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Danish Premier's Visit

Denmark's Premier Jens Otto Krag arrived in Poland, as scheduled (cf. SR December 22), on January 3 to a warm welcome by the Polish government and to an impressive radio and press fanfare on his behalf and in favor of closer Polish-Danish relations.

During official talks held on January 4, the two sides "exchanged views on key international problems and on matters pertaining to bilateral relations, particularly on Vietnam, European security and the development of Polish-Danish trade," Radio Warsaw reported. Krag invited Premier Jozef Cyrankiewicz to visit Denmark, and the invitation has been accepted.

Today the Danish party is visiting the Katowice mining area and the site of the former German concentration camp at Oswiecim (Auschwitz).

Political talks will be resumed in Warsaw tomorrow. The morning of January 7 Krag will meet Party leader Wladyslaw Gomulka, before ending his visit in the afternoon, Reuter reported from Warsaw on January 5.

Diplomatic Changes

Longin Arabski has been appointed ambassador to Syria, Radio Warsaw reported on December 30. According to a short biography published by Trybuna Ludu the next day, Arabski was born in 1917, spent the years 1930-1935 in France as a worker and then, till the outbreak of the war, was in Warsaw. During the war he was a slave laborer in Germany. From 1945 to 1948 he worked as a railway worker in Poznan and Wroclaw, then he had "several responsible positions in the economic management and in social and political organizations." A CP member, he finished the CC school known as the Higher School of Social Sciences.

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It is rather interesting to note that Trybuna Ludu did not refer to Arabski's last position of Party First Secretary of the Warsaw Ward Committee, Praga South, which he held from December 1959 until July 1966 when he was "relieved of his duties in connection with another assignment." There seems to be little doubt that the other "assignment" was a preparation to Arabski's present diplomatic career.

Another Polish ambassador in the Middle East, Albert Morski, ambassador to the United Arab Republic, was appointed -- also on December 30 -- ambassador to the Republic of Somali. Half a year ago (cf. SR June 2), Morski was appointed ambassador to Libya and Yemen. He will thus represent Polish interests in four countries. Morski was made ambassador to the UAR in June 1966.

Born in 1909 in a village in central Poland, Morski completed his university studies (law) in Warsaw, emigrated to Canada in 1935, returned to Poland in 1946 and joined the diplomatic service. In the years 1948 to 1951 he was in turn consul general and counsellor of the Polish embassy in London, then chief of the Polish Mission in Korea, ambassador to Norway and Iceland, chief of the Polish Mission to Laos and, from 1962 departmental director in the Foreign Ministry.

Jerzy Siedlecki, ambassador to North Vietnam, is leaving Hanoi, VNA reported on December 30. As already announced (cf. SR December 19), he is being replaced by Bohdan Wasilewski.

Also leaving his ambassadorial post in India, Nepal and Ceylon is Ambassador Przemyslaw Ogrodzinski. He started paying his farewell visits as early as September 1966; the latest of the series reported yesterday was to India's President Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. Thus far there has been no announcement about Ogrodzinski's successor.

Polish Delegation to French CP Congress

The Polish Party delegation to the 18th Congress of the French CP, which started on January 4, is composed of Politburo member Ignacy Loga-Sowinski and CC member (head of CC Foreign Department) Jozef Czesak.

Announcing the arrival of the delegation in Paris on January 3, Radio Warsaw reported that the Congress was scheduled to deal with the "problem of unity in the international Communist movement, European security, the war in Vietnam and the French Party's attitude toward economic conceptions of the Common Market."

(Please note that in the last item of SR of January 2, dealing with a visit of a French CP delegation to Warsaw, the name of Jozef Czesak was misprinted as Trzesak. Correct spelling is Czesak.)

A New Voivodship Party Secretary

Jozef Majchrzak, a CC candidate member and voivodship Party organizational secretary, has become First Secretary of the Voivodship Party Committee in Bydgoszcz. He has thus replaced Marian Miskiewicz

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who a few weeks ago (cf. SR December 19) was made No. 1 Party leader in the voivodship of Opole.

Majchrzak's election to his new post took place upon a "recommendation" of Politburo member Zenon Kliszko who appeared at a plenary session of the Bydgoszcz Voivodship Party Committee, ostensibly devoted to the "appraisal of the work of state farms," Radio Warsaw reported on January 3. Present also at the session was head of the CC Organizational Department, Edward Babiuch.

Majchrzak, born on 14 January 1923 in a village in central Poland, comes from an agricultural worker's family. He does not seem to have more than an elementary education, followed by a two-year Party education course completed in 1952. Deported during the war to Germany as a slave laborer, he escaped and hid in the Cracow area till 1945 when he promptly became a member of the CP (then Polish Workers' Party). In 1948 he became deputy head of the Organizational Department of the Bydgoszcz Voivodship Party Committee and in 1952 climbed to the position of deputy head of the CC Propaganda Department. In September 1956 he was sent to Poznan to become one of the voivodship secretaries. This was the time when the Party endeavored to regain control over the rebellious Poznan worker milieu (which revolted in June 1956) and Majchrzak, known for his strong-hand methods, was expected to help reintroduce "order." The events of October 1956 swept Majchrzak away. He "resigned," was "re-elected" and "resigned" again, then was transferred (at the end of December 1956) to a similar position of a voivodship Party secretary in Bydgoszcz, where he remained until his latest promotion.

Polish Pro-Chinese Communists Broadcast from Tirana

As reported earlier (cf. SR September 12), Radio Tirana instituted a regular service in Polish. In one of the recent broadcasts (December 30) Radio Tirana broadcast to Polish listeners excerpts from a statement recently published by the "Provisional Central Committee of the Communist Party of Poland."

The statement claimed that Poland is a "state composed of a corrupt bureaucracy and of bourgeois elements ruling over the proletariat," that the Gomulka regime deviates from Marxist-Leninist ideology and is on the road "of capitulation before imperialism."

The broadcast did not contain any new elements in addition to the Polish pro-Chinese faction's credo published in March 1966 through the intermediary of the Belgian pro-Chinese Communists (cf. SR November 10).