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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

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Poles Taking the Heat off the Czechs

Several recent developments indicate that the Poles now wish to downplay recent tensions with the Czechoslovak regime, while stressing the hope that Prague's liberalizing trend will be kept within "socialist" bounds.

In a 23 May conversation on a different subject with the British ambassador in Warsaw, acting Foreign Minister Winiewicz blurted out that "Poland's concern over the Czechoslovak affair is over." This statement tends to confirm earlier reports that within the past few days the Polish Embassy in Prague has been taking a less alarmist view of Czechoslovak developments. A friendly atmosphere was said to have prevailed during a 23 May meeting between Gomulka, Cyrankiewicz and Czechoslovak Ambassador Gregor when the latter handed them a reply to the 6 May Polish protest over "distortions of Polish events" in the Czechoslovak press. As far as we can tell, however, Prague has not promised to curb its press.

Polish tourism to Czechoslovakia, severely curtailed by the Poles in recent weeks, may also resume soon. According to the Polish press, agreement has been reached between the travel agencies of the two countries to facilitate the travel of Poles to two major Czechoslovak fairs in July and August.

At the same time, the Polish regime seems to be sending unofficial emissaries to Prague to influence the Czechoslovaks toward keeping the liberalization trend there under control. For example, two officials of the pro-regime Catholic organization, PAX held talks in Prague recently with representatives of the Peoples (Catholic) Party and with Prague's apostolic administrator Bishop Tomasek. As a pro-regime group, PAX has no standing whatever with the Polish episcopate, but the Polish regime probably hopes to use it as a channel to those Czechoslovak elements with which it could otherwise have no contact.

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De Gaulle's Visit to Rumania Coolly Treated by Most Russian Media

Soviet media generally treated De Gaulle's visit to Rumania as a non-event by limiting their coverage to small

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items about his program. This limited coverage of the visit may in part reflect Soviet uneasiness--especially against the background of the Czechoslovak situation--about the development of Franco-Rumanian relations. The restricted coverage may also reflect what appears to be a deliberate Russian policy of ignoring Rumania in Soviet media. This policy has been particularly noticeable since the April plenum of the Rumanian party's central committee at which party and state chief Ceausescu further consolidated his position at the expense of the "old guard." By ousting Alexandru Draghici, an arch "old guard" type, and calling for further investigations, Ceausescu set in motion forces which could expose additional Stalinist skeletons in the Rumanian closet. [redacted]

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Polés Reveal "New Statistics" on Jewish Victims of Nazism

The director of the Polish commission on Nazi wartime crimes accused "Zionists" on 23 May of falsely claiming that 5.6 million out of 5.7 million of those killed in Nazi extermination camps were Jews.

Writing in the party daily Trybuna Ludu, he declared that this claim overstates the figure of Jewish victims by more than 2.5 million. According to the Pole's "re-confirmed statistics," 7.23 million persons perished in the camps, including 3 million Jews from all European countries. In addition, 2.1 million more Jews were murdered by the Nazis in various ways outside the camps, bringing the total of Jewish victims to 5.1 million.

Part of the regime's anti-Semitic propaganda since March has been the claim that "Zionists" have sought to denigrate the importance of non-Jewish victims of the Nazi occupation in Poland and elsewhere. This latest example of cold blooded exploitation of a numbers game is designed to underscore the martyrdom of non-Jewish Poles, but almost certainly it will be counterproductive among the people in general. [redacted]

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Yugoslav-Bulgarian Macedonian Feud Continues

Bitter differences between Yugoslav and Bulgarian literary circles over the cultural heritage of Macedonia has led the Yugoslav authors' organization to cancel sending its delegation to the current Bulgarian writers' congress in Sofia. The official reason Yugoslavia gave for

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its boycott was the failure of Bulgaria to fulfill its pledge to send a delegation to Yugoslavia to discuss sensitive Macedonian cultural issues earlier this year.

The action follows complaints in the hypersensitive Belgrade press about an article which appeared recently in the Bulgarian periodical, Narodna Kultura. According to the Yugoslavs, the article implied that Macedonians and their language were still Bulgarian and that they have remained in slavery in Yugoslavia. [REDACTED]

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Indonesia to Establish Trade Office in East Berlin

Indonesia plans to open a trade office in East Berlin in the near future, according to a West German Foreign Office official in Bonn.

The West Germans have agreed to the idea provided the office has "no official character." The Indonesians have assured Bonn that the office will meet this requirement and the West Germans have agreed not to curtail economic assistance or publicly criticize the Indonesian decision.

In fact, a parliamentary delegation currently in Djakarta is expected to recommend doubling the amount of assistance that the FRG gives to Indonesia this year and next. This congenial attitude may have prompted Indonesian Foreign Minister Malik's statement to the delegation that Indonesia would not establish a consulate or consulate general in East Berlin as long as he was Foreign Minister.

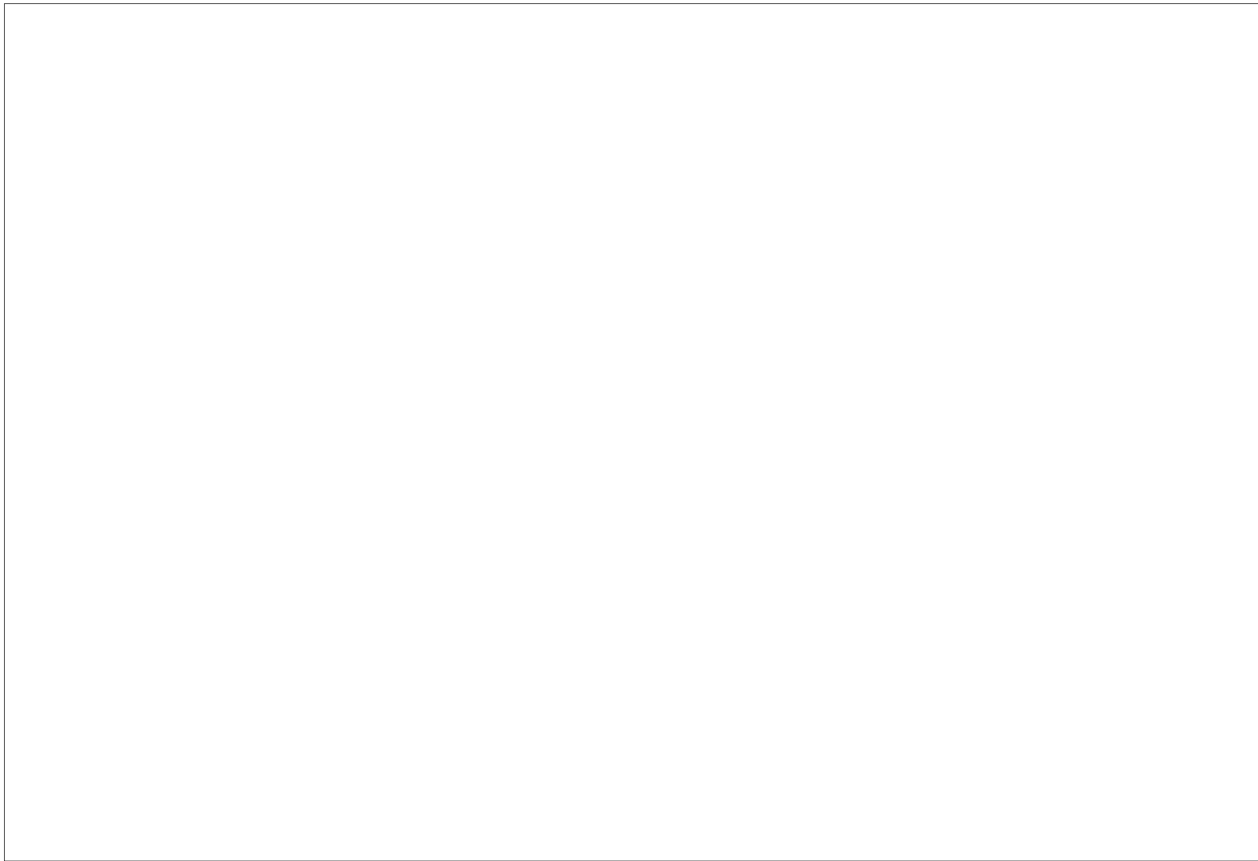
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Yugoslavia May Join Intelsat

Yugoslavia will join Intelsat, the US-sponsored satellite communications system, as soon as financial and technical terms for financing a station in Yugoslavia can be arranged. Belgrade hopes that the ground station will attract enough Rumanian and Hungarian traffic to make membership a paying proposition. The Yugoslavs' previously stated that they had no interest in participating in the Soviet Molniya satellite system. [REDACTED]

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