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Friendship Treaty with East Germany

A treaty of friendship, cooperation and mutual aid was signed between Poland and the GDR in Warsaw on March 15.

In the preamble to the treaty, it was stated that both parties were guided by the principles of socialist internationalism; that their friendship was essential "to call a halt to the aggressive machinations of the forces of West German militarism and revanchism"; that they were determined "to insure the inviolability of the frontiers of both states and their territorial integrity"; that the Potsdam agreement and the Zgorzelec agreement of 19 July 1950 "on the demarcation of the established and existing German-Polish state frontier" constituted a "historic turning point" in the relations between the peoples of the two states; that the existence of the GDR "constitutes an important factor for safeguarding peace"; that the overcoming of "militarism and neo-Nazism is the precondition for the peaceful settlement of the German problem"; and that the future creation of a "united, peaceloving and democratic German state is possible only by normalizing relations between the two German states as a result of agreements between the GDR and the West German Federal Republic and under conditions which safeguard the security of their neighbor countries."

The 12 articles of the treaty confirmed these "theses," adding a few more precise formulations, such as "the frontier of the Polish People's Republic along the Oder and the Lusatian Neisse as well as the frontier between the GDR and the West German Federal Republic." These articles also provided for cooperation of the two signatory parties "in all spheres" -- the economic (within CEMA and bilateral), defense (within the Warsaw Pact), scientific, cultural and political. Article 7 repeated that "a normalization of relations between the two sovereign German states is in accord with the

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requirements of European security," while Article 6 said that the contracting partners viewed West Berlin "as a special political entity."

The treaty has been concluded for a period of 20 years and is to become valid upon the exchange of ratification documents, "which will take place in Berlin in the near future."

The signing of the treaty was preceded by many manifestations of at least official friendship. The East German party was greeted at the Warsaw railway station, in the morning of March 14, by almost all the members of the Politburo and the Secretariat, as well as by leaders of the "allied" parties, government officials, etc. The Radio Warsaw reporter covering the event stated that Walter Ulbricht and Wladyslaw Gomulka embraced in a "long, brotherly kiss," while Edward Ochab and Jozef Cyrankiewicz exchanged with their German guests "cordial, manly handshakes."

Notable absentees during the greeting ceremony were: Politburo member Zenon Kliszko, who led a parliamentary delegation to Egypt and returned to Warsaw only yesterday but in enough time to be present at the treaty-signing ceremony; Politburo member Edward Gierek, the Silesian Party leader, who has also been missing from a number of local events in his voivodship in which he would normally have taken part; Politburo candidate member Mieczyslaw Jagielski, who was attending a congress of 270 "leading peasants" of the Lodz voivodship but managed to return to Warsaw the next day to attend the treaty-signing ceremony; Politburo candidate member Piotr Jaroszewicz, who is in Moscow attending a meeting of the Polish-Soviet Economic Cooperation Commission; and CC Secretary Jozef Tejchma, who probably was in Lodz with Jagielski (Tejchma was also present at the treaty-signing ceremony.).

During the official talks on March 14 the Polish delegation was composed of: Gomulka, Ochab, Cyrankiewicz; United Peasant Party leader Czeslaw Wycech; Democratic Party leader Stanislaw Kulczynski; Politburo member Eugeniusz Szyr; Foreign Minister Adam Rapacki; his deputy Marian Naszkowski; ambassador to East Germany Feliks Baranowski; and Foreign Ministry departmental director Aleksander Malecki.

Their East German discussion partners were: Ulbricht, Premier Willy Stoph; Politburo member Erich Honecker; Foreign Minister Otto Winzer; the leader of the Liberal Democratic Party, Dr. Manfred Gerlach; Christian Democratic Union deputy chairman Max Seifert; Deputy Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer; ambassador to Poland Karl Mewis; and Foreign Ministry departmental director Rudolf Helmer.

During a reception, Cyrankiewicz stated that the "anti-imperialist, anti-militarist, anti-revanchist, peaceful, democratic, and socialist character of the forces represented by our guests was manifest not only in slogans and watchwords; it also victoriously passed the test of life, became reality against the background of the extremely difficult German reality."

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For his part, Gomulka assured his guests that Poland would "never agree to having as its western neighbor a militarist Germany." The security and integrity of the frontiers of the GDR is for the Poles "identical with the security of Poland and with the integrity of the frontiers of our state," he explained. In Gomulka's words, Poland and the GDR were linked by "proletarian internationalism, by unbreakable ideological and class ties, by the solidarity of our Marxist-Leninist Parties," by the Warsaw Pact and by membership in Comecon. He said that the problem of the reunification of Germany would be solved by "history".

Ulbricht attacked what he called "Kiesinger-Strauss" government in Bonn, accusing it of failing to recognize the fact that "the extent of sovereignty of the West German imperialist state ends at its eastern border, which is identical with the border of the occupation territory of the United States and Great Britain in West Germany." He again stressed that "the renunciation by the Federal Government of the claim of sole representation of all Germany and the abandonment of the revanchist policy which threatens peace are the indispensable conditions for preserving peace in Europe."

The East German party left Warsaw in the evening of March 15 for Prague, accompanied by the Czechoslovak ambassador to Poland, Oskar Jelen.

De Gaulle to Poland in June?

Quoting Paris papers, the Radio Warsaw correspondent in the French capital has reported that among a scheduled five trips by President Charles de Gaulle abroad this year is a visit to Poland in June.

Norwegian Trade Minister's Visit

Norwegian Minister of Trade and Shipping Kaare Willoch concluded on March 15 a four-day official visit to Poland, Radio Warsaw reported the same day.

According to the broadcasts, the Norwegian Minister told journalists before leaving Warsaw that his talks with Vice-Premier Piotr Jaroszewicz, Foreign Minister Adam Rapacki, Foreign Trade Minister Witold Trampczynski and Minister of Shipping Janusz Burakiewicz had dealt mainly with the preparation of a new long-term Polish-Norwegian trade agreement. He added that Poland had now become Norway's second largest East European trading partner, and that both countries were interested in the further development of mutual trade exchanges.

The current year is the last under a three-year trade agreement signed between Poland and Norway in Warsaw on 30 October 1964. The trade protocol for 1967 included small cargo ships for the first time on the list of Polish exports to Norway, (cf. SR November 10) and it is safe to assume that Poland would like to have this become a permanent item in Polish-Norwegian trade.

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Finnish C-in-C in Poland

The commander of the Finnish Armed Forces, Lt.Gen.Yrjoe Keinonen, arrived in Warsaw on March 14 for what PAP described as a 10-day official visit at the invitation of Defense Minister Marshal Marian Spychalski. Keinonen is accompanied by his wife and aide-de-camp, Lt. Col. Erkki Pormila.

Casaroli and Kominek Back in Poland

Mgsr. Agostino Casaroli arrived in Poznan on March 14 to continue talks with Polish clergy and laymen on Catholic life in Poland, UPI reported on the same day.

The day before, Archbishop Boleslaw Kominek returned to his diocese of Wroclaw after a visit to Rome and a sojourn in Austria for a medical check-up.

Reuter reported on March 14 that Kominek had also made a trip to Yugoslavia, where he "had been impressed by the degree of freedom now enjoyed by the Catholic Church in that country."

According to the two agencies, Casaroli will, after visiting Gniezno, Poznan (where he was slated to have talks with Archbishop Antoni Baraniak) and Gorzow Wielkopolski, travel to Wroclaw, where he will meet Kominek.