

Letter of Polish Intellectuals

There has still been no official acknowledgment of the letter sent by 34 Polish intellectuals to Prime Minister Cyrankiewica (cf. Sit.Rep., April 2). There has also not been any unofficial mention of the letter in the Polish press or radio and most likely there will not be any for a longer time to come.

On the other hand, there have been both cases of unofficial repression aimed at officials and articles clearly dealing with the case, without, however, openly referring to it. According to unofficial reports, pressure has been exerted against some signatories, and two professors -- Jan Szczepanski, noted sociologist from Lodz, and Kazimierz Wyka, director of the Polish Academy of Sciences' Institute of Literary Research -- have had second thoughts about signing. The passports of Professor Jan Kott and the writer Artur Sandauer were withdrawn, as were articles and radio scripts by Antoni Slonimski, Jan Kott, Professor Sierpinski and Melchior Wankowicz. Slonimski was refused facilities in a governmental clinic. (Cf. RFE Special, April 9.)

Still, not all of the 34 have been subject to chicaneries. As recently as April 12 an article by Maria Dabowska was published in "Zycie Warszawy", and Adolf Rudnicki's column in "Swiat" is still being carried. It is too early to say whether this signifies a changed attitude or simply varying treatment.

Two of the articles on the subject have appeared in a single issue of "Kultura", that of April 12. One, by Wlodzimierz Sokorski, Chairman of the Committee for Radio and Television, openly states that the author faces the issue as an official who is responsible for a section of the field of culture, and goes on to explain: "Our Party has defined the framework of cultural policy... it implies both extensive tolerance in supporting various forms of creativity, and acting according to the principle: he who is not against us is with us". The article's title, "Responsibility", illustrates the line taken by the author.

In the second article the well-known satirist Jan Szelag points out that, although there is an Office for Control of the Press, Books and Performances, "many other forms of censorship, which are powerful elsewhere and were once powerful in Poland, have been abolished". He then goes on to cite examples of alleged indirect forms of censorship in Western countries, to show that there is no absolute freedom of the press there.

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In addition to these general considerations, Szelag says -- clearly showing that his article is specifically addressed to the signatories of the letter -- that "among those who are hypocritically worried about freedom of speech in Poland we also find certain Catholic editors and journalists". For their benefit, he retells the story of the "Index". Of other signatories, Antoni Slonimski is reminded that 30,000 copies of his essays have been published -- more than would have been possible before the war. The benefits which Melchior Wankowicz and Stanislaw Cat-Mackiewicz have received under the present system are also mentioned.

Szelag writes that he expects his article will be subject to the verdict of censors and that it will be censored in numerous cafe talks; he appeals to his censors for "a grain of tolerance for my opinions". "Zycie Warszawy" of April 11 concludes that "within the framework of that tolerance, it is well worth reading Szelag's feuilleton".

#### Polish Delegation in Moscow

The talks between Polish and Soviet Party and Government delegations ended yesterday. Both Khrushchev and Gomulka delivered speeches at a Soviet-Polish friendship rally, and the final communiqué has been signed.

Gomulka said that "part of the Polish delegation will prolong its stay in Moscow", obviously to participate in the celebrations of Khrushchev's 70th birthday, but also "it will enable them to conduct further talks". (Cf. Radio Warsaw April 15.)

The text of yesterday's speeches has already been published, but we do not yet have the text of the final communiqué and will therefore present an analysis of the visit at a later date.

Full treatment of the talks will be sent tomorrow.

#### Special Privileges for Polish Trade Mission in West Germany

The staffs of the Polish, Hungarian and Rumanian trade missions in West Germany will be granted special privileges which in some cases approximate the extraterritorial rights enjoyed by regular diplomatic personnel. These privileges



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will, however, not be equal for all three missions. The greatest will be enjoyed by the Hungarians, and the greatest limitations will be imposed on the Poles. The differences are due to the fact that the German government bases its treatment on the principle of reciprocity, and in this respect the Poles have been more restrictive than the other two countries. (Cf. RFE Special, Bonn April 13.)

#### Comeback of a Stalinist

"Trybuna Ludu" of April 5 reported that F. Rusek is the Deputy Chief of the CC Administration Department, or in other words, a deputy to Kazimierz Witaszewski. We do not know exactly when he was appointed, but it was some time between 1960 and the present.

Rusek was Chairman of the Voivodship Court in Kielce. In September 1956 an extraordinary meeting of the local branch of the Polish Lawyers Association drew attention to his "violation of legality". In October 1956 the Voivodship Party Committee asked the Minister to recall him from his post. In August 1957 he was no longer on the job, and towards the end of 1959 we received information that he was a director of one of the state farms in Olsztyn Voivodship.