the natural calamities during the past three years have amounted to "many" billions of zloty. The sum earmarked for developing a drainage system during the next five years is 16 billion zloty. The rest of the interview dealt in detail with the destruction to crops (potatoes, hay and sugar beets) due to inadequate drainage. The Vice-Minister concluded that the state will not lend its aid to amend these conditions in villages where peasants do not fully recognize the meaning and importance of land amelioration and fail to give proper maintenance to equipment.

COMECON

Vice-Premier Jaroszewicz and other regime dignitaries have met the Czechoslovak governmental and economic delegation headed by Vice-Premier L. Jankovcova. The arrival of the Czechoslovak delegation marks the opening of the regularly scheduled Fifth Session of the Polish-Czechoslovak Committee for Economic Cooperation which opens in Warsaw today (Radio Warsaw, August 17). The agenda of the meeting includes discussions on several basic problems of economic cooperation between the two countries at which experts from both sides will attend. The session is expected to end this week with signing of "suitable documents". Little is known about the work of this committee, but it may be safely assumed that its work is closely linked with the decisions made at the recent COMECON meetings and may bring closer coordination of economic effort of the two countries in the spirit called for by Gomulka (cf. Situation Report, August 3).

Church-State

Bayerischer Rundfunk at 7 a.m. today reported on the worsening situation on the Polish Church-State sector. The broadcast might have been based on news agency reports not available to us and will be checked. In this connection, it may be recalled that the Catholic collaborationist weekly Slowo Powszechne (August 6-7) has suggested that Polish priests be made to answer questions posed in written inquiries placed in drop boxes which would be set up in churches. The weekly has also defended its boss B. Piasecki against the incorrect accusation of Nazi collaboration aimed by Alessandrini in the Osservatore Romano. Slowo Powszechne (August 12) singled out RFE commentator W. Troscianko and resident West German correspondent of the FAZ Hansjakob Stehle as two agents contributing to German-US propaganda effort. Thus the PAX weekly is displaying great nervousness in defending the political past of Piasecki. The pre-war Falanga leader was alleged to have been responsible for the <sup>Jewish</sup> massacre in the Wilno area (now part of the Lithuanian SSR), according to Swiatlo testimony. The post-1956 Polish press has hinted strongly at his guilt. The organization as a whole has an uneasy conscience even as regards its attitude towards Gomulka. In 1957, some members of the PAX were involved in distributing anti-Gomulka leaflets issued by the Soviet embassy in Warsaw. Some were arrested and punished.

Party

The spotlight is still on R. Zambrowski; his most recent appearance was reported



by Radio Warsaw today at a CC meeting devoted to some problems of organizational work. The meeting was attended by secretaries of voivodship committees, members of CC sections and youth organizations. Zambrowski delivered the opening speech and called for raising the level of party work in the villages.

### Transport

During the past two weeks, users of the state railroad have failed to utilize 22,000 railroad cars, according to Radio Warsaw broadcast heard today. It is estimated that some 300,000 tons of goods provided for in the transport plan have not been carried. The broadcast isolated two causes: (1) floods which have delayed the work of industrial establishments and (2) rains which have delayed the harvest and the operation in forestry. These conditions have led to the halting of thousands of empty railroad cars which, eventually, during the intensified autumn transport will be unable to make up for the lost time.

### Heavy Industry

Heavy industrial production has increased by 14.5% over 1959, but an unfavorable development has been noted by Radio Warsaw (August 17). The so-called wskaznik zmianowosci (its possible meaning may be the index of diversification of industrial process or the index of capacity to retool and switch to new model production) has fallen. The regime could take comfort in the decline of absenteeism and the insignificant increase of employment (.5%) in the metallurgical and machine building industries.

### Pouched

(1) Zycie Gospodarcze (August 7), W. Gasko on the need to consolidate the three million hectares of land which is now split up into a tight checkerboard of land parcels, some very far from the main farms; (2) Nowe Drogi (August 1960), S. Kuzinski exploring the most promising direction of increased exports called for in the second Five Year Plan, the possible economic sacrifices which they will entail, and the means by which they may be achieved; (3) Zycie Gospodarcze (August 7) W. Glowacki on the strong reasons which argue for continued investments in coal extraction despite the present gradual world-wide switch to liquid fuels

and development of future atomic power; (4) Polityka (August 6), S. Arski on the deceiving attitude of West German SPD towards the Oder and Neisse question; (5) Prawo i Zycie (August 7), A. Skowronski on Dr. Konrad Adenauer's speech at the Dusseldorf meeting of East Prussian Brotherhood in connection with the Polish note to governments of NATO nations on the Oder-Neisse problem; (6) Argumenty (July 24), K. Pszeniczny on the pro-German policy of the Vatican writing from the point of view of the Association of Atheists and Free-Thinkers. Dramatis Personae: West German Bishops Dopfner and Piontek, Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop Meyer of the Chicago Diocese, Cardinal Ottaviani, Pope John XXIII, Herter, Eisenhower, Cardinal Cushing, Khrushchev, Franco, von Brentano and others.