

POLAND SETS FREE FORMER RED CHIEF

Party's Secretary Confirms Release of Gomulka and a Number of Others

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VIENNA, April 6—Confirmation has been given reports of the release of Wladislaw Gomulka, former Secretary General of the Polish Communist party, who was arrested in 1951 on Stalin's orders.

Edward Ochab, First Secretary of the Polish Communist party, announced tonight, according to the Warsaw radio, that M. Gomulka had been rehabilitated and set free. With him a number of other persons, including twenty officers, have also been found innocent and released from prison.

M. Gomulka has sometimes been called Poland's Tito. Like Marshal Tito in Yugoslavia, he opposed exploitation of Poland in Moscow's interests. He particularly resisted a too-rapid collectivization of Polish agriculture.

For this reason and because of rivalry within the Polish Communist party, he was expelled from its Central Committee and from the party itself in 1949, when the drive against "Titoism" began in all Soviet Eastern European satellites. Because of M. Gomulka's great popularity in Poland, he was not arrested until three years later.

Other Arrests Cited

Jozef Swiatlo, a high official of the Polish political police who fled to the West two years ago, told how he had arrested Marjan Spichalski, General Korczynski and Hermann Field, an American, to collect evidence against M. Gomulka. Mr. Field was released in 1954.

Recent reports have indicated that not only M. Gomulka, but M. Spichalski and others arrested at the same time were released some months ago. It is said that M. Gomulka's health is so impaired that he has been unable to appear in public.

Other Polish Communists arrested more or less at the same time as M. Gomulka and for similar reasons, will probably be set free. They are: Wladyslaw Bienkowski, member of the Polish Communist party's Central Committee and head of its Political Education Department; Penon Klifzko, former Vice Minister of Justice; Wladislaw Wolski, former Minister of Public Administration and member of the Central Committee, and Waclaws Komar, former Deputy Defense Minister and member of the Central Committee.

The rehabilitation of M. Gomulka and his comrades, like that of Laszlo Rajk in Hungary and of Traicho Kostov in Bulgaria, is another logical result of the new anti-Stalin course in Moscow.

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