

Warsaw Workers Hail New Era

By GORDON CRUIKSHANK

By Cable to the Daily Worker

WARSAW, Oct. 22. — Everyone in Poland today seems to feel some reason for satisfaction. The election of Wladyslaw Comulka as first

Exclusive

secretary of the United Workers Party, the removal of certain unpopular individuals from the Politbureau, and the speech of Comulka, which has been published in the newspapers and broadcast by

the radio—all combined to create this scene of satisfaction.

People are saying that never before, not even during the first days after liberation in 1945, have the Polish people been so united. They have been closing ranks around the Party.

Within an hour of the release of the news Sunday night about the election of a new Politbureau, hundreds of young people and workers arrived at the offices of Trybuna Ludu to sell the special edition. There were extraordinary scenes as the papers were sold. One streetcar conductor stopped his car while people scrambled out to buy papers. One man read the news, threw his paper into the air

and shouted "Long Live," traditional Polish expression of support.

This morning, as happened each morning since the plenum of the Party Central Committee began, queues lined up for newspapers. Mass meetings continue to be held at factories and institutions all over Poland.

Today I went to the Rosa Luxemburg electrical plant in Warsaw, where a lunchtime meeting was being held. Workers listened attentively to the speeches, whose central theme was friendship with the Soviet Union but on equal terms.

Indignation against those responsible for troop movements during the plenum are also being

expressed. Questions are being raised about the presence of Soviet troops in Poland. But anti-Sovietism as such is being denounced vigorously.

"If our 'new friends' think we're going to be pulled out of the socialist camp, they can think again," one speaker said, adding: "We know the Soviet Union is our guarantee that our 'new friend' Konrad Adenauer does not grab our Western territory."

Another said: "Without our Soviet ally we'd be defenseless."

A young woman, Irene Dobszynski, scientific worker, said: "But we aren't friends of the Soviet Union only out of fear, as parasites who want protection. We

have common socialist ideas and principles." She added, "But these socialist ideas mean we must have equality."

Boleslaw Radzik, an elderly worker, made a passionate speech saying he had been a socialist for many years. Poland since 1949 has been "no paradise," he said, and people began to lose faith in socialism, and would say 'socialism—what's that?'

"Old socialists," he continued, "were in disgrace and were pushed around. Those who claimed to be socialist leaders wouldn't even shake hands with them."

"They didn't think about people. Everybody talked in whispers.

(Continued on Page 7)

WARSAW

(Continued from Page 2)

Now we can speak out. But do not talk against the Soviet Union. They're our friends. The Soviet Union was the cradle of socialism. The Soviet people were the first to shed their blood for socialism."

Other speakers affirmed Poland's socialist aims. Some speakers referred to Phillips Radio, the company that, it seemed, had interests, before the war, in what is now the Rosa Luxembourg electrical factory. One speaker said:

"No one need think Phillips or any other pre-war owner is going to get our factory back."

Demands for further democratization in the factory were raised vigorously. What is going on at the top must go on among the people, speakers said. The factory director was described as "a lord in his estate," and this situation, it was declared, has got to end.

"We want to take over our own problems," one speaker said, and the meeting roared approval.

A woman said, "I have listened three times to Gomulka's speech on the radio, and I am hungry for more."

The plenum would be the beginning of a new life for the Polish people, but a new life that would have to be worked for, another speaker declared.

Indignation against the Pravda article was expressed. In a resolution, support was voted for the new Politbureau and for Gomulka, and for the program outlined in Gomulka's speech.

A suggestion that "Gomulka be asked to address the factory workers was enthusiastically supported.