

ITEM No C0649/53

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FRANCE - POLAND.

RELIGION (2800)

PROPAGANDA (2600)

Polish Catholics Visit France.

SOURCE PARIS: News Bureau

DATE OF OBSERVATION: current

EVAL. COMMENT: An interesting report describing some of the moves and contacts of the pro-regime Catholic delegates.

Further information is now available on the visit to France of the three Catholic progressists from WARSAW.

They arrived in PARIS on 5 November with diplomatic visas valid for eight days, which were delivered by the Quai d'Orsay against the advice of the Prefecture of Police and the Ministry of the Interior.

During their stay in France they were invited to visit Lille by Monseigneur GLORIEUX, director of the French Catholic Institute. It was in that city that M. KETRZYNSKI held a meeting to discuss the situation of the Catholic Church in Poland. As a result of Pax Christi's intervention in PARIS they were received by Archbishop Monseigneur FELTIN. Their attempts to contact the priests of the Polish Catholic Mission and the weekly Catholic paper "Polska Wierna" were vain. Their invitations and telephone calls remained unanswered.

"Prawo Ludu," The People's Rights, organ of the CGT in the Polish language, published in its number 47 of 25 December 1952, an interview with "citizen" HORODYSKI as follows:

"We have made contact with various Catholic circles and ecclesiastic authorities. We believe that these relations will be extended and hope they will result in a better understanding between Frenchmen and Poles. Among other things, we were asked to give details of the agreement between the Polish Bishops and the People's Government of Poland. Our questioners were especially anxious to learn whether the faithful were subject to persecution and

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they appeared astonished when we assured them that religious liberty is as secure as liberty of opinion. We have foreign as well as Polish papers in Poland. I myself am a regular reader of the Catholic paper, the "Cross"....

Interrogated on international policy, M. HORODYNSKI said... "French Catholic personalities are generally silent on questions concerning Atlantic policy and rearmament. It is ridiculous to believe that Europe will always be divided. The majority of our interlocutors desire a return to a closer collaboration among the peoples and that contacts be resumed. We have particularly noticed that the French are more anxious now than in 1949 for all sorts of exchanges with Eastern Europe. We are delighted with this tendency which receives strong support from the Peace Camp."

Speaking of the Peace Congress of VIENNA, M. HORODYNSKI expressed the hope that Polish Catholics of the Commission of Intellectual and Militant Catholics would meet many French, Italian, German and Belgian militant Catholics in VIENNA.

EVAL. COMMENT II: None

End.