

(Continuation of Sit.Rep. March 22)

Cardinal Wyszynski's Report on Trip to Rome

Stefan Cardinal Wyszynski told the Polish bishops gathered at a special conference that the Pope thoroughly approves of his church policy, Stehle reported in FAZ March 22. Wyszynski also said that, while in Rome, he had a long conversation with Cardinal Julius Doepfner of Berlin. The latter is known to the Polish public for a sermon he delivered on 16 October 1960 in Berlin on the subject of German-Polish reconciliation. Reportedly the Rome conversation of the two Church princes centered on this issue. Another German-speaking cardinal whom Wyszynski met twice on his way to and from Rome is Franziskus Koenig of Vienna. Wyszynski revealed that he had invited Cardinal Koenig to visit Warsaw. Stehle states that this development may have some connection with the forthcoming trip to Vienna of two Polish Sejm deputies, members of the Znak group, Stanislaw Stomma and Tadeusz Mazowiecki, on the invitation of the Catholic newspaper "Die Furche". (RFE Vienna Bureau confirmed invitation to Mazowiecki and to "a second member of the Znak group". Mazowiecki is expected to stay in Vienna from March 25 to 28).

Rumors about changes in the Oder-Neisse area (cf. Situation Report March 19) were not confirmed, Stehle reported, but some changes in the status of the Gdansk (Danzig) diocese are possible. There is also much talk about imminent appointment of a second Polish cardinal.

This is always a possibility, and two names are mentioned in this connection, Archbishop Antoni Baraniak of Poznan or Bishop Boleslaw Kominek, apostolic administrator of the Wroclaw diocese, "Osservatore Romano" revealed on March 22 that Bishop Kominek had been elevated from titular Bishop of Vaga to Archbishop of Eucaita (in partibus infidelium). The latter development has a fine political touch, because the new appointment pertains to a Polish bishop administering one of the dioceses in the Oder-Neisse area. The gesture seems to suggest the Pope's sympathy with the Polish stand on the subject of church administration in the disputed territory, while it does not affect the Vatican's official stand on the matter.

Returning to Stehle, Cardinal Wyszynski denied Western press reports about his premature departure from Rome. While leaving Rome, Wyszynski clearly stated that he intended to stay there no longer than three weeks.

After the suicide of Holland and one year sentences passed on Kornacki and Rudzinska each (cf. Situation Reports 28 December 1961, January 4 and February 12 respectively), the Polish regime has now passed a sentence of one year imprisonment on a 52 year old Jewish writer, Naftali Herz Kon, New York Times reported March 22. Kon had been charged with having attempted to sell to Yiddish publications in the USA articles describing conditions among Jews in Rumania. While the defense admitted the attempt, it argued that the articles had never been published.

The Kon case seems not to deviate one iota from the pattern of a disillusioned Polish Communist intellectual. Already before the war he was a noted Jewish poet in Poland, whose works were published in Warsaw and in the USSR. He went to the USSR in 1937, was arrested there in 1938, released during the war, and rearrested in 1948. He regained freedom after the death of Stalin and settled in Cernauti. In 1959 he managed to prove his Polish citizenship, and return to Warsaw. In December 1960 the Soviet authorities requested his extradition for alleged slandering of the USSR and Rumania. The Poles refused the extradition, but arrested Kon. The trial was postponed several times. Kon's "crime" seems to consist in an attempt at describing the life of Jews in the Soviet part of former Rumania and in Rumania itself.

In view of the fact that he spent about 15 months in prison before being sentenced, Kon was released with a credit balance of three months.

Polish Foreign Trade and Common Market

Although the Polish exports increased in 1961, integration processes in West Europe "cannot remain without influence on Polish trade", Witold Trampczynski, Polish Minister of Foreign Trade stated in an interview with "Zycie Warszawy" March 13. The task "of making a substantial increase in export to the capitalist countries" in 1961 was fulfilled, Trampczynski said, and the increase was 17.5 per cent as compared to 7.8 per cent in 1960, thus overfulfilling the plan for 1961 by 2.5 per cent. There was a marked increase of export of agricultural produce (35 per cent as compared to 1960), as well as consumer goods of industrial origin (28.4 per cent), but the value of imports from the capitalist countries increased also by 18.3 per cent over 1960. In this connection the planned improvement of the balance of payments has not taken place yet. Poland's trade turnover with the capitalist countries constitutes 40 per cent of the total, with the figure for West Europe being 24 per cent. Since West Europe takes about 40 per cent of Polish exports of agricultural produce, Common Market decisions will bear heavily on future income from this type of export. In this connection Poland

must look for other than West European markets. She must also increase her export "of such goods which will be less affected by the integration processes" of the Common Market. A closer look at Trampczynski's interview seems to indicate that he was beating about the bush on the subject of Polish exports to the Soviet bloc countries, which cannot supply industrial goods of decent standard in exchange for Polish agricultural produce and other merchandise. Only at the end of the interview did Trampczynski offer a lip service statement to the effect that "one of the leading tasks of the Polish foreign trade is the need of broadening the turnover and cooperation within the socialist camp".

Commenting on Trampczynski's interview, Stehle reported in FAZ March 19 that Franciszek Modrzewski, Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade, put out some feelers to the Common Market institutions during his recent visit to Brussels (between February 23 to March 1), and that Poland intends to introduce measures to counter the danger to her export. Among these are special investment funds for the factories working for export and the putting of these factories in a privileged position with respect to the supply of raw materials and extra premiums for the quality of goods and for delivery on time. These measures, according to Stehle, have already been decided upon by the Party Central Committee. This seems to be confirmed indirectly by a visit of Marian Spychalski, Politburo member, to Poznan where he took part in a conference of the directors of industrial enterprises and "some foreign trade agencies". In his contribution to the discussion Spychalski put major stress on export problems, Radio Warsaw reported March 22. He advocated the working out of "a complete plan of export activities of all the factories of the voivodship with a view to full realization of the tasks outlined by the Party". (For a previous item on Common Market threat to Poland please see Situation Report February 1.)