

HISTORIC DAYS

An Editorial

EVENTS show that the Polish government, the Polish Communists and the indomitable Polish working class are advancing the democratization and independence of their socialist regime. The dropping of the slanderous accusations against Wladyslaw Gomulka was a vindication of justice and socialist principles. He was the champion of the independent Polish path to socialism. Today, after four years in jail he is back in the leadership of his party.

In the current series of Poznan trials the Polish people have proved their adherence to the strict rule of law and justice. And the Poznan demonstrations themselves were an outgrowth of workingclass pressure for democratization and liberalization which has been continuing without halt. It was not socialism these workers opposed. On the contrary, it was the departures from socialist principles in respect to economic and social questions that enabled hoodlums and anti-socialist individuals to fish in muddy waters. As Gomulka put it in his historic report to the Central Committee of the party:

"The Poznan workers did not protest against socialism when they went out in the streets. They protested against the evil which grew widely in our life, against the deformation of basic principles of socialism.

"It was a great mistake to picture the Poznan tragedy as a work of agents and provocateurs. The causes of the Poznan tragedy lie in us, the party, the government."

• • •

POLAND'S independent course is not an anti-Soviet course, as the entire leadership of the Polish party has re-

(Continued on Page 5)

HISTORIC DAYS

(Continued from Page 1)

affirmed. They know that the liberation of Poland from Hitlerism became possible as a result of the Soviet defeat of German fascism. They also know that Polish security from any future German Wehrmacht rests on friendly relations with its big socialist neighbor, the USSR.

Again as Gomulka put it:

"Polish-Soviet relations based on principles of equality and independence will give rise among the people of Poland to such deep feelings of friendship toward the Soviet Union that no attempts at sowing distrust of the Soviet Union will find fertile soil among the Polish people."

Top-level discussions have taken place between the Polish and Soviet Communist leaders. That differences exist is clearly indicated, but there are far too few facts on the exact nature of those differences. We uphold the right of all Communist parties to criticize or appraise in a friendly manner, developments in other parties. But such relations require absolutely no interference in the internal affairs of other parties and countries.

This newspaper and the American Communist Party have stressed on several occasions their belief that international workingclass solidarity are strengthened by equality, by the right of mutual criticism and non-interference in the affairs of other parties.

This principle was strongly emphasized in the joint declaration of the Soviet and Yugoslav Communist parties in June, 1955. And it is apparent from the way Polish events are going that there is a world of difference in the situation today and that which existed in 1948. At that time Stalin's influence brought about the break with the Yugoslav Communists and rudely interfered in the affairs of a brother party. Today it is no longer possible to ignore the fact that differences must be settled only by discussions with the strictest adherence to the principles of equality.

We believe that Pravda had a right to discuss what it didn't approve of in Poland, just as the Polish press has the right to disagree with Pravda. We are dubious, however, of imputing on a blanket scale to sections of the Polish press, the desire to restore capitalism. This sounds too much like some of the unjustified criticism made of Yugoslavia in 1948.

WE STRONGLY condemn the efforts of the Eisenhower administration to utilize this situation to bring about conflict, instead of peace, and to work for the overthrow of the Polish government. This is typical of how big business has always viewed relations with Poland. They are not really interested in Polish democracy. They supported fascism under Pilsudski and Smigley-Ridz. They supported every racist-minded, pogrom-ridden government of the Polish landlord and capitalists. But the Polish people have done forever with landlords and big capitalists. They are not now embarked on any retreat from socialism. They are strengthening it to the greatest degree by firmly establishing the democratic foundations of socialism.

We say that President Eisenhower's statement gives comfort neither to the Polish people nor to the American people who stand to gain from a peaceful resolution of all international disputes. Eisenhower continues the practice of working hand in glove with those exiles from Poland who represented the pro-fascist regimes of the feudal Pans. The interference of the administration could only block the democratization and liberalization which proceeds so inexorably in Poland. In this respect Washington really bases itself not on the Polish workers and peasants but on those in Poland who would try to use the liberalization in order to restore the old reactionary regime.

The leaders of the Polish and Soviet Communists have expressed confidence that their differences will be resolved peacefully and amicably.

Bad relations between Poland and the Soviet Union before World War II played into the hands of Hitler with disastrous consequences for our country and the whole world. The establishment of close and friendly relations on the basis of equality between the USSR and Poland strengthens peace and helps our country. The hopes of the Eisenhower administration to stir dissension will, we are confident, be frustrated by the historic events now unfolding. And fortunately so, for the security and peace of our own country.

To the working people of Poland we extend our heartfelt solidarity. Our hand is stretched out to them as they work to reinforce the grand democratic traditions of socialism, justice and equality.