

POLAND

Party leader Kania appears to be having some success in consolidating his control over the party's bureaucracy by removing from key positions individuals who probably have resisted his efforts to introduce change in regime policies and practices.

Since August, 15 of the 49 provincial first secretaries have been replaced--six this month.

The most important replacement was announced yesterday when Kania nominated Stanislaw Kociolek to succeed Alojzy Karkoszka as first secretary in the Warsaw provincial apparatus. Warsaw has been traditionally known as one of the more conservative party organizations, and Kania would want to be sure he was in control of it before moving very far.

Kociolek has been out of the party leadership since 1971, when Baltic coast workers demanded his ouster as deputy prime minister and party secretary for his behavior during the bloody riots in Gdansk. His return is not likely to sit well with the workers.

The next indicator of Kania's strength within the party will come with the seventh central committee plenum that may meet as early as next week.

Kania may seek the removal of several members of the politburo and secretariat who are "snapping at his heels."

Restriction on Foreign Journalists

A Polish Foreign Ministry official informed on Saturday that foreign journalists on temporary visas will not as a rule be allowed to extend them. A newsman who works for a US magazine has already been told that he must leave Poland by Friday.

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Other reporting indicates that this latest policy on foreign journalists was only agreed upon after some high-level debate. The leadership apparently settled in the end for less stringent restrictions than were originally under consideration.

Economic Measures

In what appears to be the first instance of an officially announced increase in consumer prices since the outbreak of unrest in July, Warsaw has disclosed that the retail price of potatoes in certain regions will go up by about 14 percent today. The move probably reflects an attempt to reduce demand so that it is in better balance with the supply of potatoes, which was greatly reduced by the disastrously low harvest this year.

To persuade farmers to sell more of their potatoes to state outlets, the regime this week raised the procurement price by 50 percent above levels of 1979. Since the regime reportedly is slow in making good on its promise to link coal provided to farmers to their sales of potatoes to the state, however, the procurement price boost may not have much effect.

Romanian Reaction

Romania's trade unions have admitted shortcomings in their promotion of workers' "justified interests" and promised to do more to represent the working man's "way of thinking." This statement, which was published on Sunday in a document to be considered at the union congress next April, is intended in part to counter the appeal of the Polish free trade union movement among Romania's disgruntled work force.

The pledge is unlikely to elicit much grass-roots support, particularly because the document also makes clear that the trade unions are to remain subservient to the party and dedicated to mobilizing the workers to implement the party's programs. It does not give the unions authority to influence regime policy or the workers the means of shaping union policy.