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Polish Official Visit to Bulgaria

The Polish Party-government delegation headed by First Party Secretary Wladyslaw Gomulka and Premier Jozef Cyrankiewicz arrived in Sofia this morning to start an official visit during which -- as announced earlier (cf. SR March 20) -- a treaty of friendship, cooperation and mutual aid will be signed.

In addition to Gomulka and Cyrankiewicz, the following leaders are members of the delegation: Politburo member and CC Secretary Zenon Kliszko; Politburo member, Foreign Minister Adam Rapacki; CC member, Vice-Premier Zenon Nowak; United Peasant Party Supreme Committee member, Forestry and Timber Industry Minister Roman Gasing; Democratic Party CC member, Communications Minister Zygmunt Moskwa; First Deputy Chairman of the Committee for Economic Cooperation with Foreign Countries Kazimierz Olszewski; and Polish ambassador to Bulgaria Ryszard Nieszporek.

As already stressed (cf. SR March 20), the friendship treaty-- due for renewal in a year's time -- is a pretext rather than the real purpose of the visit. As if not to leave any doubt on this point, today's Trybuna Ludu -- as quoted by Radio Warsaw -- stressed that both Poland and Bulgaria meticulously "watch the center of unrest in Europe: West Germany." The official Party daily listed the following items of Bonn policy, which are "permanent factors threatening world peace:" territorial demands of the Bonn government vis-a-vis Poland, the USSR and other states; the "usurpation" of the right to represent the whole of Germany; the refusal to recognize the Munich Agreement as non-valid ab initio; nuclear aspirations; and "the policy of blocking all relaxation initiatives."

The Trybuna Ludu editorial concluded that the new Polish-Bulgarian treaty will be "an important contribution toward the strengthening of socialist unity and a momentous move in the struggle aimed at thwarting the machinations of the enemies of security on our continent, at consolidation of peace in Europe."

Jedrychowski to Visit Sweden

Politburo member and Chairman of the Planning Commission at the Council of Ministers, Stefan Jedrychowski, is due to start an official visit to Sweden on April 4, an RFE Special from Stockholm reported on March 31. His visit is at the invitation of the Swedish government and he is due to spend five days, during which he will be a guest of a number of firms either trading with Poland or cooperating with Polish industry. Among these firms are the L.M. Ericsson Telephone Company, the Ikea furniture-making firm and the Alfa-Laval concern which manufactures agricultural machinery.

In addition, Jedrychowski will attend a meeting of the Swedish-Polish Chamber of Commerce where he will also deliver a lecture in Swedish. He will also have discussions with Swedish economic planning experts and a talk with Premier Tage Erlander, as well as with Trade Minister Gunnar Lange.

Sejm Session

The spring session of the Sejm started officially on April 1, although the first plenary meeting will take place on April 14, Radio Warsaw announced on April 1.

The agenda of the meeting provides for the reports of the respective Sejm committees on the drafts of two laws: 1) on the public prosecutor's official; and 2) on the working hours of retail trade, restaurants, service shops and of the persons employed therein.

According to earlier press reports, the new law on public prosecutors contains amendments to the old one of 1950, which was passed before the new (Communist) Constitution of the Polish People's Republic was officially proclaimed on 22 July 1952. In addition to purely terminological amendments, the new law introduces some essential changes pertaining to the role and functions of General Public Prosecutor's Office and of the territorial public prosecutor's offices. Public prosecutors will be nominated by the State Council (and not by the State Council Chairman, as heretofore) and they will not only be independent from government administration but they will watch over this administration in order to ascertain that it functions according to the law. Another important change is the imposition on public prosecutors of the duty not only to prosecute the crime but to prevent it as well. The new law retains the division of "general" (civilian) public prosecutors and military public prosecutors, but it provides for the Main Military Public Prosecutors to be only deputy to the General Public Prosecutor.

Regarding the new law on the working hours of retail trade, its purpose is to adjust such hours to the needs of the consumers. The respective decisions will be left to local authorities which will cooperate with the trade unions. The law provides for a possibility of extending working hours on certain workdays and holidays on the condition that compensation time be granted to the personnel.

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New Vice-Ministers

The Chairman of the Council of Ministers appointed Augustyn Piotrowski undersecretary of state (vice-minister) at the Ministry of Home Trade, while Tadeusz Skwirzynski has advanced to a similar position at the Ministry of Food Industry and Procurements.

Announcing these nominations, Radio Warsaw (March 30) did not supply any further details. So far as is known, Piotrowski was head of the trade department at the Presidium of the Voivodship People's Council in Katowice, while Skwirzynski was director of a fodder industry association (trust).

Correction: In the item on "Repressive Measures Against Students" (cf. SR March 30) please read that out of 71 members of the Socialist Youth Union who had written a letter in defense of their suspended colleague only twelve (and not all 71) were expelled from the Union.

Note: Attention is drawn to Polish Press Survey No. 2060 of March 31, and in particular to Andrzej Szczypiorski's feuilleton on the conflict between ideology and a measure of personal comfort in the period of "small stabilization."

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