

State-Church Relations

The text is now available of the "Sztandar Mlodych" criticism of Jasna Gora pilgrimages to Czestochowa. The publication was one of the three listed by E. Shields (August 26, UPI) which were attacked by Cardinal Wyszynski as insulting to the Polish pilgrims and the Catholic-venerated shrine of the Black Madonna. The full text of Wyszynski's speech is not yet available. This speech he read from the altar on the fortified walls of the Jasna Gora monastery. It was an unscheduled speech and is only available in sections in the five page-long UPI report (August 26) and the "Il Popolo" article (Rome, August 27). The Polish news media, except for the three publications listed by Shields (one centrally issued in Warsaw, "Sztandar Mlodych" and two locally, "Gazeta Czestochowska" and "Zycie Czestochowskie") have remained silent on this newest incident which must certainly have heightened the tension.

The text of the "Sztandar Mlodych" (August 20-21) article will be air pouched tomorrow. The article by K. Krauss and the accompanying four pictures aim at exposing the extreme naivete of the masses of uneducated pilgrims and the greed of Church officials and peddlers of devotional trinkets. The opening paragraph sets the tone of the "Sztandar Mlodych" <sup>article</sup> -- the attack against the greed of the Jasna Gora clerics: "Faces, the old and tired peasant faces. A Crowd. The human throng, still confused by the din of the city (Czestochowa), nameless, packed together in groups of pilgrims convulsively clutching their guides, the parish priests." The four pictures accompanying the article show two elderly pilgrims resting in a state of mild disarray, an old peasant woman picking her nose, and a young girl standing close to a framed picture of Saint Mary and Jesus, one of the thousands of cheap representations of the Holy Family on sale in Czestochowa.

It may be recalled that the production and sale of various religious devotional objects is to a great extent in the hands of the collaborationist Catholic organizations of laymen, PAX, led by B. Piasecki, and Frankowski's "Za i Przeciw". Presumably, if the artistic standards of religious souvenirs sold to the Catholic

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believers in Czestochowa stood in need of improving, the government could deal directly with PAX, which it subsidizes directly and indirectly.

The right of defense against press attacks called for by Cardinal Wyszynski more than likely will not be given by the government. The "Sztandar Mlodych" criticism of the backward believers fooled into donating money to the monastery (money which the government claims the right to tax) is part of a coordinated campaign aimed at loosening the strong hold of the Roman Catholic Church on the population, especially the young. Thus, the latest issues of the Party organ "Polityka" reports on the findings of its poll conducted among 3,000 believers and non-believers on the problem of the natural increase of the population.

Although the natural rate of increase has been declining, the paper felt constrained to counter what it called the "vehement counteraction emanating above all from the Catholic circles". Of the 3,000, nearly 47 per cent of non-believers and 27 per cent of believers thought that the high population increase in Poland weakens the economic strength of the country. The significance of the poll is apparent in the light of Cardinal Wyszynski's contention that the country can support an eighty million population. The current year has been consecrated by the Cardinal to the preservation of life in opposition to the government's campaign for birth control.

Elsewhere, the Public Opinion Center of Radio Warsaw has contributed towards casting a new light on the religious feelings of youth. The broadcast (August 25) conceded that in the "overwhelming number of instances, the posture (of persons polled) is not sharply defined, unequivocal, and inclusive of all elements which in the common belief contribute towards the character of religiousness -- to be more specific to the feeling of belonging to Catholicism."

Radio Warsaw cited the answers of one-sixth of those described as Catholic participants who do not believe in the divine creation of the universe, two-thirds do not condemn abortions (billed by the government as excusable if justified by economic or social reasons),



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and one-fifth feel that the spread of the Christian faith throughout the world is the most important issue for humanity.

Radio Warsaw commentator concluded, from these rather fragmentary findings, that the "Catholicism of youth is not too dogmatic or crusading". It based this statement on the fact that youth's adherence to Catholicism is only formal and that the sacrament of baptism is the main link. Some 15 per cent of participants declaring their Catholicism do not intend to be wed in a church, and nearly 10 per cent do not think that the religious education of children is any longer considered a duty.

For background of the State-Church relations please see Situation Report dated August 16, 17, 23 and 26. The Jasna Gora monastery was in the news in 1958, when on July 21 government representatives of the Prosecutor's Office of Katowice and the Ministry of Interior conducted a surprise search in the Primate Wyszynski Institute located in the so-called Royal Chambers. The search was formally motivated by a breach of printing regulations. The government officials stated that the duplication of printed materials was done without the permission of the state censorship. The present anti-religious campaign seems to be aimed at the devout believers and the Church rather than the Church alone. Unlike the 1958 incidents, or the formal refusal to recognize the administrative authority of Bishop Kaczmarek of Kielce, the current effort is mainly directed at proving that (1) the religious feeling of the masses is not very strong, (2) the devout believers, as those participating in the Jasna Gora pilgrimages of August 15 and 26, are chiefly recruited from among the least enlightened elements -- mainly from the socially unreconstructed villages, (3) the youth, the future of the nation, does not share in this strong religious feeling, and (4) the Church abuses its rights and does not adhere to the post-October agreement with the government.

Agriculture - Harvest

The celebration of the end of harvest took place in nearly 160 Polish villages, communities, state farms, and district towns (Radio Warsaw I, August 28). The sugar beets were better this year than ever before, with an estimated 90 million quintals (a quintal equals 220 pounds) headed for the sugar refineries. About 1,200,000 tons of sugar are expected to be refined this year, and the first processing is expected during the first ten days of September.

The bumper harvest of sugar beets means that the siloes will be full this year. An estimated additional 10 million tons of ensilage is expected to be added to the fodder this year, a critical element in the production of marketable livestock that sunk last year due to inadequate financial incentives offered by the government to the peasant. (cf. Situation Report, August 25).

The grain harvest has been completed in nine out of sixteen voivodships, with the northern areas still having to bring in from 20 to 40 per cent of the grain into barns. The purchase of consumption grain has climbed from 1,000 tons daily to nearly 30,000 tons, with about 120,000 tons already secured in storehouses. The official government agencies have stated that there is little fear expressed about completing the planned purchase of grain. (Radio Warsaw I, August 26). About 1,650,000 tons are expected to come from individual farmers, and the yields are estimated to equal those of last year. The main problem faced is drying the grain that has been subjected to unseasonal rains and flooding. Sometimes it is necessary to dry the grain three times before it is suitable for storage.

Since the potatoe harvest in some areas was more abundant than last year, it is expected that the losses due to the flood will be made up in state purchases. These were the findings of the meeting in the Ministry of Food industry and State Purchasing August 25.

The Lublin voivodship is an area where the most critical shortage of harvest transport has been registered. In order to cope with the delayed and augmented transportation tasks, some 6,000 trucks have been mobilized according to Dziennik Ludowy (August 27).



Employment

The recent intensification of seasonal employment has resulted in an increase of jobs and a simultaneous decline of unemployed. As of August 1, presidia of national councils have reported 28,200 unemployed, while the number of jobs stood at 118,000. Men were sought most, with 101,000 jobs available and 5,600 registered job seekers. The greatest number of jobs were reported in the construction, railway, communications, mining, agriculture, and farm and food industries. The employment of women has improved, with the April figure of 16,300 unemployed and 8,000 openings. (Radio Warsaw I, August 26). The broadcast did not provide any data on the most important point -- local unemployment in many areas where no investments have been approved by the second Five Year Plan.

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- 1) Zycie Gospodarcze (a) (August 14), W. Brus on the law of value and the market mechanism in socialist economy; (b) (August 21) G.P.(Pisarski?) on agricultural production in the first half of 1960;
- (2) Trybuna Ludu (August 14), K.G. on Chancellor Konrad Adenauer speech in Duesseldorf;
- 3) Glos Pracy (August 22), "bj" on the Olympic Games in Rome, Vatican anti-communist propaganda, Western intelligence, and RFE.