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● Poland
27 January 1966

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Polish-Czechoslovak Talks

The meeting of the Polish and Czechoslovak leaders at Wisla on January 24 and 25 (cf. Czechoslovak SR January 26) continues to be a subject of reports and/or speculation in the Western press. For example, in two reports for the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (January 26 and 27), Angela Nacken, the paper's Warsaw correspondent, stressed the economic aspects of the meeting.

Judging by the composition of the Polish delegation, which -- in addition to Party First Secretary Wladyslaw Gomulka and Prime Minister Jozef Cyrankiewicz -- included three top economic leaders, Planning Commission Chairman Stefan Jedrychowski, his first deputy Tadeusz Gede, and Poland's Comecon representative, Piotr Jaroszewicz, Nacken concluded that during the meeting "also the problems of economic cooperation between the two countries and within the Comecon" must have been raised. She also referred to the forthcoming Soviet Party congress as well as to the "rumors" about a conference of Communist countries on Vietnam, on the one hand, and on the Sino-Soviet conflict, on the other.

The day after her first report on the meeting at Wisla, Nacken (cf. FAZ of today) specifically referred to one of the problems of Polish-Czechoslovak economic cooperation -- Czechoslovak supplies of industrial equipment for the expansion of a huge Polish fertilizer plant at Pulawy. In this connection, she recalled the meeting last week at Pulawy between the Czechoslovak Heavy Industry Minister Josef Krejci and the Polish Chemical Industry Minister Antoni Radlinski. This meeting was also reported by Trybuna Ludu (January 22) under the revealing title: "The Czechoslovak Side Promises to Supply on Time Machines and Equipment for Pulawy."

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Conciliatory Polish Gesture Towards Albania

Stanislaw Rogulski, Polish chargé d'affaires in Albania (at that post since mid-1964), was received on 24 January 1966 by the First Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Albania, ATA (Albanian News Agency) reported the following day. According to the ATA, the purpose of the visit was to prepare the presentation of Rogulski's credentials as ambassador to the Presidium of the Albanian People's Assembly.

The Polish Legation in Tirana was raised to embassy status on 10 July 1954; the last Polish ambassador in Tirana, Stefan Przenioslo, left Albania on 1 April 1961, having been recalled "for consultations," but he did not return to his Tirana post, and Poland had ever since been represented only by a chargé d'affaires. The recall of the Polish ambassador and the ensuing absence of a Polish ambassador in Tirana was a consequence of an incident that took place in Warsaw sometime in the summer of 1960, when the Albanian ambassador, Musin Kroj, was declared "persona non grata" by the Polish government because he had beaten up a Polish servant who had apparently burnt a carpet.

Needless to say, under normal circumstances such an offense by a diplomat would either have been disregarded altogether or settled so as not to affect the relations between the two countries. However, the incident took place at a time when it had become clear that Albania was on its way out of the Soviet bloc.

The recalled ambassador Kroj was not replaced, and the Poles therefore reciprocated by recalling theirs, Przenioslo, from Tirana. It should be noted that in mid-July 1961, a new, Albanian ambassador, Bato Karafili, did arrive in Warsaw, remaining there until December 1964, when he was replaced by a chargé d'affaires ad interim.

The present Polish move could be interpreted as a conciliatory gesture toward Albania, on the one hand, and as a gesture of Poland's "independent" policy on the other. Thus far, of the countries of the Soviet bloc, only Rumania has had a diplomat of ambassadorial rank in Tirana. It seems improbable that the Polish move is more than a gesture and indicates any sincere intention for a rapprochement with Albania even on the level of state relations.