

Polish-French Relations

"The coming year probably will see General de Gaulle visit Poland, Yugoslavia and possibly Rumania on one of his dramatic, tumultuous tours", reported Bernard Kaplan from Paris in the "Montreal Star" of December 28. This is not the first rumor on a possible de Gaulle visit to Poland and it should not be ruled out, even though other predictions, i.e. that, following the example of other bloc leaders, Poland's Foreign Minister, Adam Rapacki, would visit France (cf Sit. Rep. December 7), failed to materialize.

In any case Polish information media are at the moment making friendly overtures to France. As^a convenient starting-point in this connection, one could take an article from "Tygodnik Demokratyczny" of December 16 entitled: "French voices on the Oder-Neisse", quoting various important French opinions on the recognition of the Oder-Neisse.

An article highly appreciative of de Gaulle's statement on the Oder-Neisse border was published in "Trybuna Ludu" of December 24. It was an article commemorating the 20th anniversary of the then de Gaulle government's unofficial cooperation with the Polish Communist Committee of National Liberation. "Our people heard with high regard the announcement of President de Gaulle about the inviolability and final character of our Western frontiers on ^{the} Oder and Lusatian Neisse. They see in that attitude of France the continuation of the traditional Polish-French friendship".

In a program of December 25, Radio Warsaw returned to the same subject. It stressed that in actual fact, with the exception of Bonn, nobody in the West questioned the final character of Oder-Neisse frontier. "Nobody has any doubts regarding that frontier. Just try to talk on the subject with official personalities of varying ranks arriving in our country from the West; try to talk to them in their own countries; look into their newspapers. All of them, when talk gets round to the subject, say the same thing; that the frontier is the final one. But in spite of this, with the exception of de Gaulle, they shrink from publicly uttering these few words".

But not only with respect to the Oder-Neisse frontier is de Gaulle so commendable. He is acting more democratically than the former governments. "One cannot, for example, deny that the leadership of his government shows a high efficiency. One cannot deny that the whole government does various things without much ado. In the struggle against opposition it generally does not use the force, prohibitions and confiscations, which more than one of the preceding governments used. One cannot deny to this government the successes in the field of foreign policy and also in the field of improving the financial situation" (cf. Radio Warsaw, December 26).

Polish Delegation to Cuba

A delegation consisting of CC member Stefan Misiaszek and a poet, Leopold Lewin, left Warsaw on December 29 to participate in the celebrations of the sixth anniversary of the Cuban revolution (cf. Radio Warsaw, 29 December 1964).

These are two very insignificant personalities and there was hardly any mention of the delegation's activities, or in fact of celebrations themselves, in Polish media.

Polish-Pakistani Agreement on Economic Cooperation

Poland and Pakistan have signed an agreement in Karachi on economic cooperation, Radio Warsaw reported December 30, 1964. The date of the signing was not given; the communiqué merely stated that the signature took place "a few days ago".

Under the terms of the agreement, Radio Warsaw said, Poland will sell to Pakistan complete cement plants and sugar refineries, while Pakistan will export jute and cotton products and enriched fodder to Poland.

The communiqué claims that the agreement was the "first of its kind". This probably means that it is the first agreement exceeding the limits of those concluded previously which, in actual fact, were merely barter transactions.

The communiqué does not refer to payment conditions. But the London "Financial Times" of 15 December 1964 stressed that Poland had expressed willingness to provide Pakistan with long-term credits up to 20 million dollars.

Criticism of President Johnson

Attention is drawn to an article, "A Hole in the Bridge," published in "Polityka" of December 19-26, 1964, signed M.R. (Probably by Mieczyslaw Rakowski, "Polityka's" editor in chief), criticizing President Johnson for his speech in support of RFE. English translation of the article was published in the Polish Press Survey No. 1799 of December 30.