

Party Plenum

The 6th CC Plenum of the PUWP wound up its deliberations as suddenly as it convened after a brief day and a half session Tuesday and Wednesday morning. It is by now obvious that the first item of the agenda, referred to as "Current Problems in Agriculture," was merely to serve as a smoke screen for the real purpose of the Plenum which convened in order to put Gomulka and the Party on record regarding the Sino-Soviet dispute. This issue, perhaps more touchy to Polish than other Communists, was conveniently relegated to the morning meeting yesterday and referred to obliquely as a report by Gomulka on the meeting of communist and workers' parties which was held in Bucharest in June. While extensive tape-recorded excerpts of Gomulka's exposé on agriculture, which he delivered on Tuesday, were broadcast by Warsaw Radio yesterday, the Polish news media had as yet nothing to say about his Wednesday morning report on the Bucharest Summit Meeting. Thus far Radio Warsaw merely noted that the CC adopted appropriate resolutions regarding both points of the agenda.

Regarding Gomulka's lengthy exposé on agriculture it was in fact no more than reiteration of his September 3 address at the Warsaw "Harvest Festival" in which he called for more vigorous measures to overcome the continued backwardness of Polish agriculture. (See separate Background Report which reviews the speech in more detail.) If anything, Gomulka confirmed his and the Party's realization that whatever the solution of the shortcomings it does not lie in forced collectivization. In fact his entire speech is devoted to a pragmatic approach to ensure greater production in agriculture and only in his closing sentence does he pay lip service to the Communist creed when he says: "Only by sober, practical work to improve

agricultural methods and develop production capabilities, by an active daily work of agricultural circles and production cooperatives, and by strengthening state farms, shall we be able to move forward towards accomplishing our plans and solve such key problems as self sufficiency in grain production and pave the way towards a socialist transformation of the village."

Religion

The concentrated campaign against religious instruction in schools has been the subject of a joint declaration by the Teachers' Union (ZNP), the Socialist Youth Organization (ZMS) and the Village Youth Associations (ZMW). According to Radio Warsaw (Sept. 14) all three organizations undertake to cooperate in a joint effort to step up the process of "laicization" of schools and their closer "ties with life."

The leading cultural weekly Nowa Kultura, in an article (September 11 issue to be pouched tomorrow) by M. Kozakiewicz argues that the task of freeing schools from religious instruction is a "socialist" ideological issue and, as such, incompatible with the Western "capitalist" concept of separation of Church and State.

Pouched Today:

1. K. Studentowicz in Tygodnik Powszechny, 4.9.60, "The Polish 'Raison d'Etat' (on the German danger).
2. L.Sz. in Sztandar Mlodych, 1.9.60, "Before the Bombs Were Dropped (on the German policy of the Western powers).
3. W. Adamski in Zycie Partii, September 1960, "On Whom Should We Base Our Policy? (on agricultural policy).
4. W. Kasperski in Rada Narodowa, 27.8.60, "A New Stage in the Development of Housing Cooperatives."