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## EAST EUROPE

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#### Results of Rapacki's Visit to Great Britain

After a series of discussions with British leaders on world and bilateral affairs, Foreign Minister Adam Rapacki is leaving Britain today, completing his one-week visit. Commenting on the results of Rapacki's trip, RFE Special from London (February 25) said that apart from a consular convention and Foreign Minister George Brown's acceptance of an invitation to visit Warsaw at some time in the future, no specific results appear to have emerged from the visit.

The consular convention signed by Ministers Rapacki and Brown on February 23 is the first such treaty concluded since the war between Poland and a Western state, reported Reuter (February 23). The agency said that the convention will allow Britain to have consulates in Poland and Poland to have consulates in Britain in addition to the one in Glasgow. This consular convention is subject to ratification and it is hoped that it will come into force within the next twelve months, said the agency.

Commenting on Rapacki's political talks with Brown, the Washington Post correspondent (February 24) said that the familiar position of both countries had been restated and that the Poles reportedly had not pressed hard to change the British view that a settlement of boundaries must await a final peace conference.

The official part of Rapacki's visit was concluded on February 24, and Radio Warsaw quoted the next day the opinion of unspecified observers that Rapacki's official visit had achieved considerable success, especially in matters of bilateral relations. As to international questions, continued the broadcast, both sides had fully discussed the problems of Southeast Asia, European security and the German question.

For more comments on Rapacki's London visit, cf. SRs of February 20 and 23.

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Communist Preparatory Commission Ends Warsaw Meeting

The session of the drafting commission preparing documents for a conference of European Communist and workers' parties ended in Warsaw on February 26 after discussions held in "brotherly atmosphere," Radio Warsaw reported the same day. The commission also discussed problems connected with the preparation of this conference, which is to take place in Karlovy Vary, Czechoslovakia, between April 24 and 27, said the broadcast. A Radio Moscow commentary of February 26 said that the April meeting would devote special attention to European security.

While the delegates were deliberating in Warsaw, a call for an all-embracing world international Communist conference, even without China -- but not this year -- came from a leading official of the Italian Communist Party, Politburo foreign affairs expert, Enrico Berlinguer, an RFE Special from Rome reported on February 23. According to the Special, Berlinguer said that it could not be a conference of condemnation, nor should it be postponed indefinitely on account of the non-participation of China and other "adverse" parties. The next months, said Berlinguer, must be marked by broad and intensive inter-Party work.

According to a Henry Kamm dispatch from Moscow (New York Times, February 27) the Soviet Union hopes that the forthcoming conference in Karlovy Vary will be the first step toward a world conference of Communist Parties. (For more information on the Warsaw conference, cf. SR February 23).

Change in Leadership of Socialist Youth Union

Andrzej Zabinski, chairman of the Katowice Voivodship Board of the Socialist Youth Union, has been elected chairman of the Central Board of the SYU, Radio Warsaw reported on February 24. He replaces Stanislaw Hasiak, SYU chairman since December 1964 (cf. SR of 23 December 1964), who asked to be relieved from his post "because he intends to continue his studies."

The change took place at a plenary meeting of the Central Board of the SYU, in which Politburo member and CC Secretary Ryszard Strzelecki took part. The meeting was devoted to a discussion of the "role of the social actif in strengthening and directing the organization."

Although it is difficult to find any explanation of the change in the short communique, the circumstances under which it was made offer some plausible suggestions as to the motives behind it.

Hasiak, born in 1925, may have been considered too old to be a chairman of a youth organization. However, one may argue that he was already too old when he was elected to this post two years ago. Hence, age does not appear to have been an important reason for Hasiak's release. Furthermore, his intention "to continue his studies" sounds rather odd for a man of 42, unless the Party has decided to use him either in some diplomatic post, for which purpose he would have to attend special preparatory courses, or as a trained apparatchik, in which case he would be sent to a Party university (School of Social and Political Studies).



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Perhaps more indicative of the motives behind Hasiak's replacement by Zabinski is the subject of the SYU Plenum: the role of the SYU actif. This, coupled with the attendance of Strzelecki, may indicate that Hasiak has been made a scapegoat for the difficult ideological situation in which the SYU found itself as a result of arranging the now famous lecture delivered by Leszek Kolakowski in October 1966. The recent seminar of SYU club leaders (cf. SR February 16) also seems to point to the Party's preoccupation with the ideological image of the youth organization. Hasiak may have been charged with lack of efficiency in dealing with the turmoil and may even have been made responsible for the mess.

The Party apparently decided to replace Hasiak with a younger apparatchik, a man who was born and educated in a Communist milieu and with demonstrated organizational and political skill.

Andrzej Zabinski seems to meet all these requirements. Born in 1938 in Sosnica, in Upper Silesia, he is the son of a Silesian CP leader who died at the hands of the Gestapo in 1944. Zabinski became a member of a Communist youth organization (Polish Youth Union, the predecessor of the SYU) while studying at a forestry professional school, and then a Party member at the age of 19. He climbed the Party career ladder with unusual speed: from Party secretary at a Silesian mine through propaganda secretary of the SYU in the town of Szopienice, to an instructorship in the Organization Department of the Katowice Party Voivodship Committee, to voivodship chairmanship of the Rural Youth Union (September 1963), and then moving over, in December 1964, to voivodship chairmanship of the Socialist Youth Union. By the time Zabinski was elected Sejm deputy in May 1965, he had finished his studies at the historical-sociological faculty of the Party School of Social and Political Studies.

#### Polish-Japanese Trade to Increase

Foreign Trade Minister Witold Trampeczynski left Tokyo on February 25 after talks on widening Polish-Japanese trade and economic relations, Radio Warsaw reported the same day.

At the end of the talks, a joint communique was signed on February 24 by Trampeczynski and Japanese Foreign Minister, Takeo Miki. Commenting on the communique, Radio Warsaw (February 24) said that it pointed to the rapid development of Polish-Japanese trade relations, especially recently in connection with exports of Polish coal to Japan. Both parties also agreed on establishing a Polish-Japanese mixed commission which will consult on practical steps for the expansion of trade. Further, the Japanese side promised to support the Polish application for permanent membership of GATT. At the end of the visit, Trampeczynski, on behalf of Foreign Minister Adam Rapacki, invited Miki to pay an official visit to Poland, said Radio Warsaw. PAP (February 25) reported that the invitation had been gratefully accepted and that the date of the visit would be fixed later. The agency also said that the Japanese side had expressed its readiness to participate in the 37th International Poznan Fair in 1968.

(For previous comments on Polish-Japanese talks in Tokyo, see SR February 20).

Poland and Comecon

Vice-Premier Piotr Jaroszewicz who attended the 28th session of the Comecon Executive Committee, which has just ended in Moscow, said in an interview with PAP (February 24) that problems pertaining to specialization and cooperation in production had been the main topics of discussion. Both specialization and cooperation in production were to lead to a further increase in foreign trade turnover and would be reinforced by the introduction of "standing inter-state agreements." Jaroszewicz said that the situation in the chemical industry in the current five-year period had been carefully examined at the meeting and that an "interesting" proposal had been made to set up an economic organization called "Interchim," which would be concerned with the production and trade in certain chemical products.

In his speech to the session in Moscow, Jaroszewicz was reported by Radio Warsaw (February 24) as having also underlined the importance of currency and financial agreements for the development of economic cooperation among the Comecon member countries.

Reporting on the 28th Comecon Executive Committee session, Tass (February 21) said that among the important points on the agenda were specialization in machine-building and chemical cooperation. Another topic of discussion was increasing the share of machinery in reciprocal trade, which, according to Tass was by no means in accord with the possibilities and requirements of the socialist countries.

In an earlier interview with the Bulgarian newspaper Zemledelsko Zname (February 15), Jaroszewicz answered questions on Poland's role in Comecon and on Polish-Bulgarian cooperation. He said that the coordinated mutual deliveries with Comecon for the period 1966-70 would outstrip the results of 1961-65 by 40 to 50 per cent. He also stressed that the signing of five-year agreements with the Comecon countries was advantageous for the Polish economy and that Poland's bilateral cooperation with these countries supplemented multilateral cooperation to the benefit of each country involved. Here Jaroszewicz singled out Polish cooperation in building the "Friendship" oil pipeline and said that the annually increasing oil deliveries from the USSR enabled Poland to modernize the structure of its fuel and power balance and to develop an up-to-date petrochemical industry. Jaroszewicz also said that Poland was adhering to the recommendation to work out the long-term export and import projects in such a way as to insure maximum utilization of the advantages resulting from the international socialist division of labor.

A more critical examination of the problems of foreign trade within Comecon is supplied by a revealed article of Stanislaw Albinowski in Zycie Warszawy (February 19/20). The author begins by stating that one of the disturbing symptoms in the development of inter-Comecon economic cooperation is the steady decrease in the growth of mutual deliveries. Whereas trade exchanges within Comecon in 1965 were 85 per cent higher than in 1950, the increase between 1955 and 1960 amounted to only 71 per cent, while that achieved between 1960 and 1965 was barely 55 per cent.



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Albinowski admitted that complete precise data for the 1961/65 period were not yet available and took the opportunity to attack the inefficiency in supplying statistical data on Comecon. "It is paradoxical" - said Albinowski - "that in order to analyze the development of trade exchanges in particular categories of goods between the CEMA countries, it is necessary to look into the statistical data of the UN, because our own simply do not exist or are not published." He said further that "it is time for the CEMA secretariat to stop making a secret of facts which are known in the whole world and which reach us with great delay."

Taking as a basis the data available for the 1961-64 period, Albinowski went on to analyze the causes of the slackening of the tempo in the development of trade within Comecon. He pointed out that while Comecon industrial production increased by an annual 10.3 per cent, in the years 1956-60, trade exchanges in industrial goods and raw materials in the same period rose by an annual 12.8 per cent. The corresponding percentages for the 1961-64 period were 8.2 (production) and 11.4 (turnover). Thus the decreasing rate of trade exchange could be explained by a decline in the dynamics of industrial production.

But the author doubts whether this settles the whole problem. Here he makes a comparison with the Common Market, in the years 1961-64. EEC industrial production increased by 28 per cent, while trade within the EEC rose by 82 per cent. In other words for each per cent of increase in industrial production within EEC, there was a 3 per cent increase in trade exchanges, while in Comecon the corresponding increase amounted only to 1.4 per cent. The reason for this difference, in Albinowski's view, is the lack of development of specialization of production within Comecon.

Speaking about the structure of trade within Comecon, Albinowski noted that industrial products represented the main item. In the EEC, machine industry production rose by 25 per cent in the 1961-64 period, but trade in this field increased by 124 per cent. In Comecon, in contrast, the corresponding figures were 70 and 65 per cent. The situation was even worse in the field of consumer goods of industrial origin, notably TV sets. Poland has practically stopped exporting TV sets to other Comecon countries, while Polish imports of this article increased at the same rate as the domestic production.