

Gomulka Speaks at SED Congress

Gomulka was the first speaker this morning at the SED Congress, Polish and East German official media reported. He offered full support for Nikita Khrushchev, particularly on the German problem and on ^{the} Soviet-Chinese controversy. He urged the cessation of intra-Party polemics and public airing of differences. Time is needed to bring the erring comrades on the road of Marxism-Leninism, the Polish Party chief said. He expressed full support for Ulbricht's "measures" in East Berlin (meaning the wall) and dwelt on the advantage of Poland having across its western "peace and friendship" frontier a neighbor who fights for peace and socialism.

Gomulka's position at the Congress seems to rank immediately second after Khrushchev. On his arrival in Berlin January 14 he was greeted by Walter Ulbricht and high ranking East German politicians. Radio Warsaw stressed that almost the same complement, "understandably also with Walter Ulbricht" greeted Khrushchev when he arrived a few hours after Gomulka. The next day the Poles were greeted second to the Soviet delegation in Ulbricht's welcoming speech. This morning again Gomulka entered the hall with Khrushchev and Ulbricht, and they were greeted with "stormy applause", ADN reported.

Rapacki for India

Adam Rapacki left Warsaw for India this morning, the Polish Radio reported (cf. Sit. Rep. January 14).

Coal Crisis

Measures are ^{being} taken to cope with coal shortages in the country, chief Polish planner Stefan Jedrychowski told PAP yesterday. He announced cuts in coal exports, in street lighting and other non-productive use of electricity as well as suspension of a number of passenger trains.

The causes of the shortage lie not so much in production as in distribution hampered and even paralysed by severe frosts and snowdrifts in Poland, particularly its southern and south-western parts including the Silesian coal basin. At least 16,000 railwaymen, including administrative personnel, and a number of Army units have been thrown in to remove snow from the rails, to make frozen switches work and even to dig out whole trains from under the drifts. In this situation even Jedrychowski's announcement about first priority allotted to coal-carrying trains does not seem to be of any value.

The distribution crisis has been only brought to light by increased coal consumption and by almost total paralysis of transport. The real cause of the crisis, however, is the inefficiency of rail transport in the past. According to Wieslaw Szyndler-Glowacki writing in "Zycie Gospodarcze" January 13, a shortage of coal trucks was felt already in the first half of 1962. Beginning August 1962 the state-run railways supplied an average of ten trains less than needed everyday. Thus the coalmines had to store coal by the side of the rails. As a result coal reserves at the beginning of September 1962 were twice as high as in September 1961. This statement seems to contradict one made by Gomulka in December 1962 (cf. Sit.Rep. December 7) when the Party First Secretary said that the reserves were lower by one third than a year before. On this point Jedrychowski - as quoted by Reuter - confirmed the absence of sufficient reserves.

Hagmajer's Speech

Please read the last sentence of Sit.Rep. January 14 as follows: "Hagmajer referred to the budget in a few passages at the beginning of his speech and in the last sentence when he expressed Pax's full support for the government draft". (This amendment is based on the full text of Hagmajer's speech published by "Kierunki" December 30.)

More on Cardinal Wyszynski Polemics with "Argumenty"

The following supplement is required in connection with Cardinal Wyszynski's polemics with "Argumenty" (cf. Sit. Rep. January 14). It turns out that Wieslaw Myslek published another article in the same paper on January 6 where he repeated the charges made on December 16. In addition to criticizing Polish bishops for "passiveness" on the matter of the Oder-Neisse territories, Myslek expressly reproached them for their "firmly negative" attitude toward the conference of priests in Wroclaw (cf. Sit.Rep. November 26). Myslek also shed some light on the nature of Polish bishops' intervention regarding "Annuario Pontificio" (cf. Sit.Rep.) December 11). According to him this intervention concerned only former Gdansk bishop ordinary, Karl Maria Splett, now in Germany, while the problem of nomenclature in other dioceses in Oder-Neisse areas was left out. "Annuario Pontificio" is not available here yet, and we do not know what sort of changes, if any, had been made on this account. (The "Argumenty" article of December 16 is available in English translation in today's Polish Press Survey.)