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● Poland

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

- + Rumors on Pope's Trip to Poland
- + Development of Small Industry during Next Five-Year-Plan Period
- + Poland will Try Nazi Criminals
- + Relaxation of Procedure on Issuing Visas to Austrians

Rumors on Pope's Trip to Poland

The British Catholic weekly, "The Universe", has stated that it is possible that Pope Paul VI will visit Poland to take part in Millennium ceremonies in 1966. There have also been suggestions that the Vatican was considering Poland as the site for the next Eucharistic Congress. According to RFE^E Special from Rome of February 19, a Vatican spokesman said that he had no information whatsoever on the report about the Pope's trip, nor was he able to substantiate the report about Poland being considered as the site for the Eucharistic Congress.

Unofficial Vatican sources indicated that there has been some discussion about the possibilities of a trip to Poland by the Pope, but the matter had never got beyond the discussion stage.

Development of Small Industry During the Next Five-Year Period

Small, or petty industry will in 1970 produce 30 per cent more goods than in 1965, amounting to almost 125 billion zlotys. This will be achieved by expanding the old factories and the building of some 500 new ones.

According to Wlodzimierz Lechowicz, Chairman of the Committee for Small Industry, who gave an interview to Radio Warsaw (February 22), some 35,000 new workers will find jobs in these new factories, while the expanded small industry as a whole will take some 200,000 new workers. To the above figure some 70,000 new workers in cottage (or home) industry should be added.

New factories would be built "mostly in smaller localities, which so far have had the weakest industrial development". The food industry should constitute 28 per cent of the output of new factories, clothing and metal industries about 11 per cent each and chemicals eight per cent, while the timber industry would amount to about 10 per cent. Services should also grow considerably during the next five years. Numerous premises will also be built to house these consumer services, said Lechowicz, and the conditions of work for handicrafts employees should improve steadily.

Poland Will Try Nazi Criminals

Poland will soon try, in absentia, "several dozen" Nazi war criminals, many of them at large in West Germany, the official Polish news agency PAP said on February 20.

The first of the three trials for wartime Nazi killings near Danzig will be held in Stargard Gdanski in late March. Others will take place at Wejherowo and Koscierzyna in April, reported UPI of February 20, quoting the above PAP item. PAP quoted the Prosecutor's Office in Danzig as saying that its indictments list "several dozen" Nazis who are now at large in West Germany.

Relaxation of Procedure in Issuing Visas to Austrians

Visa restrictions for Austrians wishing to visit Poland have been relaxed, reported an RFE Special from Vienna on February 20.

Austrian travellers may now obtain a visa valid for a two week stay in Poland at a number of border crossing points and at the Cracow airport. Austrian tourists who possess such visas will also no longer be required to purchase hotel tickets, but will need to convert a small amount of schillings into Polish currency. Similar relaxations were granted last year to Swedish tourists entering Poland, who were obtaining visas on board of the ferry boat; this is the second attempt of attracting tourists and emulates in this respect Czechoslovakia and Hungary.