

OUTGOING CIPHER MESSAGE

RADIO FREE EUROPE

MUNICH  
JUN 21

18:08

TO: S

MUN 123 21 JUN 65

TO: WALTER  
FM: COLLINS (ACTING FOR BURKS) BURKS, OTT, BODIN (ACTING FOR KINGSLEY)

211736: STRICTLY C O N F I D E N T I A L

PLEASE LET US KNOW SOONEST IF YOU CAN ADD TO THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON GOMULKA'S REPORTED ILLNESS. HILL HAS ALREADY BEEN QUERIED.

(SEE ATTACHED)

CN 89

X/9 MORE REPORTS OF GOMULKA BEING ILL

MUNICH, JUNE 21 (CNR)--WESTERN NEWSAGENCIES IN POLAND CONTINUE TO REPORT THAT POLISH COMMUNIST LEADER WLADISLAW GOMULKA IS ILL. IN THE PAST 24 HOURS TWO AGENCIES, DEUTSCHE PRESS AGENTUR AND UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL HAVE REFERRED TO GOMULKA AS BEING "GRAVELY ILL."

NO RPT NO OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION IS AVAILABLE FROM WARSAW AND BOTH AGENCIES GIVE INDIRECT SOURCING FOR THEIR REPORTS. UNITED PRESS QUOTES "WESTERN DIPLOMATIC SOURCES" AND BOTH UPI AND DPA SAYS "IT IS UNDERSTOOD" THAT GOMULKA IS IN HOSPITAL WITH CIRCULATORY TROUBLES.

THE ONLY OFFICIAL COMMENT ON THE STORIES WHICH BEGAN A WEEK AGO WITH ONE FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS, CAME ON JUNE 15 FROM A POLISH FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN, WHO SAID THAT NOTHING WAS KNOWN "SO FAR".

THE SPOKESMAN WOULD NEITHER CONFIRM NOR DENY THEM. AT THAT TIME THE REPORTS WERE ALSO PUBLISHED IN AT LEAST TWO WEST EUROPEAN NEWSPAPERS.

(MORE)

PAGE 2 MUN 123

CN 90

X/9 P - 1ST ADD MORE REPORTS OF GOMULKA BEING ILL (CN 89)

XXX NEWSPAPERS

TODAY'S UPI REPORT SAID: --POLISH AUTHORITIES TODAY WENT AHEAD WITH PLANS FOR THURSDAYS OPENING OF THE NEW PARLIAMENT ALTHOUGH IT APPEARED DOUBTFUL COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER WLADYSLAW GOMULKA WOULD ATTEND.

WESTERN DIPLOMATIC SOURCES SAID TODAY GOMULKA IS "GRAVELY ILL". HOWEVER GOVERNMENT LEADERS AND MEMBERS OF THE RULING POLITBURO-- THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO WOULD HAVE AUTHORITATIVE INFORMATION-- HAVE CONSISTENTLY SIDESTEPED QUERIES BY WESTERN DIPLOMATS AND CORRESPONDENTS ABOUT GOMULKA'S PROTRACTED ABSENCE FROM PUBLIC VIEW. GOMULKA, 60, WAS LAST SEEN ON MAY 30 WHEN HE CAST HIS BALLOT IN THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS FOR THE NEW PARLIAMENT (SEY.). FOR THE FIRST TIME HE DID NOT ATTEND THE OPENING OF THE ANNUAL POZNAN INTERNATIONAL FAIR JUNE 13.

THERE HAVE BEEN OTHER OCCASIONS ON WHICH HE WOULD NORMALLY HAVE BEEN EXPECTED TO SPEAK OR TURN UP ON THE PLATFORM, SUCH AS THE CHEMICAL WORKERS AND PEASANTS PARTY DAYS. HE DID NOT ATTEND THE CEREMONIES.

THE WESTERN DIPLOMATS SAID THEY HEARD UNOFFICIALLY GOMULKA ENTERED HOSPITAL NEAR WARSAW ABOUT JUNE 10 WITH AN UNEXPLAINED HIGH FEVER WHICH PERSISTED FOR SEVERAL DAYS. HIS CONDITION, THESE SOURCES SAID, HAS REMAINED SERIOUS. VARIOUS SOURCES DESCRIBE THE ILLNESS AS CIRCULATORY OR RES-PIRATORY.

THURSDAYS SESSION OF THE NEW SEYM WILL APPROVE THE LISTS OF MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE, THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND THE NATIONAL CONTROL COUNCIL.

END MSG