

Party Affairs

The pre-Congress Party propaganda continues to stress not only the numerical strength of the Party but also the quality of the new cadres. Thus, for instance, the provincial daily appearing in Gdansk "Glos Wybrzeza" of May 23 reported "positive changes in the structure of the Party apparatus". One of these changes consists in the numerical decrease of the paid Party functionaries ("etatowych", i.e. on Party pay-roll) from 8,200 at the time of the 3rd Congress (March 1959) to 7,800 at present. On the other hand the quality of these functionaries increased considerably, the daily said. Of 7,800 paid Party "apparatchiks" no less than 1,482 have a university education and 3,680 have completed secondary, general or technical, schools. This means that more than 73 per cent of the total of Party "political workers" have at least secondary education. 88.4 per cent of district first Party secretaries have such education. There has also been an increase of the percentage of young "political workers", i.e. of those in the age group 26-45. At the voivodship level the respective percentage is 88, while at the lower levels (district, town) 92 per cent of "political workers" are those between 26 and 45 years of age. There still remain about 1,000 "apparatchiks" of the old generation (CP members from before the war and those recruited during the war).

However, not all the things look so bright so far as quality is concerned. Wladyslaw Gomulka speaking at the pre-Congress conference of the Warsaw City Party organization (cf. Sit. Rep. June 4) complained that there are still remnants of revisionists and dogmatists in the Party, particularly among the highly diversified Warsaw Party membership. He also referred to the "meat scandal" in Warsaw in which high Party functionaries were involved. The details of the scandal have not been revealed by the press, although it has been hinted at a number of times. With possible reference to the dismissal of Stefan Harasimowski (cf. Sit. Rep. June 2 and 4), Gomulka stressed the need for an unrelentless struggle with economic offenses. Party discipline, particularly among those Party functionaries who have "leading positions in the economic and administrative 'apparat'", is to apply in the same way as in the field of ideology. The meat scandal, Gomulka continued,

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"should be a great shock to the Warsaw Party organization".

The day before, i.e., on June 3, Walenty Titkow, the Warsaw City First Secretary, shed more light on the meat scandal. In his report to the conference, Titkow referred to the "recently" detected "big meat affair" and in this connection to the "long-lasting and vast operation of a band of gangsters" who managed to bring about "huge economic and social damage". Titkow blamed economic and Party organizations for their "serious weaknesses" in connection with the uncovering of and combatting the operations of the gang. Similar "weaknesses" could be also found in "personnel policy".

While Titkow's speech is available from "Trybuna Ludu" June 4, Gomulka's utterances on the subject come from rather incomplete radio monitoring. In this respect, much more reliable seems to be Reuter from Warsaw, June 5, quoting Gomulka as follows: "A Communist Party member holding a responsible post who is guilty of committing or tolerating crime is harming the good name of the whole Party, is playing into the hands of the enemy and facilitating their campaign against our system".

The Poznan Fair

The 23rd International Trade Fair in Poznan was opened as scheduled on June 7 with the highest Party and government dignitaries attending, including Wladyslaw Gomulka and Jozef Cyrankiewicz. Radio Warsaw stressed that no less than 19 countries sent their official delegations to the Fair, including US Postmaster General John A. Gronousky, the Soviet Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the National Economy Council Benjamin Dymshyts, and Austrian Vice-Chancellor Bruno Pittermann.

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Gronousky Leaving Poland

Radio Warsaw duly reported on June 7 on the sudden departure of US Postmaster General John A. Gronousky for the funeral of his father. It also reported Gronousky's arrival on June 5, his visit to the Polish Minister of Communications, Zygmunt Moskwa on the same day, as well as his meetings the next day with State Council Deputy Chairman Edward Ochab, Prime Minister Jozef Cyrankiewicz and Foreign Trade Minister Witold Trampeczynski. Regarding Gronousky's planned itinerary, Radio Warsaw was less informative. In this respect, it was only said that he would visit a number of towns, among them Szczecin (Radio Warsaw June 5 and 6). However, UPI reported from Warsaw June 6 that "Polish newspapers frontpaged the story of the visit".

Soviet Economic and Technical Aid

The details on this subject (cf. Sit. Rep. June 5) are available now from "Trybuna Ludu" June 4. According to this source, two agreements were signed in Warsaw on June 3 by the Polish Minister of Foreign Trade Witold Trampeczynski and the Soviet First Deputy Chairman of the Committee for Economic Cooperation with Foreign Countries Ivan Arkhipov. The first agreement pertains to the Soviet aid in 1965-1970 in the geological surveying of oil and natural gas resources. The USSR will supply mining equipment, geophysical apparatus, special means of transport and ancillary equipment as well as technical documentation. In addition, a number of Soviet experts will work in Poland consulting their Polish colleagues and training Polish young expert cadres. This aid has been offered "on easy credit terms", "Trybuna Ludu" explained. The second agreement pertains to the period of 1964-1970 during which the Soviets will supply projects and equipment for the Polish copper mining industry and for some copper processing plants. Under this agreement Polish experts will go to the USSR for training. "Trybuna Ludu" stressed that the two agreements are a sign of "brotherly help of the Soviet Union for Poland" and of "closer and closer economic cooperation of the member countries of Comecon".