

# RADIO FREE EUROPE *Research*

## EAST EUROPE

Poland  
7 April 1966

### S I T U A T I O N     R E P O R T

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"I know that the German bishops have been refused entry" (to Poland for Millennium celebrations), Aleksander Skarzynski, director of the Office for Religious Denominations, stated in Warsaw on April 5. As quoted by AP in Sueddeutsche Zeitung (April 6), Skarzynski said that he knew nothing about the bishops of other countries. However, he added that the Polish Episcopate had not yet applied to the government for permission to hold an "international" meeting on May 3 in Czestochowa. In connection with previous government statements, and in particular with the letter of Prime Minister Jozef Cyrankiewicz of March 5, Skarzynski's utterances implied that no foreign Church dignitary would be admitted.

As if to confirm this implication, the NCWC News Service reported from New York on April 6 that a number of Catholic bishops in the USA have been refused entry visas to Poland. Among these are: Archbishop John P. Cody of Chicago and his auxiliary, Bishop Aloysius J. Wycislo; Archbishop William E. Cousins of Milwaukee and his auxiliary, Bishop Roman R. Atkielski; Archbishop John J. Krol of Philadelphia and his auxiliary, Bishop Gerald V. McDevitt. All these dignitaries have been informed either officially or unofficially that their requests for visas have been refused. The NCWC quoted both Jan Kinast, press secretary of the Polish embassy in Washington, and Adolf Kita, Polish consul-general in Chicago as making statements on the subject. "We have nothing against Archbishop Cody or the other eminent Church leaders," Kita stated, "but our people in Poland feel it would not be good to have so many churchmen in Warsaw at the same time."

The Italian Christian Democratic daily Il Popolo (April 6) revealed additionally that Skarzynski also said that Stefan Cardinal Wyszynski will not be permitted to visit the USA and Canada this summer. The state official had also some critical comment on the Primate. "The Cardinal believes that his personal position in the Church is more solid

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when he challenges in open conflict the state authorities," Skarzynski was quoted by Il Popolo. He also implied that such action by the Cardinal is not looked upon favorably by Church circles outside Poland.

The day after this statement of Skarzynski, the Cardinal referred to another state official, the censor. "I sent an article to Przewodnik Katolicki about April 14, 1966 -- an article devoted to this date which marks one thousand years of Catholicism in Poland," Cardinal Wyszynski stated in a sermon at St. Joseph's church in Warsaw. The article was sent to the censor, he further explained, "and returned crossed by red pencil from top to bottom."

# REPORT

No. 1000 for Foreign Affairs

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