

The Results of Party Congress

No spectacular changes can be seen in the outcome of the elections to the top Party authorities at the conclusion of the Fourth Congress on June 20. The new Politburo has been brought to its previous size of twelve members by the inclusion of two newcomers, Eugeniusz Szyr and Franciszek Waniolka, both deputy prime ministers, economic Party apparatchiks known for their executive abilities in the overseeing of the performance of the economic plan. At least two more economic technocrats have received a distinction by being appointed candidate-members of the Politburo, a status abandoned in October 1956 but re-introduced now. They are Mieczyslaw Jagielski, Minister of Agriculture, and Piotr Jaroszewicz, Polish representative at the Comecon. The third man elected as candidate-member is CC secretary Ryszard Strzelecki, the leader (together with Mieczyslaw Moczar, the Deputy Minister of Interior) of the group commonly known as partisans. In addition to about five or six promotions of the group at the lower level of CC candidates membership, Strzelecki's distinction (apparent rather than having any value in terms of power) seems to be the only gain the group can claim, a negligible in comparison with their own expectations.

The CC Secretariat numbers eight members, as in the past, but there has been a replacement of Edward Gierek by Jozef Tejchma, head of the CC Agricultural Department (cf. Sit. Rep. 19 September 1963). It is difficult to say that Gierek has been demoted, for he still has retained his Politburo position. Being in charge -- as first secretary -- of the most important Polish province of Upper Silesia (Katowice), he may have been simply relieved of the excessive burden of work.

These changes of the top Party leadership stress the importance of economic problems, to which the Congress was mainly devoted. Thus, Stefan Jedrychowski, Szyr, Waniolka, Jaroszewicz and Boleslaw Jaszczuk (Secretariat) form an economic team, with stress on industry, while Edward Ochab, Jagielski and Tejchma are in charge of agriculture. One may conclude that Party First Secretary Wladyslaw Gomulka has again shown his predilection for experts rather than politicians.

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Other aspects of the Congress, particularly external and internal Party relations, have been discussed in the TARA paper "The Polish Party Congress" of June 21, F-49 through 56. Regarding the latter, there are two errors which need correction. It is not for the first time that the position of candidate member of Politburo has been created, since -- as already mentioned above -- the position existed before October 1956, and has been recontinued now. Another error pertains to Jozef Lenart who was, but is no more, first secretary of the Party organization at the Warsaw branch of the Polish Writers' Union.

Regarding the new composition of the new Central Committee, numbering now 85 full and 78 candidate members (compared with 77 full and 63 candidate members in the old one), a detailed analysis is being prepared, and the results will be supplied at a future date. A cursory examination of the list reveals small gains for the partisans, and considerable losses for the former Pulawska group (Roman Zambrowski). The "socialist" group headed by Prime Minister Jozef Cyrankiewicz and Foreign Minister Adam Rapacki (both retained their Politburo positions) seems to have held its own. Otherwise, as in the case of top Party authorities, the overwhelming majority of the members of the CC are Party or state apparatchiks who have managed to develop into full-fledged technocrats. The conclusion seems to be obvious: retention of political balance with stress on economy.