

JUL 25 1956

Circ.: e. 21,114

Approved For Release 2000/08/24 : CIA-RDP70-00058R000100130077-2

Front Page Ed Page Other Page

CPYRGHT

Frank Admissions by a Communist Chieftain

One is always disposed to take with a pinch of salt the admissions and declarations of the passionate partisan — the amount of salt varying with the history of performance and record of devotion to truth. Shall the recent "confession" of Edward Ochab, the Polish Communist leader, be accepted at face value when he says the blame for the recent bloody riots should be accepted by those responsible for internal conditions, and not laid upon "imperial agents?"

Ochab says "the soullessness of the authorities, many real grievances, failure of the Six Year Plan to provide enough food and coal and to raise the workers' wages, and money spent on armaments" all combined to blow off the lid of discontent and release the pentup emotions of the populace.

Moscow began screaming about "foreign agents" before the last shot rang out, and Allen Dulles of our Central Intelligence Agency came in for much abuse as the instigator of the riots. But Ochab says: "In assessing the reason for these incidents, it would be an error to concentrate attention on the machinations of provocateurs and agents of imperialism. The social roots of these incidents, evincing serious troubles in the relations between the party and a section of the workers, should be sought first of all."

He then proceeds to list a few places where interested officials could look for reasons for unrest: The drop in earnings due to cessation of factory

piece work; conduct of local and national bureaucracy; reaction from the departure from Stalinism, the revelations of whose excesses "had aroused bitterness and distrust" with resultant "political demobilization" (probably meaning party defections); neglect of agriculture and abuse of middle class peasants, and a policy which "led us to seek behind everything alien and hostile opinion, subversion and imperialist agencies."

All this soul-washing was done by Ochab in full view of the party's central committee in Warsaw. If what he said is on the level, and the Polish government means it when it says that the people are to have greater freedom to criticize and disagree so long as they do not "slander" the government or Polish-Soviet relations, some progress may be in the making behind the Iron Curtain. Changes in Hungarian party leadership is also a straw blowing in the right direction.

Such moves, if continued, are worth any number of smiles on the faces of Moscow leaders, who think of themselves as world leaders of Communism, which they probably are — vodka and all. Words from the Kremlin have carried no assurance whatever for the free world that all peoples may live in peace from military and ideological interference. But when Communism begins to sprout a few democratic feathers, we may begin to hope—even feebly—that a full-grown dove may someday nest in the Red East.