

616/1
99

Electoral Campaign in Voivodship Committees of the PUWP

Summary

Between 20 December 1966 and 25 February 1967, electoral conferences took place ~~XXXX~~ in Voivodship Party organizations. These conferences brought no persons ^{NEK} changes in ^{the} leading positions on PUWP Voivodship Committees. The discussions were dominated by economic subjects and by ideological matters, with special emphasis on exerting influence over non-Party people and youth. Members of the Politburo and ~~XXXXXX~~ secretaries of the CC participated in the conferences, and several speeches were made ^W at the conferences, many of them going beyond national problems.

+ + +

According to the statute of the Polish United Workers' Party, ~~a~~ ^{the} voivodship conference is the ^{supremebody} authority of the voivodship Party organization. A Voivodship Committee (elected at the conference) ^{in the period} rules between conferences. Voivodship conferences, called every two years, apart from electing a committee, receive reports on the Party activities ^{during} of the past term and prepare directives for the future term. ^{They} ~~Conferences~~ are attended by by leading Party functionaries ~~(Members of the Politburo, secretaries of the CC and leading members of the CC)~~ and representatives of other parties. The former are in charge of watching over the correct course of the conference, especially from the point of view of implementing the current

CC line. Speeches made on ^{this} that occasion are mainly devoted to Party tactics,

^{and it} This is chiefly responsible for ^{this reason that the} the interest with which public opinion,

particularly outside Poland, watches these conferences. ^{with some interest} Voivodship,

Moreover, they ~~also~~ conferences, apart from the limited amount of information about the actual

^{offer} course of the conferences, ~~XXX~~ at the same time a good opportunity for

learning the feelings ^{current} in the Party, on the basis of statements of local

Party functionaries and activists.

This year's electoral campaign took place in an atmosphere of ² certain

disappointment ^{over} in the unfavorable economic results ^{of the past} in recent times. This

concerns both the economic results in 1966 /the first year of the current

five-year plan/ and ~~of~~ the results of the previous five-year period,

published in 1966. The electoral campaign was also the first ^{bigger} more extensive

Party ^{event} action after the dissonance between the Party and the Church resulting

from ^{the} Millennium celebrations and after the recent Party reprisals against

writers and scholars. All in all, this atmosphere influenced the subject

matter and the emphasis in discussion. One even gets the impression that

the main task of the conference was, ~~to be~~, according to directives of the

Politburo, ^{to be} a struggle against this atmosphere and a stronger ideological

offensive ^{aimed at} on non-Party circles.

Economic matters dominated the ^{the} The dominant subject of discussions at voivodship conferences, were

~~economic matters~~. This ^{was reflected} took place in "gala" speeches on ^{past} the achievements of

4

~~the past~~ and prospects for the future, but ^{the} main attention was devoted to concrete economic subjects and suggestions for improvement. Despite the restrained tone, there was no lack of criticism. ^A ~~Good~~ deal of attention was devoted to problems of labor productivity and employment. These matters were discussed ^{in connection with} ~~as an illustration of~~ the implementation of resolutions ^{adapted} ~~made~~ at the Seventh CC Plenum. This plenum took place towards the end of 1966 and was devoted to means ^{of} ~~raising~~ the effectiveness of the production process. After that plenum, among other things, production organization commissions were created in several factories, and several speakers ^{at the conferences} ~~described~~ the effects of the work of these commissions. ~~(One of such effects has been~~ the dismissal of employees whose jobs become ^{the better} ~~proper~~ organization of work.)

Much of the discussion concerned problems of exports and export production. Characteristically, the problem of ~~XXXXXX~~ profitability of exports was strongly stated /"if some product does not guarantee profitability -- it should be withdrawn!"/. ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ ~~Equally strongly~~ ⁽²⁾ ~~emerged~~ in the course of discussion, the problem of modernization of production. Depending on ~~the~~ voivodship, frequently [✓] agricultural economic problems dominated.

All in all, this part of the discussion was devoted to one leading ^{idea} ~~thought~~ -- ensuring an improvement of economic results in the current five-year plan. Characteristic here is ^{the} ~~a~~ statement made by Jozef CYRANKIEWICZ

at the conference in Wroclaw, namely that "production results are the test of the political attitude."

This does not mean, however, that political matters were overshadowed by ^{the} economy. Quite the contrary, they were almost always an equally important subject of the conference. Compared to most conferences, Cyrankiewicz's statement ^{is} ^{being} rather an exception.

A lot of attention was devoted to ideological influence on the public and to ^{the} ideological offensive in general. Generally, representatives of the central Party authorities raised this problem. In particular, they emphasized the importance of ideological influence on youth, even in high schools.

Fairly characteristic are the phrases which ~~return~~ ^{reappeared} commonly in speeches:

insufficient ideological influence; need for ideological toughness; ^{stimulation} ~~release~~

of social activity; struggle against passivity, consolidation of Party

deeds ranks; ~~XXXXX~~ should not belie words; ~~XXXXX~~ ideological work must consider

our great national and international tasks; all society must be engaged in

the building of socialism, etc. Frequent mention was also made about Party

members' ethics and Party morality.

In general, one ^{gains} ~~got~~ the impression that the idea of the conferences

was to create an atmosphere of ideological activity, ^{to counteract} ~~weakened by~~ the bold

statements of certain leading Party writers and scholars. Words were spoken

which can be taken as a warning ^{to those who might want to imitate them} for possible ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ imitators. At the

Conference in Cracow, Zenon KLISZKO stated that ideological unity is obligatory ^{for anyone who} ~~if one~~ ^{be} desires to ~~XXXXXX~~ a Party member. Most important ^{in this respect} seem to ~~have been~~ ^{be} the conferences in Katowice and Warsaw, in which Wladyslaw GOMULKA participated. At the Katowice conference, a particularly strong connection was drawn between ~~the~~ ideological influence and ~~the~~ rejuvenation of Party ranks. ~~One received the impression~~ ^{It appears} that the fact that ~~large~~ ^{the} numbers of young people ^{in the PZWP} ~~who~~ have been Party members for only a short time ^{is} ~~awaken~~ ^{causing} alarm ~~as to the~~ ^{about the possibility of} maintaining close ideological ranks in the future. At the Warsaw conference, the problem of ideological "offensive" was discussed in the context of the well-known events at Warsaw University and in the writers' circles. At that time, there was strong and open criticism of the organization of studies and the granting of degrees.

Apart from economic and ideological problems, statements were ^{in most cases} ~~usually~~ made on international matters. Most frequently ^{mentioned} ~~here~~ was the problem of Polish relations with the GDR and the GFR, the situation caused by the continuing war in Vietnam and the repercussions of the ideological dispute between the USSR and China. ^{On two occasions,} ~~Twice~~, after speeches by Adam RAPACKI and Zenon KLISZKO, some time was devoted to Polish-French relations.

The speech by GOMULKA ~~XXX~~ on relations between Poland and West Germany made in ~~KATOWICE~~ Katowice, is generally known.

The Voivodship Party electoral campaign was attended, in all, by:

-- 12, ^{the} all _^ members of the Politburo,

-- 3, ^{the} all _^ deputy members of the Politburo,

-- 5 secretaries of the CC /all ^{of them,} _^ counting Politburo members/,

-- 13 department^s, office^s and institute^s ^{of} heads in the CC,

-- 11 ministers.

99

Andtoni Marek