

Warsaw Pact Meeting

Top representatives of seven of the signatory powers of the Warsaw Pact concluded a two-day conference in Warsaw at about 1800 hrs. yesterday, Communist and Western media reported. The meeting took place in the building of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, formerly the Radziwill Palace, and was attended by representatives of Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Rumania, Poland and the USSR, in the persons of Party first secretaries, prime ministers, defense and foreign ministers as well as ambassadors to Poland. Some delegations were more numerous and included additional Party and/or government officials. This was particularly evident in the composition of the Polish, East German and Soviet delegations, whose lists follow.

Poland: First Party Secretary Wladyslaw Gomulka, Premier Jozef Cyrankiewicz, Politburo member and CC secretary Zenon Kliszko, Foreign Minister Adam Rapacki, Defense Minister Marshal Marian Spychalski. (Radio Warsaw reported on January 20 that Deputy Foreign Minister Marian Naszkowski and Deputy Defense Minister Jerzy Bordzilowski, Director General of the Foreign Ministry Maria Wierna, as well as a "group of experts and advisors" had participated "in the work of the Polish delegation".)

East Germany: Party First Secretary and State Council Chairman Walter Ulbricht, Premier Willi Stoph; Foreign Minister Lothar Bolz; Defense Minister Gen. Heinz Hoffmann; Chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee and member of the CC, SED, Herman Axen; Deputy Foreign Minister Otto Winzer; the director of the International Relations Department at the CC, SED, Peter Florin; and the Ambassador to Poland, Karl Mewis.

USSR: Party First Secretary Leonid I. Brezhnev, Premier Alexei N. Kosygin, CC Secretary Yuri Andropov, Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko and Defense Minister Marshal Rodion Y. Malinowski, and Ambassador Averki B. Aristov.

A communiqué was signed at the conclusion of the meeting, but its text has not yet been released. (Judging by previous practice, it will be released some 24 hours after the signing, when the delegations have already left Warsaw. By 1500 hrs Munich time today, at least four delegations, the Rumanian, Bulgarian,

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East German and Czechoslovak, had left Warsaw.)

New Party Secretary in Cracow

Czeslaw Domagala, a hard-line Party apparatchik, has been appointed first secretary of the Voivodship Party Committee in Cracow, replacing Lucjan Motyka (cf. Sit.Rep. December 16). The "election" of Domagala took place in circumstances almost identical to those surrounding the replacement in Lodz of Michalina Tatarkowna-Majakowska (cf. Sit. Rep, December 16). Again it was Politburo member and SS secretary Ryszard Strzdecki who brought Domagala "in a briefcase" and saw to it that he was "elected" yesterday at a plenary meeting of the Voivodship Committee.

The new Cracow first secretary comes from Kielce, where he was chairman of the Voivodship People's Council. He is a peasant's son from Kielce province, an old pre-war Communist, who in 1938 went to the Soviet Union and managed to survive all the purges of that period. This may imply Domagala's close cooperation with the Soviet secret political police, possibly at the expense of some of his Party comrades. In 1945, he returned to Poland and was immediately directed to Party work in Lodz. After a few years, probably in 1948, he was transferred to the Warsaw Voivodship Party organization. He participated in the fateful CC Plenum of November 1949 at which Gomulka was removed from the CC. Domagala was quite outspoken against Gomulka, accusing him of Titoism, opportunism and "overgrown ambition." A year later, Domagala appeared in Gdansk in the position of the first voivodship secretary. Two years later, he was appointed Deputy Minister of Agriculture, but by January 1957, he was no longer in this post (probably swept away by the October 1956 upheaval). Only a year later, on 16 February 1958, he was elected to the Kielce Voivodship People's Council chairmanship, the post he has held to date.

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His Party career seems to reflect the ups and downs of Stalinism in Poland. Elected alternate CC member in March 1954, Domagala was dropped from CC membership in March 1959, to return to grace as late as June 1964, at the Fourth Congress, when he was again elected alternate member of the CC.

There have been further changes in Cracow. Of the four voivodship secretaries, two resigned at yesterday's plenum. One, Jozef Banak, ostensibly because of poor health, the second, Stanislaw Pieta, without giving any explanation. (Reporting on the event, Radio Warsaw stated on January 20 that the plenum "approved the transfer of propaganda secretary Stanislaw Pieta to other work.")

It is rather significant that the Cracow change, as well as the one in Lodz, took place at an extraordinary plenary session of the voivodship committee involved, at a time when all the committees are going through routine electoral-accounting conferences. There seems to be little doubt that the two changes had to be engineered within the smaller body of the committee rather than before the delegates of whole voivodships.