

Regime Coverage of Robert Kennedy's Visit

While the details of a rousing welcome to Robert Kennedy by the Polish population have become known from numerous Western agency reports from Warsaw and Cracow, official Polish information media have been much restrained on this point. The first news about Kennedy's arrival was given by Radio Warsaw as late as June 28 at noon (local time) in the form of a terse communiqué reading as follows: "The Attorney-General of the United States, Mr. Robert Kennedy, with family arrived last night by a special aircraft for a short private visit to Poland". Four hours later, more was given in the newscast about Kennedy's sojourn in Warsaw. After repeating the previous short news on arrival, Radio Warsaw said that the American guest had made a sightseeing/<sup>tour</sup> of Warsaw, stopping, among other places, at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, at the Old City, and at the monument of the Heroes of the Ghetto. It was also said that he had paid a visit to the University of Warsaw, and that he would be a guest at a dinner given in his honor by Justice Minister Marian Rybicki. Following this news, the weekly review of world events devoted about 160 words to what Kennedy said, Polish journalists at the Warsaw airport upon his arrival the day before. The same feature was repeated in another review of weekly events at 20.05 hours. Almost at the same time, Polish television carried its first news, with films, of Kennedy's arrival the day before.

Today, till 16 hours Polish local time, not a word could be traced in Radio Warsaw monitoring. However, PAP reported that the visit was front-paged in Warsaw newspapers today. "Trybuna Ludu" carried Kennedy's picture on page two.

In this connection, it is instructive to learn that the first of the East Bloc media, Radio Prague, broadcast the news about the imminent arrival of Kennedy in Warsaw on June 27 at 19 hours, and at 22 hours reported on the arrival itself. Second to beat Radio Warsaw was, of all the stations, Radio Tirana, which reported on the arrival in Warsaw of US Attorney-General at 22 hours June 27.