

Party-Zambrowski

Despite various and highly plausible field reports concerning the fall from grace of the Politburo elder, Roman Zambrowski and his pending "resignation" from the Politburo and Secretariat of the Party because of poor health, he seems to have weathered the storm. Radio Warsaw (August 12) reported his presence at the gala celebration held last Friday to honor the 15th anniversary of the North Korean Peoples' Republic.

Zambrowski was listed heading the top party and government representatives present at this function. Once again, as in the case of Albrecht whose ouster from the Secretariat also failed to materialize, it would appear that notwithstanding the warring factions within the highest party echelons and the anti-Semitic undertones that are being deduced from the return into the limelight of the ex-Natolin faction, Gomulka is determined to keep one and all under his hat and committed to him, rather than tolerate dissention by eviction from the ruling circle.

Agriculture

The Polish news media maintain the optimistic note about this year's harvest prospects. Radio Warsaw (August 14) states that according to the "latest available information" over 8 million hectares of wheat has been harvested which constitutes about 90% of the grain area under cultivation. Thus it is anticipated that despite the unfavorable weather conditions this year's harvest will prove better than last year's. This is not an unlikely prospect since the extensive re-sowing campaign early this spring has been successfully carried out. At the same time, the Polish Radio duly notes the arrival in Gdynia of two US freighters with a cargo of 16,000 and 42,000 tons of wheat respectively.

Malinowski

The Soviet Defense Minister is reported to have ended his sojourn in Poland (cf. Situation Report August 5) and returned yesterday with his family by air to Moscow. Bidding him farewell were Defense Minister Spychalski, Politburo member Loga Slowinski and a number of high ranking officers of the Polish army. Needless to say, Malinowski's ostensible vacation in Poland must have had other reasons as to which it is impossible at the moment to speculate.

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Note to NATO

Now that nearly all replies to the Polish note (cf. Situation Report August 5) from the member countries of NATO have been confirmed, - the US and British replies were reported by Radio Warsaw on Saturday - full propaganda capital is made to the effect that the western powers refuse to guarantee Poland's Western Frontiers against the aggressive plans of the West German revisionists. As was to be expected, this theme will now be played up to the hilt in order to keep the issue alive and tense for domestic consumption.

It is the considered opinion of the Polish Desk here that RFE cannot afford to remain silent in this campaign and that some form of counter-propaganda is deemed necessary.

Church-State

The Jasna Gora monastery, Poland's most venerated shrine, became over the three-day weekend once again the focal point of a mammoth religious manifestation. Despite the refusal of the authorities to allow mass pilgrimages of the faithful (Figaro reports this to have been the case, particularly in the Poznan and Kalisz area), according to a Reuters dispatch (August 15) over 150,000 pilgrims from all over the country gathered in Czestochowa to celebrate Assumption Day (Monday) which is still observed as a public holiday. Cardinal Wyszynski in his sermon gave clear expression of the undaunted ideological stand of the Church in Poland vis-à-vis the regime. His specific reference to the observance of existing laws regarding religious instruction in schools must be viewed as a noteworthy indication that on this front before the beginning of the new school year, the conflict with the regime will become intensified.