

Pre-Congress Conference

An additional eleven Party organizations on the voivodship level concluded their pre-Congress conferences, and two more are still deliberating. (Together with the previous four conferences -- cf. Sit. Rep. May 25 -- this brings the total of these important Party events to 17, leaving just two more to take place this week.)

The most important of these conferences seems to be the one in Katowice (May 28-29), which was attended by First Party Secretary Wladyslaw Gomulka who delivered a routine speech. He concentrated on economic problems, and particularly on the future change of the structure of Polish industry (better proportions between agricultural and food processing as well as in the textile industries and machine industry which, according to Gomulka, must make a "jump" to modern standards) and on the structure of foreign trade (bigger share of finished industrial goods in exports). Gomulka also offered some compliments to the Katowice Party membership which will represent at the Congress almost one seventh of the total number of the delegates. (This would mean that it is Katowice and not Poznan, as previously reported, which will have the biggest representation at the Congress. Indeed, one seventh of the total of 1630 delegates means about 230, while Poznan will be represented by 127 delegates. This latter figure was given at least twice by Radio Warsaw May 30, and in this connection please disregard the 143 quoted from Radio Warsaw in Sit. Rep. May 25.) Gomulka was probably prompted to his compliments by a previous speech of the Katowice Voivodship First Secretary Edward Gierek who credited positive "development processes" to the inspiration of the CC and of "Comrade Wieslaw (Gomulka) personally". Gierek pointed out, in particular, the increase of the Silesian (i.e. Katowice voivodship) Party membership from 121,000 five years ago to 212,000 now. Another favor which was bestowed by Gomulka on the Silesian Party organization was his "consent" to be elected delegate to the Congress by the Katowice conference. Another important delegate elected there: Politburo member and State Council Chairman Aleksander Zawadzki who was not present at

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the conference because he had not yet fully recovered from his serious illness (cf. Sit. Rep. May 4 and 12).

The Lodz City conference, which took place on May 29 and 30 and elected 48 delegates to the Congress, was attended by Politburo member and trade union boss Ignacy Loga-Sowinski. In a speech on the occasion he referred to "single voices" of criticism with respect to the pre-Congress theses dealing with the coming Five-Year-Plan. Loga-Sowinski said that these critics blamed the planners for "sacrificing too much for the future at the expense of today". This attempt at "introducing a tone of opposition", and even "diversion" into the pre-Congress atmosphere met with a "resolute rebuke" of Party members, Loga-Sowinski said, and the critics found that their hopes for playing up internal political differences in the Party had been vain and had "left them in complete isolation". (This could be an indirect reference to anti-Gomulka pamphlets referred to in Sit. Rep. May 22.)

Another speech deserving attention was delivered also in Lodz, at the Lodz voivodship conference by Politburo member and CC secretary Edward Ochab. He stressed that the Party does not necessarily intend "to regard collective farms as a merely avant-garde movement and that more attractive and more accessible to the peasant masses will be agricultural circles". True, Ochab said, the Party will give more help to agricultural circles, but it will also support the initiative of "leading peasants" who intend to set up a collective farm. However, Ochab stressed, the process of the "reconstruction of social conditions in the countryside" must not "undercut the increase of (agricultural) production". The Lodz voivodship conference took place on May 30 and 31. Altogether 75 delegates were elected (63 by the conference and 12 by industrial establishments' Party organizations), and they will represent about 72,000 Party members.

The Poznan voivodship conference took place on May 29 and 30. It was attended by Politburo member, Marshal of Poland Marian Spychalski. 127 delegates were elected.



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At the same time the Bydgoszcz voivodship conference took place (with Politburo member and Planning Commission Chairman Stefan Jedrychowski attending). 104 delegates were elected.

On May 30 and 31 four voivodship conferences were held: at Cracow (Politburo member Jozef Cyrankiewicz, 80 delegates); Lublin (CC secretary Witold Jarosinski, 63 delegates); Opole (CC secretary Boleslaw Jaszczuk, 48 delegates) and Warsaw (CC secretary Ryszard Strzelecki, 80 delegates).

Two voivodships managed to conclude their business in one day (May 30): Zielona Gora (CC secretary Artur Starewicz, 39 delegates) and Rzeszow (Politburo member and CC secretary Zenon Kliszko, 62 delegates).

The Wroclaw and Kielce voivodship conferences started yesterday and are continuing their debates. Politburo member Adam Rapacki is attending the Wroclaw conference (expected to elect 114 delegates representing 113,000 Party members) and Stefan Jedrychowski is in Kielce.

Needless to say, only the top names of Party leadership representatives at the voivodship conferences have been mentioned. Each conference was, in fact, attended by about five or six representatives of the CC.