

Poland for Export

"Poland", ten times written in eight different languages on the cover of an illustrated monthly is a Polish export to more than ten countries. It is a strange monthly if only because it has two independent editorial boards and, in some instances, two different editions in the same language, both aimed at achieving the best propaganda results, taking into consideration tastes of its various readers. There is a "capitalist" edition in six languages, English, French, German, Polish, Spanish and Swedish. Its editor-in-chief is Jerzy Piorkowski, former AX (independent resistance movement) member turned Communist who emerged in 1956 to become, although for a short time only, editor-in-chief of "Nowa Kultura" in 1958. In charge of the artistic design of the monthly is Lech Zahorski, a stage designer and cartoonist. Stefan Swierzewski is responsible for the "socialist" edition of the monthly. He may be described as a rather quiet, Party-line-toing journalist, helped by one of the top Polish cartoonists and satirists, Eryk Lipinski. Surprisingly enough, this edition is published in four languages only: Czech, German, Russian and Spanish. Apparently no effort is made at converting Hungarians, Rumanians, Bulgarians, and Albanians, for that matter, to the Polish way of life. The Polish edition is of course addressed to those Polish emigrants abroad who cannot read the monthly in the language of the country of their residence.

There are two different editions in German, one for West, another for East Germany. The same refers to the Spanish edition, its "socialist" version being exported to Cuba. According to Kazimierz Kozniewski, writing on the subject in "Polityka" on May 12, the Cuban version, whose first issue appeared recently, is almost identical to the Russian one with only minor editorial, but not textual, differences.

Kozniewski claims that the monthly enjoys quite a good response in the USSR, USA and Germany, as well as in Sweden. 3,500 copies of "Poland" are exported to the USA as against more than 100,000 copies of "Polsha" sent to the USSR. Polsha is read mainly by the Soviet youth, and the number of letters the editor receives is proportionally higher than is the case with any Polish monthly at home. Requests from Soviet readers for more information pertain mostly to such subjects as paintings, literature, scout organization, printing, medical studies, etc.

Railway Electrification

1212 km of railway lines have already been electrified, Radio Warsaw reported May 25. By the end of this year an additional 166 km will be completed for electric traction, and by the end of 1965 Poland will have 2,000 km of railway lines electrified.

The overall length of Polish railway lines being just over 26,000 km, the 1212 km stretch of electrified line represents 4.6 per cent of the total.

Semantics

Radio Warsaw May 27 referred to the explosions which shattered part of the Berlin wall as "a series of attempts at GDR border installations".

100,000 copies of the Polish-Soviet and Soviet-Polish dictionary will be imported by Poland, Radio Warsaw reported May 27.

Note: English translation of Jacek Wozniakowski article containing polemics with Schaff (cf. Sit. Rep. May 24) may be found in Polish Press Survey No. 1336, May 25.