

10.11.68

CURT - MEETINGS BANNED IN POLAND, HUNGARY BANNED

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Munich, March 10 (CNR) - The following article today appeared in the Observer:

THOUSANDS of Polish students clashed with police in Warsaw yesterday for the second successive day.

The students threw bricks and stones and the police broke them up with tear-gas bombs and baton charges.

The students were protesting about action against colleagues who paraded through the city after the Ministry of Culture ended performances of a nineteenth-century anti-Russian play.

About 1,000 students stood chanting outside the locked doors of the Polytechnic and some got in for a protest meeting.

Others outside made a bonfire of newspapers which said Friday's battle with the police was provoked by undisciplined students 'with political ambitions.'

Then, carrying the red and white Polish flag, they began marching six abreast, chanting 'Freedom,' 'Warsawians support us,' and 'Democracy.' They sang the Communist song 'Internationale.'

As the students, now numbering several thousands, rounded a corner, blue-helmeted riot police were waiting for them. The battle began.

LAOS LEDERER writes: East Europe, thirsting for liberty, this week faces

a crisis unequalled since the great explosion after Khrushchev's exposure of Stalin in 1956. The student upheaval in Prague and Warsaw has spread to the workers in both countries and may get out of hand.

According to Yugoslav reports all students' and workers' meetings scheduled for this weekend in Poland and Hungary have been banned.

The Hungarian Government has also cancelled a number of meetings due to be held next Friday, the hundredth and twentieth anniversary of the 1848 uprising.

The Yugoslav leadership, which gave the lead to East Europe, in moving gradually away from repression and towards national independence, regards the events of the past few days with misgivings.

The Yugoslavs fear that revolutionary developments might get out of hand, and at the very least alarm the more liberal Communist leaders. More dangerously the situation could help remaining Stalinists in East Europe, above all the supporters of Novotny in Prague, to make a comeback.

What the liberal-minded East Europeans fear most is that the Russians themselves, poised once more on a razor edge, might be driven to intervene.

WNV/1655/68

More student clashes

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