

# Poland's New Path Of Democratization

By GORDON CRUICKSHANK

WARSAW. — Premier Gomulka categorically insists that Poland has only "one road" forward to socialist development, and that is the road of further democratization. That the vast masses of Polish people agree with him cannot be doubted.

For the Polish State democratization means an adjustment of their relations with other countries and in particular with the Soviet Union to allow them greater independence.

For the Polish Government it means a degree of "liberation"—that is, greater opportunities allowed to varying class and other social groupings to exert their influence and points of view. Plus increased control over the government by democratically elected organs.

And, most important, a review of the democratic processes to improve them and to ensure that they are genuinely democratic.

For the Polish citizens democratization means a right to influence and intervene in the governing of the country. To speak out. To have a say in affairs.

It means also an end to being the victims of a misused security organization, living a life in which walls have ears.

It also means an increased op-

portunity to travel abroad, to move about more freely.

To the Polish workmen, democratization means a chance to get rid of the petty dictatorial powers of directors, to develop trade unions that genuinely defend their interests, and more positively the opportunity to exercise control over organization and production in the factory.

No longer, in fact, to be the victim of plans and schemes, sometimes grandiose, sometimes inadequate, often unrealistic.

To the Polish peasant and farmers, Gomulka's plans mean an end to the pressure to "collective," and to discrimination on the side of Co-operatives and State farms.

Productivity, good economic farming that produces a profit, is to be the essential criterion of success and is to be assisted.

To the small man, manufacturer or craftsman—and there are many good craftsmen in Poland—it means the chance to build a reasonable business. Besides mem-

world-wide struggle against colonialism.

Considerable interest has been aroused among UN delegates by the Swiss government's proposal for a new summit conference including India. The Soviet, British, French and Indian governments have indicated their readiness for such a meeting, but President Eisenhower has thus far opposed it, on the grounds that the issues involved will be taken up by this meeting of the UN.

Prince Wan said in his brief speech on his election that he saw in this action of the Assembly the "increasing importance of Asia and Africa."

He said that the UN has shown itself in the current crisis "an efficient and effective instrument of peace."

He noted that the cease-fire had been successfully reached in Egypt and that a UN police force is now on its way to supervise the withdrawal of all invading forces."

Regarding Hungary, he said a report is being awaited.

Prince Wan also emphasized the unifying influence of the UN, which, he said, was "demonstrated at Bandung."

bers of his family he can now employ four workpeople. He will receive fair supplies of materials compared to State organizations, and he will not suffer onerous taxation as has been the case in the past.

To the artist, the writer, demo-

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cratization means creative liberty and all that that implies. No more pudding-headed bureaucrats or iron-faced Pecksniffs to lay down the line.

To the professor and the student democratization means the truthful examination of knowledge and not its interpretation according to dogmas.

In fact, everyone in Poland has his own particular stake in democratization, the mass of Communists (that is, the members of the United Workers' Party) no less than any other grouping. To them it means a new flowering of genuine inner-Party democracy.

It means an end to a Papal form of leadership, to the type of "leader" who would answer a genuine question by labelling it as "anti-Party."

To the lawyers democratization means a new Socialist legality: the development of legal methods to discern equity, the nearest approach to justice in practice.

So much for some of the positive meanings of democratization to the Polish people. There are many more. Perhaps to most it means what one man said to me: "We can all face the economic hardships so long as we do it willingly together and not by orders from above while our leaders put up a hypocritical facade of so-called successes."

Are there alternatives to this "one road" of Gomulka's?

Could, for instance, the country have gone on as it was going? I would say "no." I would say nothing on earth could have kept Poland on the same road.

How can the lid be kept firmly on the pot when the water inside is boiling and the heat is kept on?

The economic situation must have deteriorated because the will to work among the people was shrinking. Poverty must have grown.

Hatred and resentment would also have grown. There might well have been more Poznans.

Even the group in the leadership, who were recently defeated in the eighth plenum of the Central Committee, were not completely against democratization. Their aim was to go more slowly.

It is no accident that the Polish people, with mature political wisdom and great courage born of generations of struggle, have sought out and taken the road to Socialist democratization from which they make clear "they will not be pushed."

And, by the way, it is often forgotten that they first turned on to this road several years ago and not a few weeks ago, at the time of the Third Plenum of the Central Committee.

For the Polish Communists and Socialists democratization means that they will get down to building a Polish Socialist economic, political and social system, in which all the splendid assistance which has been, and will be, given them by their powerful Socialist Soviet neighbor will be properly appreciated by all in a new way.

They foresee a flowering of an even greater Polish-Soviet friendship such as has never before existed and which they dearly desire.

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