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POLITICAL, SOCIOLOGICAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
No. 1357

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All these conflicts certainly demonstrate the significance of the agreements signed in 1948-1950 between the state and the churches; these agreements were an expression of the fact that a complex period of political and social struggle had ended. In this struggle the worker class broke politically the rule of the capitalists and landlords and laid the foundations for the socialist social order, while the forces supporting the old system were forced back in the churches too. On the one hand the agreements indicated the deciding of the struggle and on the other hand they provided a framework for the development of correct, loyal and gradually better relations between the socialist state and churches no longer defending the defeated social relationships, in the course of building the new socialist society. The agreements signed between the socialist state and the churches in Hungary have stood the test of time. They legally guarantee the possibility that the churches and the believers actively take their part in the building of socialism which is possible and necessary because the great majority of the religious workers agree with the goals of the socialist society and so the believers and non-believers can effectively cooperate for the good of the community.

Let us briefly review the activity of the state organs playing a role in the practical realization and execution of the agreements and the more important provisions pertaining to the legal situation of the churches.

In the government system of the Hungarian People's Republic the management of matters between the state and the churches belongs to the sphere of tasks of the State Office for Church Affairs set up on the basis of Law I, 1951. The Office operates under the direct supervision of the Government. Its more important tasks are: the execution of agreements and conventions signed with churches and religious denominations, taking care of personal and material matters connected with state support of churches and religious denominations, preparing and ensuring the execution of regulations pertaining to the churches, executing and supervising measures taken by the Council of Ministers in church affairs, taking care of questions connected with freedom of conscience and ensuring the free practice of religion and the undisturbed course of church functions.

In the course of doing all this we strive to develop contacts with the various churches in the spirit of the agreements and in accordance with the interests of both sides. An important and many-sided task in this is the coordination of this work with the activity of the megye, city and town councils which, as the local organs of state power, are in constant contact with the local organs of the churches. In the course of its work the Office maintains contact with various ministries and organs with national authority and cooperates with social organizations. Naturally, the State Office for Church Affairs is primarily responsible for execution of the church policy of the government and for its level and quality.

In accordance with the nature of state administrative work the State Office for Church Affairs also has authoritative powers and it always uses these in accordance with the laws of the socialist state. In contacts with the churches

Thus, strictly speaking, the charges which are supposed to be refuted here have not been refuted, for they concern not so much the police action against protest demonstrations and excesses as, above all, the treatment of those arrested after their arrest. Only in one specifically cited case, the charge of maltreatment during questioning is being countered explicitly. It is the case of a person who participated in the protest demonstrations at Ursus (according to TRYBUNA LUDU, he had procured some welding equipment for the disrupting of rails) which has not yet come up for trial because of incapacity to stand trial. According to the paper, tendentious propaganda, by twisting the facts, alleges that he was beaten during questioning, whereas in reality he had incurred his injuries much earlier, in the course of the rail collisions.

The cited facts, in the opinion of TRYBUNA LUDU, speak for themselves. But there was a group of people who--for various reasons, incidentally--for some time now had been attempting an "active political struggle against our state and our system" and, without any relation to the facts, regarded the whole matter as an easy excuse for continued political, antistate, action.

In the final analysis, the main aim of the organizers of this action was to cause unrest, to disturb the constructive climate of civic debate, to cause disintegration and internal conflicts, and to do so in a situation in which the unity of the nation was of particular importance.

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POLISH AUTHORITIES INTENT ON SHOWING JUNE EXCESSES AS ATYPICAL

Frankfurt FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE in German 20 Jan 77 no page given

[Article by Erik Michael Bader: "The 'Misfits' of Radom--Why the Polish Judgments Against Participants in the June Unrest Have Turned Out So Harsh"]

[Text] Warsaw, January--"For what? For what, in heaven's name?" cried a middle-aged woman outside the court, sobbing. Was she unable to comprehend the verdict of the Supreme Court condemning her husband or son to several years' imprisonment only because kinship was clouding her judgment? Or could the innate sense of justice of a woman of the people no longer go along with the sophistic juridical constructions, based more on considerations of state purposes? In a further appeal against the judgments passed against six inhabitants of Radom charged with having participated in the excesses of 25 June, the Polish Supreme Court had fully confirmed the two harshest sentences of 9 and 8 years' imprisonment and had merely shortened the four other sentences of originally 5, and in one case 3, years' imprisonment, although it had been more lenient previously in the case of workers of Ursus. Unless one took into account that political considerations had played a part, it was hard to understand the result of the appeal against the Radom verdicts.

In the case of the two defendants whose verdict of 9 and 8 years' imprisonment had now been confirmed, there were concrete grounds: the first was said to have looted stores, the second was said to have been seen breaking down a door. Besides, they had been particularly noticeable among the crowd which invaded the premises of the voivodship party headquarters and demolished the furniture there and had quite a record of previous sentences--one of them, among other things, for having engaged in acts of violence against members of his family. But one cannot dismiss the surmise that their sentences might have been somewhat less harsh if they had been caught some other day in an "ordinary" burglary, for in the case of the others, who had less of a record or no record at all and in fact received lower sentences--which then were lowered further in the appeal--but nevertheless must go to prison for several years, there actually was no concrete charge which could be proved except that they happened to be there when it all happened.

PROCEEDINGS OF TEACHERS' UNION CONGRESS PUBLISHED

Congress Report

Warsaw GLOS NAUCZYCIELSKI in Polish 31 Oct 76 pp 1, 4-5

[Text] The 12th National Congress of Delegates decided on a program of activity of ZNP [Polish Teachers' Union] for 1976-1980 and obligated the Main Administration to work out a plan for ZNP work for the next term on the basis of this program and also on the basis of the suggestions made in discussions before and after the Congress.

What are the main directions of ZNP activity decided on by the Congress?

These embrace problems resulting from the functions of the Union, as a joint manager of education and science, representative and spokesman of the interests of the workers and of the schools forming their civic attitudes of involvement. At the head of the ZNP tasks, as a joint manager of education and training, appear tasks resulting from party resolutions, particularly those of the Seventh PZPR Congress.

In the current 5-year period the introduction of the school reform will be begun. In this connection the ZNP takes an active part in the final elaboration of the tasks of the new school system, of the content of its programs and of conditions necessary for enacting them.

The second direction of work indicated by the Resolution of the Seventh PZPR Congress is improvement in the work of schools and educational institutions.

In this area the ZNP will cooperate closely with educational authorities. The ZNP cells have a special role to play here, the creation of conditions favoring a wide exchange of views and experience, the spread of pedagogical initiative on the part of teachers and the formation of a climate for good, dependable work of a didactic, training and protective nature.

institutional fund for awards, for anniversary awards and for supplements to the groups of workers not covered by other benefits."

Investigations will also be developed on the working time schedule of teachers and academicians.

Improvement in the housing conditions of educational and scientific workers, particularly teachers working in the country and young teaching cadres, is one of the most important tasks.

The ZNP cells will participate with organs of the school administration and local authorities in developing multiyear programs of improvement in housing conditions and their consistent realization through the joint efforts of state and society.

These programs should consider:

The construction of apartments for teachers for recently erected and expanded schools in the country and in cities, particularly gmina collective schools, by using state funds and the social activity of the population for this purpose;

Increasing the allotments for apartments from local reserves in community, social and institutional construction for the needs of workers in education and science;

Wider use in the allocation of apartments of a principle recognizing teachers, academicians and scientific research workers as specialists indispensable for the needs of the national economy in a given area, recognizing at the same time that an apartment is an integral part of their place of work;

Continuation of various forms of aid in finding apartments and the construction of single family houses; and

Development of the construction of hotels for assistants and of rotating housing for teachers, academicians and scientific workers.

The formation of an institutional social fund has had an outstanding effect on expanding the area of services and benefits in the field of vacations, tourism, weekends and recreation for the children of Union members. In this area the system of managing the social fund will be improved, particularly from the point of view of its proper and reasonable use and of further improvements in social services.

The ZNP cells will continue to work in favor of the further development of various forms of recreation, including expansion of the recreational base and better equipment for it, the development of family vacations, the

The opinion was expressed that the current system of teaching work is inadequate and demands were made that essential modifications be made in it. Also necessary is improvement in school visitations so that they provide real aid for the teacher, and so that the inspectors leave something behind in the form of real improvement in the work of the teachers, principals and schools.

A great deal was said about the need for cooperation between educational authorities and Union channels in the area of establishing real interpersonal relations in pedagogical circles, in the competent choice of people for principalships, the creation of an atmosphere of mutual friendliness and compliance with the canons of fairness.

In particular a great deal was said about cooperation between the school administration and the Union cells, which is understandable. The judgment was that the results of mutual activity are getting better and better. Unfortunately, this is not always true at the level of the gmina center principal.

Minister Jerzy Kuberski emphasized that he places a high value on the activity of the Polish Teachers' Union and stated that the teaching community would be considerably poorer, in the broad meaning of this word, were it not for the activity of the Union organization. Therefore it is important for all school principals to thoroughly understand that their own work and that of their schools can be considerably enriched through cooperation with Union cells.

Both the delegates and Minister Jerzy Kuberski expressed the opinion that the kind of exchange of viewpoints and opinions, which took place during the meeting reported on here, is very constructive and that it is a very concrete form of spreading and supplementing the materials brought up by discussions at the Congress.

Meeting With Higher Education Minister

Warsaw GLOS NAUCZYCIELSKI in Polish 24 Oct 76 p 6

[Text] On the day before the 12th National Congress, a large group of delegates representing the scientific community from all areas of the country, the vice president of the ZNP Main Administration, Docent Dr Zofia Sztetyllo and the chairman of the Scientific Section, Docent Dr Wieslaw Jasiobedzki, took part in a meeting with the director of the Ministry of Science, Higher Education and Technology. Vice Minister Janusz Gorski and the director of the Department of Cadres, Jacek Kornacki, welcomed the delegates in the name of the head of the Ministry.

Despite the fact that the meeting had the nature of a private and comradely conversation with glasses of wine and cups of coffee, as is normal

