

The Tenth Party Plenum

The Tenth Party Plenum lasted three days (April 16 through 18) and was devoted to technical progress. At least 46 speakers, Party and non-party experts concentrated on such themes as: electronics as a basis of progress, the work atmosphere as a factor of technical progress, export of technical know-how, some problems of lathe industry etc., Trybuna Ludu, quoted by Radio Warsaw, April 18 reported. Wladyslaw Gomulka wound up the discussion in an one and a half hour speech preceding the Plenum resolution.

It follows from fragments of speeches available from Radio Warsaw monitoring that the key industry on which the progress depends is the machine industry whose share in the overall national industrial production is 21 per cent, much lower than in Czechoslovakia (32.7 per cent) or in East Germany (34 per cent), and definitely too low for the needs of the country. As far as average saturation of the overall national industry with technical personnel is concerned, it is good and almost close to the US average, Deputy Prime Minister Piotr Jaroszewicz revealed. Technical progress made big advances within the last two years, the speakers stressed, but it is far from satisfactory. The main difficulty consists in the lack of an adequate "technical hinterland", irrational distribution of technical cadres, lack of cooperation and, what Jaroszewicz termed "defensive deployment of cadres and of material and technical means" resulting from "predominance of the problems of today over the problems of the future".

Polish-Danish Cultural Agreement

Poland and Denmark extended the existing cultural agreement to last for the next two years, i.e. till March 1964, Reuter April 16, and Radio Warsaw April 16 and 17 reported.

Under the agreement an exchange of scholarships in medicine, art, education and agriculture will take place. Poland will send its Philharmonic Orchestra to Denmark, and the Danish Royal Ballet will perform in Poland. A lectureship in the Danish language will be set up at the Poznan University to reciprocate for the already existing Polish lectureship in Copenhagen.

A Teapot Storm over NCWC Parcels

The Church-State conflict over the distribution of National Catholic Welfare Conference parcels for the needy of Poland which flared up in 1958 (cf. RFE Special Report "The Situation in Poland, July to November 1958" of 18 December 1958) was revived in a milder form this spring. So far two regime sources are on the record, but no Church response has been registered. Magda Leja, a young poetess and writer, complained in "Sztandar Mlodych" on March 31 about "the parcels from the German Federal Republic" sent to the inhabitants of the Bydgoszcz Voivodship by the Catholic Relief Service, NCWN, Munich. These parcels, according to Leja's rather hysterical account, were sent to the victims of the 1960 local river floods, and the addresses of the recipients had been supplied to the Munich branch of NCWC by Prelate Franciszek Jank of the Pelplin Curia. The parcels contained mostly "old" and often "soiled" clothes. Many addressees refused to accept them "out of political considerations", and those who accepted and had paid customs duty were sorry to discover that the duty exceeded the value of the "rags". They wrote letters of complaint to various authorities complaining about the "unwanted charity" and about the audacity of the Pelplin Curia of bringing about that charity "without taking into account national considerations". Another document on the same subject is Radio Bydgoszcz monitoring April 8 following the same line as taken by Leja, and presenting the same facts. The only difference seems to consist in the broadcast's even more hysterical tone.

Plus Communiste que le Pax

The regime Catholics associated with Pax once again stressed their full solidarity with the Communist Party. The occasion was Pax's commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the Polish Workers' Party, predecessor of the PUPP (cf. Situation Reports January 22 and 29). The theme of the Pax meeting was "non-Party people and the 20th anniversary of the PPR". The meeting took place on March 23 and its proceedings were summed up in "Słowo Powszechne" April 1 and "Kierunki" April 8. The Pax leader Boleslaw Piasecki held a major speech concluded by a reaffirmation of the organization's loyalty to the Communist Party. "I would like to stress once more", Piasecki said, "that the great ideas of a native ideological and patriotic character of the socialist revolution in Poland, of the complete turn in Polish-Soviet relations in the direction of alliance



and friendship, as well as the fact of the liberation of the social energy of the nation on a scale never before achieved in history, seem to us, the representatives of non-Party intelligentsia, to be the direct result of the historical achievements of the PPR."

Other speakers taking part in the meeting did not fail to show similar solidarity with, if not servility to, the CP. Many of the Pax leaders whose wartime record is one of a merciless fight against the Communists may have been consoled and reassured in their present stand by quoting a Communist speaker who announced magnanimously: "It is not important from what position one fought the occupant during war, it is important what stand one takes toward People's Poland today."