

Coverage of Cooper's Flight

Quoting "Agence France Presse", Radio Warsaw reported May 15 in its 15.00 hours (local time) newscast that at 14.04 hours "American cosmonaut Gordon Cooper was shot from the launching pad on Cape Canaveral into space". The item was first in the newscast. The same priority was awarded the progress of flight in the ensuing newscasts. At 21.00 hours Polish listeners could hear a sound reportage from Cape Canaveral covering the start of Faith 7. Earlier Radio Warsaw gave technical details of the booster and of the space capsule, stressing that the latter is very small "owing to the fact that the Americans still do not possess sufficiently powerful rockets".

Economic Report for First Quarter

The summary of Jedrychowski's report to the Sejm (cf. Sit. Rep. May 13), as given by "Trybuna Ludu" May 11, is available now. The fulfillment of the plan for 1963 will not be possible in certain branches of industry, particularly in building industry, which suffered most from severe winter. Also endangered is the export of agricultural produce. According to Jedrychowski, there are two main reasons for the present unfavorable economic position of Poland: 1) the not too good economic results of 1962, 2) severe winter conditions in the first quarter of 1963. The crucial problem now is the relation of the wage fund to the value of production. In the first quarter the wage fund was by about 500 million zlotys higher than justified by the level of production. Jedrychowski stressed that when the 1963 plan was discussed by Workers' Self-government Conferences, criticism of the plan centered on too high tasks of work efficiency and capital accumulation and on too small indices of employment and wage fund. That means, Jedrychowski concluded, that technical progress has found no application "in the practice of planning". Production losses, as compared with the plan, were estimated at about 3.6 billion zlotys in the first quarter, of which some 600 million zlotys worth of production was made good during March 1963. As compared with the last year's performance production increased in April 1963 by about seven to eight percent, and in the first four months by about 2.8 percent. Since the plan for 1963 provided for a five percent increase only, Jedrychowski was optimistic about reaching the planned goal in overall industrial production by the end of 1963. However, this will be possible only through increased work efficiency and, in this connection, the wage fund will be increased by 1.5 billion zlotys over the plan.

16 MAY 1963

On this point "Zycie Gospodarcze" May 12 added that during the first quarter the average nominal wage increased by two percent while the wage fund showed an increase of seven percent. The latter figure most probably includes what Jedrychowski named "wage regulation" already carried through to the value of over 800 million zlotys. The lion's share of this increase was given to Polish railwaymen. In this connection a correction is needed in Sit. Rep. May 9 to the effect that railwaymen are not slated for a 20 percent wage increase since they had already gotten their increase. The latter was announced by Gomulka in his April 17 speech.

Food Shortages

Information reaching RFE continues to stress food shortages all over the country. In this connection Jedrychowski pointed out in his Sejm report that the state procurement of meat during the first four months of 1963 was only 95.3 percent as compared with the corresponding period of 1962. He also admitted plan deficits in procurement of milk, eggs and poultry. Minister of Home Trade Mieczyslaw Lesz explained in an article in "Trybuna Ludu" May 13 that there had been "a definite drop" in the production of milk and "a slight drop" in the hog population (by eight percent). However, cattle population increased, Lesz said. As a result of the bad fodder and procurement situation, the market will be supplied during the second quarter with 4.9 percent less meat and five percent less butter than in the corresponding period of 1962. In this connection substitute fats will be put on the market, and these will not only cover the deficit but also increase the overall sum of fats available to the population by 12 percent as compared with the corresponding period of 1962.

Comecon Meeting Ends

The Sixth Session of the Executive Committee of the Comecon ended in Warsaw May 13 "late evening", Radio Warsaw reported. "A progress report on the work of the Comecon in the last year has been prepared to be submitted to the 18th Session of the Council", all satellite news media stressed. This seems to be the only point on which the session itself and news agencies agreed.

16 MAY 1963

Polish-West German Trade Mission

Bernd Mumm von Schwarzenstein, the present West German Ambassador to Luxembourg, was referred to by a German paper as future head of the West German trade mission in Warsaw. Bonn officials declined to confirm the news, RFE Special reported May 15. However, they confirmed that Helmut Allardt who negotiated the recent Polish-West German trade agreement will lead a German group which will visit the Poznan Fair next month.

Note: Attention is drawn to Tadeusz Kotarbinski article in "Przegląd Kulturalny" May 1 on freedom to speak the truth (cf. Polish Press Survey No. 1533 of today).