

# Polish Gov't to Hold Open Inquiry Into Poznan Riot

By JOSEPH CLARK

ALTHOUGH the full story is far from in it has become a little more possible to describe what happened in Poznan, Poland, during the June 29 riots. The accounts spread out so sensationally in most newspapers were at best, exaggerated, at worst, false. Sydney

Gruson cabled from Warsaw to the N.Y. Times (July 9) that reporters were unable to secure first hand information and relied on accounts credited to Western businessmen in Poznan for the fair.

"Many of these accounts were highly colored," Gruson admits, but adds that one reason has been a tight official clamp on news about casualties and arrests.

From Gordon Cruickshank, London Daily Worker correspondent who has been an on-the-spot observer in Poland it is now possible to give more details. Most heartening has been his report that a Commission of Inquiry, in public, and at which everyone able to give evidence will be heard, is to be held in Poznan in the near future.

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CRUICKSHANK said altogether between 500 and 600 persons were arrested during the Poznan disturbances. Some were merely people who unwittingly broke the curfew and they were soon released.

A few of those arrested had no identification and reportedly refused to say who they are and where they from.

A certain number came from outside Poznan, including some who say they just came for the Fair.

One was a seaman from Gdansk who was armed when arrested.

Cruickshank reports that investigation revealed where arms came from during the riots. Some were taken from the local polytechnic and other high schools where both arms and ammunition were kept for students receiving military training. Others were seized from militia men (police) who in the first hours of the disturbances were absolutely forbidden to use their arms; they were thereby disarmed by rioters.

To date, Cruickshank writes from Warsaw, there is no evidence that arms were imported.

Of those arrested very few were workers at the Zipsco works, where local grievances sparked the protests. There were also very few students. There were young workers from small factories and some street car workers.

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MOST OF THE deaths resulted from the night fighting when the soldiers began to clean up machine gun nests the rioters had set up on roof tops.

According to Polish authorities the riots have a two-fold origin: the justified grievances of the workers, and the utilization of their dis-

satisfaction by anti-Socialist subversive forces.

Trybuna Ludu, official paper of the Polish Workers Party, said the riots were caused partly by "bureaucratic irregularities in the working-class State." It emphasized that this fact "should not be hidden."

The Communist newspaper said that:

"There were two currents—that of the dissatisfaction and bitterness of the workers as well as the current of enemy provocations against the People's Government."

The Trybuna Ludu editorial denied that the authorities had opened fire on a workers' demonstration. "The People's Power does not and will not shoot against the working class," the paper declared. It said that the shooting resulted from an armed provocation by enemies of the republic.

Concerning the origin of the strike the newspaper says, "the workers had reason for bitterness," but adds, "the Poznan events showed that the form of their protest was not proper and it was harmful."

Concerning the economic difficulties facing the workers Trybuna Ludu cited the international situation which is said made it necessary for Poland to create a powerful defense industry in a country already ravished by war.

"We all know," the editorial continued, "the the mistakes committed by our Party aggravated these negative results of the situation."

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THE POLISH Communists said that "the progress of democratization in the economic life of the country has already lagged." They promised to speed up "democratization in the field of production and in increasing the masses' participation in the distribution of the national income."

The Polish Communists, asked how it was possible for the Workers Party to be as passive as they apparently were during the Poznan events. They answered that the Party had failed to recognize "the contradictions in our economic and social life." The task they said, is to recognize them and with the working class eliminate them, adding "otherwise conflicts are created, and an example of that was Poznan."

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MEANWHILE Walter Reuther cabled a request to the Polish trade unions to send a delegation to Poland to investigate the Poznan

events. The question that may have occurred to some auto workers was why Reuther had reversed an earlier decision to reject an invitation from the Polish unions to visit Poland and investigate conditions.

Concern about workers conditions in Poland would logically have dictated an acceptance of the Polish trade union invitation when it was first offered. Perhaps the visiting Americans would have been able to point out shortcomings that should have been remedied and that might have prevented the tragic loss of life in Poznan. But even now a real exchange of trade union delegations between Poland and America would be of great value to workers in both lands.

But the State Department has not only barred such exchange of delegations in the past it is now apparently interested in the Poznan events only from the point of view of the cold war against the socialist countries.

When the newspapers were filled with news about Poznan, Senators were promising appropriating additional funds to organize subversive activities in Poland and other socialist countries.

This reaction in Washington has brought adverse comment here and abroad where it is generally recognized that Poland has gone a considerable way in liberalizing and democratizing its regime.

A letter in the N.Y. Times (July 3) by a former professor at Poznan University, Joseph Sulkowski, expressed concern that Washington's attitude may hamper "the recent trend toward liberalization." He deplored the use of the riots "as an argument in the cold war against the Soviet Union." Professor Sulkowski also points out that earmarking of funds to oppose the socialist regime is contrary to international law. Prof. Sulkowski concluded:

"All these moves cannot but lead to increased friction and lend support to the Soviet suspicion that the United States is fomenting underground movements aiming at the violent overthrow of the Communist governments. It is to be feared that they may reverse the recent trend toward liberalization which, if permitted to develop and is not interfered with, might lead to a gradual democratization of the Communist-controlled countries."

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UNQUESTIONABLY there have been pressures in Poland and in the other socialist countries to go slow in the democratization campaign

## THE WEEK IN W

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THE SUPREME Soviet meeting in its second session of the year agreed on a considerable expansion of pensions especially for workers in lower paid categories. Premier Bulganin reported that industrial production this year is running 12 percent higher than last year.

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AMERICAN scientists returning from the Soviet Union reported that Peter Kapitza, outstanding physicist, was under house arrest during the last seven years of Stalin's life, because Kapitza refused to work on the military application of nuclear physics. Kapitza has now been restored as director of the Institute for Physical Problems.

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THE BRITISH House of Lords turned down a bill passed by the House of Commons banning capital punishment in Great Britain. It would take a year for Commons to override the Lords and make it law.

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CHINESE - AMERICAN negotiations in Geneva on an ambassador level are now reaching their first anniversary. When they began last August the Chinese released 11 American flyers who had been shot down over China. Since then they also repatriated a number of American civilians but there are still some 13 held in China. Meanwhile the U. S. has also allowed the departure of Chinese students to their homeland.

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TWENTY-SEVEN representatives of the Congregationalist churches of America have received visas to visit the Soviet Union. They expect to make a ten-day tour. Two groups of American Rabbis, representing major synagogues and Rabbinical organizations, are at present in the USSR and have delivered sermons in various Soviet syna-

as a result of the Poznan events. But while the Hungarian and East German governments, as well as the Soviet press, have stressed the need of increased vigilance in Poland itself there has been even greater emphasis on the liberalization process and on gradually settling the grievances of the workers.

It was expected that the actual investigation and trials of those charged with responsibility would be a fulfillment of the promise to maintain the strictest rule of law and justice and protection of civil liberties, while eliminating the organizers of subversive force and violence.

The Polish authorities have pledged there will be no vengeful attitude on their part.