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POLAND

The regime is continuing its efforts to convince the populace that it is open to change and willing to make state institutions more independent of the party and more democratic.

Polish Premier Pinkowski yesterday announced a reshuffle of his cabinet that included the return from diplomatic exile in Bern of Jozef Tejchma as Minister of Culture; he is considered a liberal and had been dropped as Minister of Culture by former Party chief Gierek. Pinkowski's reason for shifting Interior Minister Kowalczyk to Deputy Premier is less clear. Kowalczyk is a hardliner the Premier may have wanted removed from a key administrative position; he does, however, have some background in economic policy that Pinkowski may want to tap.

The Polish parliament yesterday resumed responsibility for the Supreme Chamber of Control, a supposedly independent organization that monitors the implementation of policy and fights corruption. The Chamber had been subordinate to the parliament until the mid-1970s, when former Premier Jaroszewicz arranged to make it accountable to the Council of Ministers. Jaroszewicz was reportedly concerned that it might investigate him or members of his family.

The Chamber of Control will presumably move quickly against certain members of the previous regime; a major theme at the central committee meeting this past weekend was the need to purge corrupt officials and to restore power to "democratic institutions." The reappointed head of the Chamber, Mieczyslaw Moczar, has long been a political opponent of former party leader Gierek, who removed him from his high-level party positions in 1971.

Moczar's reappointment, however, does not constitute a substantial political comeback. He has not been reappointed to the party's highest bodies, and he is distrusted by the Soviets as a staunch nationalist.

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The party, meanwhile, has continued its internal debates. At least six provincial party organizations yesterday discussed the current situation and "problems" connected with preparing for the extraordinary party congress. The Polish news agency reported that there were many "bitter, critical, and self-critical" remarks during the meetings. The party also removed another provincial first secretary, this time in Torun. He became the third such leader removed since Kania replaced Gierek as party chief.

The influential Roman Catholic Church yesterday gave trade union activists a boost when a high-level Church official met with members of the Interfactory Workers' Committee. Bishop Dabrowski, the secretary of the Episcopate, and the free trade unionists reportedly reviewed the question of the Church's gaining greater access to mass media--one of the provisions of the strike settlement that the regime has honored at least in part. Details of the meeting are unknown, but its symbolism will not be lost on the public or the regime.

Foreign Assistance

Polish Finance Minister Krzak is scheduled to sign the \$675 million balance-of-payments loan with a consortium of West German banks today. Warsaw has asked Bonn for additional aid including a \$280 million credit for semifinished goods, a \$112 million credit for foodstuffs, and postponement of payments on outstanding credits.

[REDACTED] Bucharest is likely to deliver little if any of the food it promised to Poland as poststrike aid. Bucharest reportedly is reneging because of its fears of civil unrest in Romania.

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