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S I T U A T I O N R E P O R T

* Trybuna Ludu on Cooperation with Krupp

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The extensive coverage of and speculation in the West over the negotiations between the Polish regime and Krupp seem to have been the main cause of an angry article in Poland's official CP organ Trybuna Ludu of February 21.

The article stated that "for many years we have been intensively developing our foreign trade... first of all with the Comecon countries. At the same time, however, we have developed, and intend to develop further, mutually profitable trade relations with other countries, the states of the so-called 'Third World' and the highly industrialized capitalist countries." Trybuna Ludu continued: "The whole problem of trade negotiations with the firm of Krupp would not warrant any greater interest of public opinion at large than any other serious commercial talks, would it not be for the fact that they have caused exceptionally sensational and ambiguous comments by the press and propaganda centers in the German Federal Republic, the USA and other Western countries. The press suggested that representatives of Krupp had concluded an agreement that stipulates nothing less than the

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building in our country of factories that would be the property of West German capital, or the 'joint property', as it is called, of the Communist government and Krupp. Introductory commercial talks were raised to the level of great political problems."

"Do not the instigators of this political propaganda action realize that Poland will not entertain any political and institutional concessions?" asks Trybuna Ludu. The Party daily then referred to what it called "conceptions of the new eastern policy" which, in the form of economic concessions, political gestures and cultural endeavors would lead to isolation of the German Democratic Republic. Such a policy, says Trybuna Ludu has no chances of success. "The subject of our foreign trade are goods, but not ^{the} national interests of Poland." Nobody should consider that "at the price of any trade transaction with our country he will gain any political concessions."

Obviously this article has been prompted by opposition inside the Polish Party (and possibly by representatives from the GDR) against collaboration with Krupp. What the Polish regime obviously wanted was to keep the whole transaction as quiet as possible. But it has been pounced upon by the Western press which, in some cases, have reported on it in very sensational terms. This has only served to give opponents of the whole scheme much ammunition. This seems to be the reason for the Trybuna Ludu article.