

CN 45

X/13/9 W GER -- POLISH PARTICIPATION UNSURE AT ESSEN "CATHOLIC DAYS"

BONN, SEPT 3 (RFE SPECIAL/MARSH) -- OFFICIALS AT THE "82ND GERMAN CATHOLIC DAYS" SAID TODAY THEY HAD NO INFORMATION WHETHER A DELEGATION FROM POLAND WOULD ATTEND THE CONFERENCE, WHICH BEGINS TOMORROW IN ESSEN.

A GROUP FROM POLAND HAD BEEN EXPECTED TO ATTEND, BUT A PRESS SPOKESMAN SAID THERE WAS NO DEFINITE INFORMATION ON THE SIZE OF THE GROUP AND WHEN IT WAS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE.

THE BILLETING OFFICE IN ESSEN SAID IT WAS HOLDING A NUMBER OF ROOMS FOR POLISH VISITORS.

THE CATHOLIC DAYS WILL DRAW SOME 20,000 PARTICIPANTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD. FORTY BISHOPS WERE EXPECTED TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE WHICH ENDS SUNDAY.

THE THEME IS "IN THE MIDST OF THIS WORLD," AND THE DELEGATIONS WILL BE SEPARATED INTO CONSULTATIVE GROUPS TO STUDY PROBLEMS OF THE CHURCH IN MODERN SOCIETY.

MORE THAN 1,700 FORMULATED QUESTIONS WILL BE DISCUSSED BY THE CONSULTATIVE GROUPS.

SPEAKERS DURING THE CONFERENCE INCLUDE DR. EUGEN GERSTENMAIER, PRESIDENT OF THE WEST GERMAN BUNDESTAG, AND DR. RICHARD FREIHERR VON WEIZSAECKER, PRESIDENT OF THE GERMAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH DAYS.

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