

Eyewitness in Poland

Answers 'Times' Attack

BY PHILLIP BONOSKY

THE RECENT series in the N. Y. Times by its ex-Polish correspondent, A. M. Rosenthal, reminds us of a doggerel that goes something like this:

You cannot hope to bribe or twist,
Thank God, the British journalist.
But seeing what the man will do,
Described, there's no occasion to.

Place "American" instead of — or perhaps alongside of — "British", and the shoe will admirably fit. For the fact of the matter is that these articles by A. M. Rosenthal on Poland could not have been bought in the usual way. They came from the heart.

It is a legend, which has long lost its relevance, to picture newsmen today as independent, free, and devoted to the truth. Rosenthal hates socialism, and does not need to be paid to hate it. He sees it through a crooked glass crookedly, and does not want any other kind of glass to look through.

And so we have a picture of present-day Poland presented to us through the Times that is a model of malice, half-truths and gossip, CIA discards, and the hatred of the workingclass in its struggle to change history

and make superflous the world that A. M. Rosenthal lives in.

SPECIALIZED FISHING

Rosenthal boasts he was expelled from Poland because he "probed" too deeply. But the facts are different. Rosenthal did not "probe" for the truth; he merely repeated every slander, suspicion and bit of gossip he heard, the only condition for acceptance being that it should reflect negatively on the Polish government and the Communist Party.

The situation in Poland is complicated enough; it doesn't take too much to distort the undoubted complications. This I know first-hand and from information. But at the same time, I also know from first-hand evidence that Rosenthal is not writing of Poland today but of the Poland of his wish-fulfillments, of his dreams, and the dreams of the CIA.

I spent a week in Poland just a few weeks ago. So little time in a country scarcely can make anyone an expert. I am not such an expert. But I did speak to many representatives of different phases of Polish life, and we went more or less deeply into problems of Polish life. The picture that emerged from these dis-

cussions is, ultimately, utterly at variance with Rosenthal's, but, and here is where the sneakiness comes in, at certain points there is a temporary coincidence of outward features. The point lies in how these features are to be interpreted and how significant and even decisive they are.

GOING FORWARD

Rosenthal sees Poland going back to "Stalinism". But nobody in Poland is going back to anything; forward is the only direction the Poles, except the die-hard revisionists, are conscious of. Nor do they condemn wholesale the period before October, 1956, during which certain positive policy lines were laid down, primarily the construction of an industrial base in Poland, which instead of being repudiated is being carried forward with greater vigor.

Rosenthal claims that the Party is hated, that the Russians are hated, that Marxism commands no respect among intellectuals, that the people are all found to the Catholic church, and if all else fails, there are the ignorant and backward small-plot farmers to save "free" Poland!

"LONG-TERM PRESSURE"

Speaking at the convention of the Polish United Workers Party in March, A. Zawadzki, a member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee, seemed to have someone like Rosenthal in mind when he said:

"When they were compelled to abandon stakes in the 'second stage', when the direct attack on Socialism and on the Party failed, the reactionary forces within and outside the country settled for diverse long-term anti-Socialist pressure.

"The economic achievements of the country and the improved material situation of the working people are put to doubt. Opinions are voiced that people are now living through a period of disappointment, that Party matters and its policy are treated with indifference, that this policy represents an abandonment of the policy inaugurated by October, 1956, and the like. It is perfidiously asserted that Communism does not command the type of worker activist ready to make sacrifices (black outbribe)

Cont'd