

CS Relations

Novotny and his entourage continue to receive the red carpet treatment on their conducted tour of Poland. It is by now obvious that no effort is being spared to revive the "brotherly spirit" between the two nations whose relationship towards each other within the socialist camp has ever since the Polish October 1956 been both politically and economically rather restrained.

The CS Party and Government delegation was split into two groups, one with Novotny toured the Upper Silesian area while the other headed by Jankovcova, deputy premier and economical expert, visited the Cracow region. Gomulka, evidently preparing for his forthcoming trip to New York left his guests in Katowice (Upper Silesia). Novotny, escorted by Zawadzki, the nominal head of the Council of State, proceeded on a visit of the Western territories. The highlight of the tour yesterday was a mass rally at Wroclaw (Breslau) where both of them as principal speakers exchanged mutual assurances of neighborly assistance. The greatest emphasis, however, was given once again to the German issue and it would not be surprising if the Oder-Neisse question became subject of a bloc declaration at the forthcoming United Nations meeting.

Religion in Schools

The provincial press (i.e. Glos Robotniczy, Lodz, August 29, Gazeta Zielonogorska, Sept 2) is being mobilized in the concentrated campaign to abolish "voluntarily" religious instruction in public schools. What seem like syndicated articles by the same author (Barbara Druzdzia) propagandize the progress of laicization in schools. It is said that in the Katowice region already 424 schools relinquished religious instruction, while in the Czestochowa area out of 57 public schools 50 have followed the "progressive" trend. All in all, according to these articles, already 20% of all public schools in Poland have excluded religion from the curricula. This, if true, would indicate a hundred per cent jump over the last published figures. It is on the school front that the Church-State relationship is drawing to a marked conflict.

Agriculture -- Collectives

Since Gomulka's harvest festival address (cf. Situation Report Sept 8) in which he admonished stubborn Polish peasants for their backwardness, great propaganda emphasis is given to the growth and progress of agricultural circles. In a program entitled "From and About the Village" (Warsaw, 8 Sept) M. Bodalski, secretary of the Central Agricultural Circles Union evaluated in glowing terms the work of agricultural circles and their progress towards mechanization. The speaker used the old propaganda device by padding the figures. By claiming the existence of 23,000 circles and the membership of over 800,000 he admittedly included in the totals the so-called "Village Housewives Circles", which are in fact nothing more than a type of women's social association.

Likewise figures published by the Central Statistical Office on the result of the June agricultural census from which it appears that there is a 4% increase in the number of cattle and 12.5% increase in the number of pigs proves once again how fictitious was the earlier alarm about a meat crisis because of the alleged shortage of fodder. Once the regime reinstated the incentives making cattle breeding profitable, the situation showed an immediate and marked improvement.

News Media

As reported yesterday, in the new series of economic programs introduced by Radio Warsaw, two more talks were monitored here. The programs entitled "The Philosophy of an Incentive" attempt in a well reasoned manner to spur the listener to greater effort to better his lot. The accent, significantly enough, is on the value of incentives rather than pressures.

Another new feature introduced by the Polish radio are foreign language courses which will commence in October. Russian, English and French are being offered on alternate days of the week. It is noteworthy that all three courses are allotted equal time.

Pouched:

(1) Zycie Gospodarcze (Sept 4), S. Frenkel on the importance of foreign trade for adequate supply of raw material; (2) Special Supplement of PPS: W. Sokorski on the new radio programs; (3) Slowo Powszechne



(August 31), K.Zb. voices regime Catholics views on West German revanchism; (4) Glos Pracy (August 30), A.R. on the results of a poll conducted among Polish teachers regarding their religious feelings; W.S. on the delays in obtaining invalid pensions; (5) Sztandar Mlodych (August 31), A. Wyszbacka deals with the teaching of ethics.