

Polish-Soviet Communiqué

At the end of the Polish Party and government "friendship" visit to the USSR (April 13 to 15) a communiqué was signed, but it was released three days later, i.e. on the afternoon of April 18. According to this document, the talks centered on the issues connected with the "continuing development and strengthening of friendship and cooperation between the USSR and the Polish People's Republic and pressing problems of the international situation and the international workers' movement". On these questions "both sides noted a full unity of views".

Regarding Polish-Soviet relations, there has been "constantly growing political, economic and cultural cooperation", the communiqué stressed. This cooperation "contributes to strengthening the unity of the countries of the socialist camp" and helps the cause of peace. After these rather general statements, the communiqué provides for a concrete development, namely for "preparations for the prolongation" for another 20 years of the existing treaty of friendship and mutual aid (signed 21 April 1945). The new treaty should be different from the existing one by taking into consideration the changed conditions, such as the establishment, "once and for all", of the Polish-German border on the Oder and Neisse-Lausitz rivers, the formation of "the first peace-loving German state" (i.e. GDR) along with the "rebirth of West German imperialism and its revanchist policy". On the economic sector, the communiqué refers to an agreement "on creating an inter-governmental Soviet-Polish Commission on Economic and Scientific and Technical Cooperation". This follows hard on the heels of the creation of Soviet-Bulgarian and Soviet-Hungarian commissions and as justly pointed out by "Neue Zuercher Zeitung" April 22, the creation of this new body reflects the stagnation of integration processes within the Comecon. As if to counter such conclusions, the communiqué went on to pay lip service to Comecon as well through the inclusion of the following passage: "On the basis that bilateral and multilateral cooperation between the socialist countries should mutually supplement one another, both sides stated their unity of views on the advisability of further strengthening cooperation within the CEMA framework".

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On international policy the communiqué did not reflect any new development or contain any new suggestions. It listed almost all Soviet and Polish initiatives and proposals on disarmament, creation of atom-free or atom-freeze zones, etc. Much space was devoted to "German imperialism", to "the conclusion of a peace treaty with both existing German states and settlement on this basis of the problem of West Berlin", etc. While general support was promised for the peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America "in their struggle for liberation from all and any kind of colonial and semi-colonial dependence", Cuba was singled out as a nation to whom "both sides" would continue to give "the necessary aid and support". Also Cyprus and South Korea were mentioned in connection with "foreign intervention". The communiqué reaffirmed the right of the Chinese People's Republic to be a member of the UN, and expressed support for the "just demand" of the CPR "for ending the occupation of Taiwan by US forces".

With respect to the "international workers' movement", the communiqué reaffirmed the validity of the 1957 "Declaration" and of the 1960 "Statement" and of the "historic decisions" of the 20th and 22nd Congresses of the CPSU. Regarding the Sino-Soviet split, both parties (Polish and Soviet) "state that the Chinese CP leadership has deviated from the Leninist line of the world Communist movement on the basic questions of strategy and tactics". The Central Committees of the Polish and Soviet Parties "have more than once shown initiative and tried to create the necessary conditions for eliminating the differences which arose between the CCP leadership and the international Communist movement, and have proposed that a stop should be put to polemics in public". In spite of the failure of these efforts (admitted in the communiqué), both parties, the Polish and the Soviet, promised to "firmly and consistently" struggle "for the unity of the socialist camp and of the whole international Communist and workers' movement on the basis of the principles of the 1957 Declaration and the 1960 Statement".

There was no reference in the communiqué to any international conference of the Communist parties. However, as reported by Paul Underwood in the New York Times, April 23, the Polish Communist leadership is still trying to persuade the leaders of the two Communist giants to stop their public polemics. Although



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the Poles do not envisage a settlement that would force either Moscow or Peking to compromise its views, they want at least what "one highly placed Pole" termed "a unity of divergencies and not a divergence of unities". On this point, Underwood referred to Gomulka's Moscow speech in support of a world conference of Communist parties to discuss the dispute but only if such a meeting would "bring us closer" to unity and "make less sharp the edge of the ideological and political differences that are now dividing us and the Communist Party of China".