

Problems of the Wage Fund

Complaints on the subject of too high wages have been a feature of authoritative regime statements recently. Following is a passage on the subject from Gomulka's speech at Katowice on February 26 ("Trybuna Ludu" 27.2.62):

"Adhering to the discipline of wages has tremendous importance for maintaining the proper proportions of the increase of productivity, consumption and investments in the country. Encroachments against this discipline last year were considerable... Party organizations ought to continue to systematically pay attention to this problem and realize that encroachments against this discipline make extremely difficult the realization of planned intentions of the Party and government in the field of wages policy."

This follows the complaint made at the 16th Plenum of the Trade Unions by Deputy Prime Minister Piotr Jeroszewicz who stated that the fund was overspent by 700 million zloty and was referring to various government measures to arrest this process (cf. "Trybuna Ludu" 15 February 1962).

Similar complaints were voiced by the Minister of Finance, Jerzy Albrecht, at the conference of chairmen of national councils. He stated that "keeping the dynamics of the wage fund within proper proportions to the development of economic activities is important not only from the point of view of keeping the balance of the market but also of the division of the consumption part of the national income amongst various groups of employees of <sup>the</sup> socialized economy" (cf. "Rada Narodowa" 17 February 1962). Incidentally it was for the same reason Albrecht announced in the same speech the increase of peasants' taxation (cf. Situation Report 1 March 1962).

Chairman of the Council of State on Regime Priests

On 3 March Aleksander Zawadzki at the Session of the National Committee of the Front of National Unity delivered a speech reviewing the achievements and tasks of the Front.

One passage of it is worth noting: "The National Unity Front embraces all the patriotic forces of our community irrespective of the differences of world outlook. Everyone to whom the people's motherland is dear can find a place and possibilities for activity

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within the Front. I have here in mind also that part of the Polish clergy whose attitude toward reforms which took place in Poland is not negative, who are loyal toward the People's Government and who wish to contribute, within their possibilities, to the growth of the force and importance of the motherland, to the increase of its contribution to the cause of peace and security of the nation.

"A part of them is affiliated with the circle of clergymen at the 'Caritas' organization. These clergymen, as we know, continue to meet with difficulties, chicaneries, and even threats on the part of some of their superiors, though they do not deserve at all to be treated in that manner.

"It seems to us that every clergyman who does not use religion as an instrument of political struggle against the People's State, against socialism, who in the everyday practice helps people in Poland, to live better, who helps to create a new attitude of people toward work, social prosperity, to their everyday duties toward the state, is paving the way for new relations between the state and the Church and in this meaning the future belongs to him.

"That is why every clergyman of that kind will enjoy in his patriotic attitude support of both state authorities and the believers."

This sounds like a clear warning to the Church authorities and at the same time <sup>it</sup> also constitutes another encroachment on Church jurisdiction, a thing about which the Polish Episcopate complained in their letter to priests of 2 September 1961, while dealing with new regulations for religious instruction.

Priests' Circles of Caritas were established early in 1960 and their board had an audience with Zawadzki in February last year (cf. Radio Warsaw 19 February 1961). On 14 March Cardinal Wyszynski summoned Rev. Stanislaw Huet, one of the leaders of the Circles, and ordered their dissolution. This demand was not obeyed and circles comprising some 300 to 600 priests (estimates vary) are still in existence.

#### Olsen Report

The most interesting part in the Olsen report (NYT March 5) was the statement that Ryszard Strzelecki had taken over supervision



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of cultural affairs on behalf of the Party. Comment will be withheld until the news is confirmed; if it is true it is hardly an encouraging development although, if seen as an effort to contain and control the cultural situation since the 22nd congress, it would not be a surprising move.