

President of Mexico in Poland

Returning Cyrankiewicz's visit to Mexico (cf. Sit. Rep. 7 and 14 March) Mexican President A. Lopez Mateos is now in Warsaw on a two-day visit (1-2 April). He was invited by the Chairman of the Council of State, Aleksander Zawadzki, but his European visit has not been restricted to Poland alone (cf. Sit. Rep. 11 and 14 March).

Along with normal parties and receptions there was a ceremony on April 1 at which Zawadzki, Cyrankiewicz and Gomulka were given Mexican decorations. Political talks, in which Zawadzki, Cyrankiewicz, Witold Trampczynski, Minister of Foreign Trade and Marian Naszkowski, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs participated, were held on April 2. During the visit two documents were prepared and signed: an Official Bulletin of the visit and a Protocol on economic talks.

The bulletin dwells on the better understanding between the two nations brought about by both visits, expresses the opinion that "the basis of relationship between nations of various political structure should be peaceful cooperation and strict respect for the sovereignty of all countries and the principle of non-intervention in their internal problems". The use of the word "all" obviously has a Cuban implication. The bulletin also mentions the need for disarmament, the usefulness of creating atom-free zones in Europe and Latin America and urges the liquidation of colonialism.

While economic problems were not mentioned in the bulletin issued after the Cyrankiewicz visit to Mexico, now the "possibility of enlarging the framework of the present economic cooperation" is mentioned, while the separate Protocol states that an increase in trade volume is possible and provides for establishment of mixed Polish-Mexican Commission to study the possibility of such an increase. Lastly it was agreed that a Mexican economic mission would soon visit Warsaw.

The last interesting gesture, noted by Radio Warsaw, was a visit by the Mexican Foreign Minister to his Polish opposite

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number Adam Rapacki, now in hospital.

(Radio Warsaw 1 through 3 April, Tanjug 1 April, PAP 1,2 April, UPI 3 April.)

The Demonstrations of Nurses

There were demonstrations by Warsaw's hospital nurses on March 30 and April 2, according to foreign correspondents reporting from Warsaw.

Nurses protested against higher coal and electricity prices, or, as according to another report, demanded a raise in wages. They demonstrated in front of the Ministry of Health. Some of them (reportedly 40) went into the building to discuss the matter with the Minister and other officials, though it seems that "they had received little satisfaction". It does not seem that the demonstrations were disorderly. They were dispersed by police and some arrests were made (UPI April 2, NYT April 3). The Minister was greatly concerned that this should not be interpreted as a strike and advised the nurses to go to work. They replied that they were all on free time (UPI, April 3).

The situation of the nursing profession is known to be very bad, and there are constant complaints in Polish information media about the shortage of nurses. Their pay is poor (850 to 1,000 zloty p.m. for majority). The increase of wages granted in connection with the rise of fuel prices can be estimated at only about 27 zloty per month.

Although regime information media and foreign correspondents rarely report labor troubles (the last being those connected with the introduction of new norms in 1960), it is known from unofficial sources that there have been very many signs of worker discontent. It is to be seen whether the regime will be able to master the situation now and whether the nurses' demonstration will become only an isolated incident, or whether it will constitute the first of a whole series. (NYT April 3, NYHT April 4, UPI March 30 and April 3).

Cardinal Wyszynski's Sermon

Cardinal Wyszynski condemned as "murder" attempts at birth control in his sermon delivered on March 31 in the church of "Sisters of Visitation" in Warsaw. He stressed the fall in the birth rate in Warsaw, quoted examples even of Communist countries, such as East Germany and the Soviet Union, where "mothers who have many children are given medals and adequate financial means. With us in Poland we wish to achieve economic gains by means of cheap tricks. We have to be a bigger nation". "The leaders of bigger nations", he said, "look to the achievement of large populations to count in millions. We shall become a weakling nation. Everybody will be able to walk over us without any obstacles. We shall be unable to defend Poland". (cf Reuter March 31 and "Le Monde" April 1).

This is not the first time that the Cardinal has taken a strong stand on this subject. He devoted a sermon to it on 13 September 1959 and a pastoral letter on March 6, 1960 (cf. "Argumenty" January 24, 1960 and UPI March 7, 1960).

Changes in Press Regulations

The recent Prime Minister's regulation on supplying statistical data to the press and other agencies (cf Situation Report February 28) has within two months proved to be impracticable and has been relaxed by new, supplementary regulations, foreign correspondents reported on March 30.

The new regulations "were drawn up after representatives of the Polish journalists organizations had protested". The complaints apparently caught the government by surprise. Sources said Premier Cyrankiewicz told a delegation of newsmen who took their complaint to him that the government intention had been simply to regulate, not restrict, access to information. This was reported by Underwood in NYT of March 30, who added that "the press also received an unexpected bonus in a general statement of policy that declared: 'organs of the state administration and other state organizational units should make numerical data, statistical information and other unclassified material available to the press'".

It is not easy to guess what is behind all this. Cyrankiewicz is far too intelligent not to see that the original regulations simply made impossible any use of statistical data, and his present innocent surprise is certainly not sincere. The regulations probably originated somewhere in the CC, most probably within the Administrative Department of Witaszewski.

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Cyrankiewicz was either overruled, or more likely deliberately allowed the restrictive decree to go through and sat back to wait for the uproar which would discredit the inspirers of the decree. The latter interpretation seems to be confirmed by the readiness with which Cyrankiewicz "reportedly conceded that the regulations had been worded in such a way that a restrictive interpretation was possible".

The old regulation, with regard to unclassified material, does not now apply to journalists, publicists and government agencies "and other state organizational units". To whom then it does apply? By the elimination of the two groups it appears that it applies to the following: (a) Units of the socialized economy, (b) political organizations, (c) social organizations, (d) "scientific workers" (scholars) and students. (cf also Reuter March 30).