

RADIO FREE EUROPE *Research*

EAST EUROPE

Poland/39
6 May 1968

S I T U A T I O N R E P O R T

- + Anti-Zionist Campaign Continues
- + Purges, Dismissals, Appointments
- + East-West Contacts
- + Correction

Anti-Zionist Campaign Continues

At least three main speakers at a plenary session of the Main Board of ZBoWiD (the Veterans' Association), which took place in Warsaw on May 4, attacked what they called the "devilish alliance" of the FRG and Israel and condemned "international Zionism" for conducting a campaign devised to present Poland as an anti-Semitic country, Radio Warsaw reported on May 4. The speakers were: the Main Board's chairman, Mieczyslaw Moczar; Col. Jan Mazurkiewicz, chairman of a ZPoWiD committee for cooperation with Polish war veterans in foreign countries and a former outstanding member of the Home Army; and Janusz Wieczorek, Main Board Presidium member and chairman of the Council for the Preservation of the Monuments to Struggle and Martyrdom.

Of the three speeches, the most important one was that of Moczar. He enumerated the tasks of ZBoWiD as follows: particular attention is to be paid to the patriotic education of youth "demasking" the "revisionist and militarist" policy of the FRG and strengthening friendship and brotherhood between Poland and the "socialist" countries. In addition, Moczar said, ZBoWiD will "propagate the leading role of the Party" in the campaign preceding the Fifth Party Congress. Regarding the first task, ZBoWiD will disseminate among youth "the fullest possible knowledge of the struggle of our nation in the fight for independence and for the building of socialism" Wlodzimierz Lechowicz, a Main Board deputy chairman, said in an interview with Zycie Warszawy (May 4). For this purpose, courses have been set up by ZBoWiD for teachers of history and Polish language and literature, Lecnowicz revealed. He also said that the

6 May 1968

next ZBoWiD congress will take place in May 1969. As covered by Radio Warsaw (May 4), the speech of Moczar contained the obligatory critical references to Vietnam, the conflict in the Middle East, and the FRG, but the stress was on the "anti-Polish campaign conducted in the world by international Zionism" and on "ideological diversion" in Poland. In this latter respect, Moczar complained that mass media organizations were infiltrated by people who "in spirit were alien to, or had an outright inimical attitude to socialism, to the People's Poland." He appealed to film, radio and television writers and producers for "patriotic and deeply humanistic" works which would be constructive and "free from cynicism and psychological extravagance." He dangled a carrot when he stated: "We, the members of ZBoWiD, offer our help to the above mentioned if only they are willing to accept it."

In a different version of his speech carried by PAP in English, May 4, Moczar restated that "Zionist circles in Poland" were responsible for the "March events" -- the hard-line interpretation, in contrast to Gomulka's stress on external enemies and revisionists. He also accused voices in certain "cosmopolitan milieus" of questioning the regime's German policy; on the other hand, he noted the emergence in West Germany "of moderate progressive trends among German youth, among intellectuals and some of the progressive religious groups" -- apparently the first such recognition of positive voices in West Germany.

But that was (as reported by Radio Warsaw) all Moczar said about the internal situation. Most significant in this speech was the lack of any reference to the Party CC, to the Party leadership and, above all, the lack of the obligatory (after March) pledge of loyalty to "Comrade Wieslaw."

The day after the ZBoWiD meeting on May 5, a plenary session of the Main Council of the Polish Students' Association took place in Warsaw. It was attended by Education and Higher Schools' Minister Henryk Jablonski and by deputy head of the CC Science and Education Department Zenon Wroblewski. In his report, the association's chairman, Jerzy Piatkowski, made "an analysis of the recent events in the student milieu" and stressed "in particular the smear campaign unleashed by international Zionist circles." Piatkowski accused these "Zionist circles" as well "reactionary circles in the West" of provoking "the events" at Polish universities. He postulated more political education at the universities, in cooperation with youth organizations, easier conditions for "recruitment of young workers of science" and making university rectors "independent of the university senate," i. e., for rectors to be representatives of administrative authority. (For other suggestions on the reorganization

6 May 1968

of the universities cf. Polish Situation Report/37, Radio Free Europe Research, April 29).

Reference to Zionism were also made by Premier Jozef Cyrankiewicz who, on May 2, took part in a Party conference at the Nowotko Mechanical Plant in Warsaw. "The present period," Cyrankiewicz said, "is a period of acute psychological warfare on the part of imperialist centers." This calls for "full confidence in the leadership of the PUPW and in Wladyslaw Gomułka." The present struggle (of the Party) is one "for the good name of the People's Poland," Cyrankiewicz stated. "Zionism," he continued, which is an agency of American imperialism and an ally of Bonn, is conducting a broad campaign of smearing Poland and the Polish nation and of whitewashing the fascists who murdered Poles, Jews, and millions of people of other nationality." Referring to the present witch hunt (he called it, euphemistically, "Party work"), Cyrankiewicz on the one hand encouraged criticism but, on the other hand, stressed that "irresponsible criticism" should be opposed.

As if in defiance of this advice of the prime minister, Radio Warsaw reported on May 3 that "in recent days" a crash meeting ("w trybie przyspieszonym") of the Party organization of the Polish film industry had taken place, attended by Wincenty Krasko, head of the CC Culture Department, and Tadeusz Zaorski, deputy minister of Culture and the Arts. Three reports were submitted by the resigning executive of the Party organization: 1) on the recent press criticism of the film milieu (there was an avalanche of such articles); 2) on financial control of film studios by the Supreme Chamber of Control; and 3) on losses sustained by the Polish film industry through coproduction with Western companies. The discussion centered on the "substantial deficiencies of Party and ideological life" in the film milieu and on the "attitudes" of the leading film-makers. As a result of the meeting, artistic and literary directors, as well as production chiefs of all eight film studios, were dismissed, one distinguished producer, Alexander Ford, was expelled from the Party, and another reprimanded. A new Party executive was elected, the new first secretary of the basic Party cell became Jerzy Passendorfer, the producer of The Hues of Battle, the filmed version of the book of the same title by Mieczyslaw Moczar.

The purge of the Polish film industry has had a clearly anti-Semitic character. Almost all the leading producers recently attacked in the press for "nihilism" and offenses such as drawing large royalties were Jews. Many of them were accused of collusion with Zionist circles abroad and contributing to "anti-Polish" propaganda. The anti-Semitic character of the recent witch hunt, not only in the film world, was best evidenced in an article in Dziennik Lodzki (a

6 May 1968

local Lodz paper) of April 25. Reporting on the expulsion from the Party of a press distribution director, the daily referred, inter alia, to such an offense as inability to establish when and under what circumstances the director changed his Jewish-sounding name to a Polish one. Further evidence of officially-inspired anti-Semitism was reported by Jonathan Randal (The New York Times, May 2) who referred to a banner showing "a long-nosed hunchback identified as a Zionist" carried in the May Day parade in Warsaw. Also, Angela Nacken reported (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, May 3) a banner reading "Citizens of Poland have only one fatherland," an obvious reference to Jews whom Moczar and his supporters prefer to call "Zionists."

Purges, Dismissals, Appointments

Marian Zychlinski, director of a press distribution agency in Lodz, was expelled from the Party on April 24, Dziennik Lodzki reported the next day (cf. preceding item). The Party organization also suggested his dismissal from his post. The daily referred to a "thick file" pertaining to Zychlinski's activities. One of the documents in the file contained an entry to the effect that "it was not possible to establish under what conditions there had been a change of the name Cwajgeschaft to Zychlinski."

Ryszard Stemplowski was removed from the post of deputy chairman of the Polish Students' Association (cf. preceding item), Radio Warsaw reported on May 5. He was replaced by Wlodzimierz Konarski, the permanent representative of the association at the International Student Union. No reasons for the dismissal of Stemplowski were given.

Aleksander Ford, 60, often referred to as "the father of Polish movies," was expelled from the Party, Radio Warsaw reported on May 3 (cf. preceding item). He was, inter alia, accused of "contacts with the ardent West-German Zionist (film producer) Artur Brauner." Ford refused to accept the criticism leveled at him, Radio Warsaw stressed. Another film producer, Jan Rybkowski, was saved from expulsion by public breastbeating, but was reprimanded for the "errors" he committed by producing the film When Love Was a Crime. (The "errors" consisted in a human approach to the problems of a couple in love, a German and a Pole, showing their personal weaknesses -- according to earlier press criticism, a "slander" against Poland.) Other producers who performed an act of "self-criticism" and thus escaped Party punishment were: Czeslaw Petelski, Wanda Jakubowska, and Jerzy Kawalerowicz.

6 May 1968

In addition to being reprimanded, Rybkowski was deprived of the post of first secretary of the basic Party cell in the Polish movie industry, the NYT reported on May 4.

Mieczyslaw Szelagowski, former (emphasis supplied) deputy head of military studies at the Szczecin Polytechnical Institute, was expelled from the Party for an "anti-Party attitude," Radio Warsaw reported on May 3. Also expelled from the Party for the same reason was Julian Szenkelback, senior assistant lecturer at the Pomeranian Medical Academy in Szczecin, the same source reported.

At least three more expulsions from the Party were reported by the local Szczecin paper Glos Szczecinski (April 27-28): Benjamin Pojman, chairman of a producers' cooperative, Julian Szylkert, employee of a building enterprise; and Dawid Majdenberg, former (emphasis supplied) department head in the voivodship union of producers' cooperatives. Majdenberg was accused of not disclosing his earlier conviction for bribery.

Ignacy Sachs was dismissed from the post of docent attached to the Chair of International Economic Relations of the International Trade Department at the Higher School of Planning and Statistics in Warsaw, UPI reported on May 4. The same source also reported the dismissal of Kazimierz Laski, professor extraordinary in the Chair of Political Economy at the Higher School of Planning and Statistics in Warsaw and from the same position at the Higher (Party) School of Social Sciences. Earlier, he had resigned from the position of chairman of the Warsaw branch of the Polish Economic Society.

Jan Frankowski "received a vacation from the position of chairman of the Christian Social Association and from the post of editor-in-chief of the (Association's) weekly Za i przeciw," a rather unexpected source, the "Znak" weekly Tygodnik Powszechny, reported on April 21. No reasons were given, but it is safe to assume that Frankowski's dilatory tactics and his lack of decision (particularly at a time when every exposed citizen of the People's Poland is asked to "take a stand") contributed to his "vacationing." This might well have been brought about by members of the association.

Dr. Jerzy Molczyk, deputy chairman of the Presidium of the Municipal People's Council in Warsaw, was appointed director of the State Scholarly Publishing House (PWN) in Warsaw, Radio Warsaw reported on May 3.

East-West Contacts

Italy - A young pianist from Warsaw, Ewa Osinska, received the second prize at the international piano competition in Naples

6 May 1968

(no first prize awarded), Radio Warsaw reported on May 2.

Switzerland - Contemporary Polish music is the main feature of this years "Diorama," a musical event organized by Radio Suisse Romande now taking place in several Swiss towns. Reporting on the event, Radio Warsaw (May 2) added that the Polish composer Witold Lutoslawski will be the honorary guest and conductor of the "Diorama," which will include a tour of the Polish National Philharmonic Orchestra, various exhibitions, a festival of Polish films and a performance of the Mazowsze song and dance ensemble.

Denmark - Poland's Vice Minister of Navigation Stefan Perkowski arrived in Copenhagen on May 2, accompanied by his wife and the shipping department vice director, on a one-week official visit as guest of the Danish government, to confer with the Danish trade minister and the fisheries minister, an RFE Special from Stockholm reported the same day.

The Polish stand at the International Fisheries Fair was visited on May 2 by King Frederick IX, according to a Radio Warsaw broadcast of May 3.

"Gdynia Days" opened on May 3 in the Danish town of Aalborg with a number of events featuring the economic and cultural life of the Polish town, Radio Warsaw announced the same day and said that a delegation of Gdynia municipal authorities is attending the "Gdynia Days."

Sweden - Great Britain - The ministers of building construction from Sweden and Great Britain will visit Poland at the invitation of their Polish counterpart, Marian Olewinski, Radio Warsaw announced on May 3. The aim of the visit will be to further closer scientific and technical cooperation with Poland in the field of building construction and to get acquainted with Polish achievements and plans in this field.

France - Georges Villers, the honorary chairman of the Council of French Industrialists and the chairman of the France-East Europe Committee, left Poland on May 4 after a three-day stay at the head of a delegation of French industrialists, Radio Warsaw reported the same day, adding that the remaining members of the delegation are continuing their talks with representatives of Polish industry and foreign trade.

According to an earlier broadcast (May 3), the 20-man delegation, which arrived in Warsaw on May 2, was received the following day by Premier Jozef Cyrankiewicz.

6 May 1968

Correction

It was reported in Polish SR/37, RFER, April 29) that Trybuna Ludu of April 26 failed to refer to a key passage in the speech delivered on April 25 in Opole by Boleslaw Jaszczuk. As a matter of fact, Jaszczuk spoke twice, on April 24 and 25, and it was in his first speech that he said: "It has turned out that Zionism, in itself, is not our main enemy. The main opponent is social reaction, revisionism, in whose ranks Zionism has found almost ideal food for its activity." This passage appeared -- as a direct quotation -- in Trybuna Ludu of April 25.