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Memo on the Polish Situation

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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MEMO ON THE POLISH SITUATION

Polish-American trade negotiations are now being conducted in Washington at the request of the Administration.

The President and the NSC both decided that aid should be given to Gomulka to indicate that Poland had an alternative to complete dependence on the Soviet Union. The idea evidently is to encourage similar independent trends in other eastern European countries under Moscow's control.

Secretary of State Dulles made a legal finding that Poland was not under the Kremlin's domination.

Coal mining machinery, cotton and some other agricultural surpluses are their immediate needs. It is my understanding that the Poles are interested in a $100 million Export-Import Bank loan to purchase coal mining machinery to modernize Poland's coal industry; that they seek $200 million worth of agricultural surplus products and about $30 million in private loans to buy fertilizer and other farm equipment.

It should be pointed out that Poland is both isolated from the West and surrounded by Soviet states.
The future of Poland may well decide the future of Germany, and the future of Germany may well be the key to peace in Europe, if not the world. A Poland inclined toward the West would weaken the puppet communist government in East Germany and could conceivably hasten the day of German unification.

Sympathetic consideration to Poland's request could mean the bolstering of the Gomulka regime. It is possible that Gomulka could not long survive without economic aid from the United States because the economy of Poland is in a dangerous state after a decade of inefficient government and exploitation for the benefit of the Soviet Union.

There are 50,000 Soviet troops in Poland, which is still a member of the Warsaw Pact, and the Soviet troops are there by contractual right to maintain a military line of communication across Poland to their 22-division garrison in East Germany.

If aid is extended by the United States, it could well prolong the life of the Gomulka government which is communist, but it would represent a calculated risk between two evils — Moscow control or Warsaw control. The Gomulka government is communist, but not Stalinist. If it fails, it would have no choice because Moscow would re-impose its authority and assume almost absolute control of the country.
Aid to Gomulka does represent the payment of blackmail to communism, but it would benefit the Polish people. As has already been indicated by someone, it would be like sending food into a jail to feed and assist the prisoners. In the process it eases the burden on the jailers. The vast bulk of the Polish people are prisoners, and to fail to feed them would be to doom most of them to misery and many to death. The survivors would then be under Stalinist jailers and not Gomulka’s.

Gomulka, in a party address last October, admitted that acre for acre, privately owned farm land produced 37% more than the state (collective) farms and 17 percent more than the cooperative farms.

He also admitted that the daily output per worker had dropped by 12% since 1949. He blamed the Communist Party for the immense economic difficulties which now confront the country.

While conditions in Poland are by no means ideal and the January Parliamentary elections were admitted to be controlled by the Communists, it appears, according to the Western Montana Catholic Register of March 10, 1957, that the "freedom now enjoyed by the
vocal publicsentiments who naturally would select any opportunity to
back old-time xanxerxotics on all fronts, and by opposed but all


pointed political leadership and controlled by the machinery
proportionately Catholic countries as Mexico and Argentina.
that any position can now be committed favorably to him in such other

in major have been the concessions to the Chinese in Poland

other institutions.
schools and for government-funded chaplaincy in hospitals, prisons, and

The agreement provided for religious instruction in the

all obstacles that had been excused against the Church.
Guadalajara until religious freedom and expression is withinness to continue
The agreement announced an agreement in which the Catholic side

The conclusion of the Pope came on Dec. 7. When a joint Church-'

been fulfilled were free again.
1966 was over, and the many thousands and scores of people who had
The tension of terror of the Catholic era in the years 1946 to

eal peace in Wassaw.
the office and the freedom for these years, was able to resume his old-

Don't be so patient Congress can so power, the Catholic

Freedom of religion
made great strides. That the progress stop forward the been toward

Freedom of speech of speech, of the press, and of assembly have

Polish people would have been incorporated to the lands ago.
regain power, continues to proclaim its staunch adherence to Marxian-
Communism and the ‘Polish road to Socialism.’ It must.

"But, if it keeps on making concessions toward freedom, it
may in fact be Communist in name only. And, with God’s help, it could
line
possibly wind up more in with the natural law and the social teachings of
the Church than many nations of the so-called free world are now.

"It could thus establish the pattern whereby the other Communist
nations could peacefully throw off their chains and accord to every man his
God-given dignity.

"It might be that the democratization of Poland is but another
Red tactic to gain a firmer grip on the Polish people, and that when the
regime is more firmly entrenched the brutal repression could begin again. Thus economic assistance to Communist Poland is a gamble.

"The U.S. has long given help to Yugoslavia and other countries
where mention of the rights of man is but a mockery.

"In the case of Poland, however, if definite assurance were
given that American aid would actually help the Polish people and would not
be siphoned off by the Soviet Union, it could possibly be a crucial factor
in the future of the world."