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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

25 June 1968

Czechoslovak Daily Calls for Renewal of Prague-Belgrade Treaty

A call for the renewal of the Czechoslovak-Yugoslav treaty of alliance was published in the 22 June issue of the Czechoslovak Socialist party daily Svobodne Slovo. Although Yugoslav-Czechoslovak relations have improved considerably in the last five months, this is the first public suggestion that Prague and Belgrade renew the agreement, which lapsed after Tito left the Cominform. Since Novotny's ouster, Belgrade has consistently supported Prague's liberalization program, contacts between the two countries have increased, and joint Iranian-Yugoslav-Czechoslovak-Hungarian talks were to open on 24 June to consider the construction of an oil pipe line from the Adriatic through Yugoslavia and Hungary to Czechoslovakia.

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Bonn Government Schedules Activities in Berlin

The Bonn government has publicly scheduled two Bundestag Work Weeks in Berlin this fall to be followed by a CDU party convention. The announcement by the Bundestag's Council of Elders, presumably without consultation with the Foreign Office, probably will be received in Pankow as a challenge to the new access regulations and possibly will provoke the East Germans to introduce more stringent controls.

The Bundestag meetings are scheduled to take place on 22-27 September and from 27 October to 2 November. The CDU convention will follow the second Bundestag week. When queried as to why two work weeks were scheduled for this fall a Bundestag spokesman said that it was normal practice to hold three annually and only one had been held in the first half of this year.

The US Embassy had no prior knowledge of the Bundestag's intentions. Since the scheduling of work weeks could be provocative and controversial, the embassy intends to remind the Bonn government of its responsibility to keep the Allies informed of such developments.

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Polish Deputy Foreign Minister Formally Ousted

The other shoe finally dropped for Deputy Foreign Minister Marian Naszkowski on 22 June, when it was officially announced that he has been relieved of his duties in the ministry to become chief editor of the party's theoretical monthly, Nowe Drogi. He will replace present editor Stefan Wierblowski, who retires on 1 July.

A veteran, tough, pro-Soviet administrator Naszkowski also is a Jew, and has come under attack along with other members of the Jewish "establishment" within the Foreign Ministry. These attacks by the party's hardliners came to a head reportedly in early April when, despite Foreign Minister Rapacki's intercession, Naszkowski and others were effectively barred from performing their duties.

Naszkowski's new job, although a demotion, is relatively prestigious, and indicates that Gomulka is still able to look after even those "old comrades" whom he cannot save. His formal demise also suggests that other numerous de facto changes in the Foreign Ministry will soon be clarified. The Ministry is now left with three deputy foreign ministers, the moderate Winiewicz who has been acting for Rapacki since the latter went on a prolonged medical/political leave of absence in early April. and two new men appointed in mid-April. [redacted]

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Zhivkov's Cuban Trip Fails to Materialize

Recent rumors that Todor Zhivkov was again planning a trip to Cuba have been categorically denied by Lyubomir Popov, a Foreign Ministry department head. Officials of the Cuban Embassy in Sofia, confirming this denial, told the Rumanian ambassador that they had "no knowledge of the reported trip."

If the Bulgarians were trying to arrange a visit, as seems likely [redacted] they were probably tripped up again by Havana's hostile attitude toward the Soviets. Zhivkov suffered through one postponement last January and apparently the Bulgarians are being very cautious before they publicly announce another visit. The Cubans still have not accepted an invitation to the Soviet-sponsored World Youth Festival scheduled to open in Sofia on 28 July. Their recalcitrance in this matter, as well as Zhivkov's on again off again visit probably is a good reflection of the poor state of relations between Cuba and the bloc.

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US Accepts First Hungarian Communist Ambassador

Agreement was granted on 21 June by the State Department for Janos Nagy as Hungarian Ambassador to Washington. The post has been vacant since last year when both sides agreed to raise their legations to embassies. Nagy's appointment was delayed first by the defection of Janos Radvanyi, the Hungarian Charge' d'Affaires, and later by Radvanyi's publication of an article in Life about Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter's false claims to be mediating on behalf of Hanoi.

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Another Spy Trial in Poland

A Polish-born West German citizen, Peter Pawelczyk, alias Peter Pettersen, and a Polish seaman, Wladyslaw Ostojki, will go on trial on 26 June before a naval court in Gdynia on charges of spying for the US. According to the 21 June press announcement, Pawelczyk worked in Bremen, where he recruited Ostojki and other Polish seamen.

This is the third major spy trial in Poland within the past six months, and illustrates the vehemence of the current "vigilance" campaign. The campaign, conducted by the security apparatus under the control of the party's hard-line faction also has internal political overtones, since it keeps the long arm of Interior Minister Moczar in public view.

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The principal defendants in the previous two trials --in January and early June--received death sentences; the first of these has already been carried out.

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US Prepares to Give Hungary Agricultural Credit

In the face of Hungary's drought, the US Agriculture Department has approved a \$10 million credit line through its Commodity Credit Corporation. US exporters will be permitted to ship wheat, feed grains, cotton, and tobacco with a US Government guarantee. The loan is for 36 months. A US agricultural trade mission which will visit Hungary shortly will break the news to the Hungarian authorities, thus giving them some flexibility in dealing with anticipated shortfalls brought about by the lack of rain.

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NOTE: THE VIEWS EXPRESSED ABOVE REPRESENT
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