

GOMULKA APPEALS TO REDS TO UNITE

Polish Communist Leader Urges End of Witch-Hunt Among Party Members

By M. S. HANDLER

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WARSAW, Jan. 1—Wladyslaw Gomulka has appealed for an end of the witch-hunt for Stalinists in the Communist party.

He also is seeking a closing of the ranks against the enemies of socialism who aspire to overthrow the present regime.

The appeal of the First Secretary of the United Workers (Communist) party and new developments in other controversial fields reflect the alarm of the leadership over the protracted struggle within the party between the anti-Stalinists and those who held power prior to October.

It is apparent that the Gomulka leadership is striving to obtain a truce that would permit the party to reestablish its authority in the country. The basis of the truce would be acceptance of the concessions obtained from the Soviet Union and the curbing of those who regard the October revolution as only the first stage in total liberation from Moscow control.

Speaking at a recent Warsaw district party conference M. Gomulka deplored the recriminations, attacks and abuse by members seeking to establish the responsibility for past errors.

The Communist leader was particularly incensed at the veiled allusions of some members against others of Jewish origin. He warned members that if they did not control their feelings against Jews these feelings could be directed against other minority groups such as the Ukrainians, Lithuanians, Byelorussians, and Germans.

M. Gomulka said the party had to bear in mind that the national, social and economic origins of individuals must not be taken into account. He added that personal vendettas only served to weaken the party.

Damage to Party Stressed

"On the basis of what I have heard and of the reaction of the conference to certain statements, I must say that my impressions are not of the best," M. Gomulka declared. "I wish the comrades would leave aside everything we call wanton attacks and gratuitous criticism in their further discussions because, as I stated before, this is damaging to us and is weakening the party."

Other statements at the conference in support of M. Gomulka's plea for a truce stressed the growing threat of nationalist feeling in the country against the party. For example Tadeusz Poddebski said:

"We have had attempts at lynching, instances of beating up people and of chicanery against party members. The reaction is endeavoring to defame all those who were active in the past period [before the October revolution]."

It is because of this situation in the country and the perils facing the party that an end must be put to the struggle within the party, party leaders said at the conference.

The violence of the struggle was reflected in Trybuna Ludu's report of the Warsaw district party conference. The official newspaper of the party cited the following phrases from one speech to indicate what was happening in the party:

"There are a lot of them. They stay there like rats and should be exterminated before they finish us."

Another phrase ran like this: "Prevent the scoundrels from visiting our factories."

Newspaper Questions Methods

It was not clear in Trybuna Ludu's report whether the "rats" and "scoundrels" were Stalinists or nationalists. The newspaper figuratively threw up its hands and exclaimed: "Is this the language employed at party discussions? What are these methods leading us to?"

The leading newspapers in Warsaw are echoing the line set by M. Gomulka and his associates. They are warning everyone that they must not regard the revolution in October as the first phase in the struggle to overthrow socialism. Persons voicing such ideas are seeking only to spread disorder and undermine the authority of the state, newspaper articles say. This could lead to a national catastrophe for Poland, according to the newspapers.

A reaction also has set in among many party members against the present arrangement with the Roman Catholic Church permitting religious instruction in public schools if the majority of the parents concerned desire that this be done. Newspaper articles have contended that in opening the schools to religious instruction the Government is exposing the children of Marxists and non-believers to persecution and is placing them in a prejudicial situation.

The authors of the articles demand the establishment of purely lay schools for those who oppose religious instruction for their children.