

SOLIDARNOSĆ

B.D.I.C

News

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NEWSLETTER

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OVER 23,000 PERSONS HAVE BEEN SENTENCED to forced labour by the courts since the promulgation of the 'social parasitism' law in January '83, according to the Minister of the Interior, as reported by the official daily Kurier Polski on 10 September. The law applies to males between the ages of 18 and 45 who cannot prove employment for three consecutive months. It affects particularly former internees or persons released from prison who are often blacklisted and cannot find work corresponding to their qualifications. The government paper acknowledges that the measure has primarily affected "prisoners released on a conditional basis".

A SURVEY RECENTLY CONDUCTED in 40 enterprises in the Krakow region by the "Solidarnosc" Inter-Enterprise Commission (MKS), revealed that union dues have been regularly collected in large and small enterprises since early 1982. Survey findings, published in the underground paper Kronika Malopolska no. 34 (13 June '83) show that the payment of benefits stipulated in the union statute and aid to the repressed, the imprisoned and their families, account for a large portion of total expenditures. According to this source, clandestine libraries comprising books published by independent printers, have been set up in numerous enterprises. Most enterprises, particularly large ones, report that they publish their own newsheet or bulletin. Opinions are split concerning the possibility of success in exerting influence on management to act in the best interest of workers; the determining factor appears to be the attitude of individual directors. There is widespread agreement however, that union activities should be expanded and that actions which were tried and proved to be successful in other enterprises, should be undertaken. Preference was expressed for small study groups of between 4 and 5 persons, with a program covering such topics as workers' protection, union program and strategy, selected historical themes and present economic problems. Finally, the survey demonstrated that the main functions of the MKS, as identified by the enterprise commissions, should be to initiate and coordinate activities, to supply information, to prepare analytical studies and to assist factory commissions.

REPORT PRESENTED BY THE Temporary Regional Commission "Hutmen" (metal production plant with a workforce of more than 4,000) in Wroclaw, based on information and financial statements from the Temporary Enterprise Commission (TKZ) and the Strike Committee.

- approximately 80% of union members have been paying union dues - ranging from 50 to 1,000 zl. monthly - since the introduction of the state of war. Payment of dues was standardized at 200 zl. monthly in early 1983.

- Between December 1981 and April 1982, 90% of the funds collected was spent on assistance to internees and their families; the remaining 10% was earmarked for organisational activities. Since May 1982, 45% of the total has been allocated for union work. Expenditures include the purchase of printing equipment and chemicals; the funding of independent publishing

activities; and costs related to underground union work. The report notes that in 1983, new books were purchased for the underground library, more printing equipment was acquired and that close cooperation has been established with a small printing shop.

REGULATIONS GOVERNING COMPULSORY JOB PLACEMENT were announced on Polish television on 10 August 1983, to be enforced in 15 voivodships where labour shortages are most acute. The new rules are based on the Special Emergency Regulations Bill of 21 July and will remain in effect until 1985. Under the measures, all state and private enterprises in the 15 voivodships are obligated to notify the state placement agency of any job openings. Enterprises may offer these positions only to candidates approved by the state agency. The agency's written consent is needed by workers to enter any employment contract in the 15 voivodships, and in some work categories in the entire country. (Rzeczpospolita 15 August 1983; Uncensored Poland News Bulletin, no. 16)

RADIO "SOLIDARNOSC" IN WARSAW broadcast a two-minute program on 15 September assessing protest actions of August 31st which were called a success. The broadcast was immediately heavily jammed. According to Agence France-Presse another, almost simultaneous three-minute program, claiming to be radio "Solidarnosc" was aired. Unlike the first one, it was perfectly audible. The broadcaster spoke regretfully of Union difficulties because of attacks by the Party and lack of support from the Church hierarchy. The speaker appealed to the audience to refrain from street demonstrations during upcoming anniversaries (reference to 17 September - marking the Soviet invasion of Poland in 1939, and to 10 October 1980 - date of the official registration of NSZZ "Solidarnosc").

WLADYSLAW FRASYNIUK was brutally beaten in Leczyca prison at the end of this August, reported the underground Tygodnik Mazowsze. He is a former member of the Temporary Coordinating Commission (TKK) who was arrested in October 1982 and sentenced to 7 years imprisonment.

JANUSZ PALUBICKI goes on trial 26 September, report reliable sources in Poznan. Palubicki was interned from 13 December 1981 until 8 March 1982. He went into hiding in late July and joined the underground union leadership, the Temporary Coordinating Commission (TKK), as representative of the Poznan region in late November. He was arrested on 27 December '82. (Biuletyn Informacyjny, no. 71, Paris)

ANDRZEJ GASIEWSKI - 29, married, 2 children, employee at the Nuclear Research Institute (IBJ) near Warsaw, detained by the police on 17 June 1983 on his way home from a Papal mass in the Warsaw stadium and fined 15000 zlotys for 'disturbing the peace'. His body was found on the Warsaw-Zabki rail line on 19 June. Neither an autopsy nor an investigation was ordered by the prosecutor. (KOS, no. 36)

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RYSZARD KOWALSKI - Chairman of "Solidarnosc" Enterprise Committee at the Katowice Steelmill. Held in police custody for over a year. Unable to find work after being released. Disappeared on 7 January 83. His body was found in a river on 31 March 83. Doctors who looked after him in the prison hospital deny suicidal tendencies. (KOS No. 34)

MAREK KUCHTA - 30, detained by police on 3 May 1983 in Warsaw's Old Town during a peaceful demonstration. Died on 5 May. (Wolna Trybuna, no. 3)

ZDZISLAW MIASKO - 29, married, 3 children, resident of Warsaw suburb. Died on 3 June 1983 after being beaten by police officers. (Tygodnik Mazowsze no. 56)

AN INITIAL LIST OF POLITICAL PRISONERS, who are still being held in Warsaw's Rakowiecka prison despite the recent amnesty, was compiled by an underground "Solidarnosc" paper in the Mazowsze region.

- 8 "Solidarnosc" activists from Warsaw (including 7 workers from PGM Wola, Swierczewskiego, Nowotko, and the 'Sluzewiec' factory), charged with organising or participating in underground organisations. The prosecution demanded a 4 year prison sentence for Piotr Rzewuski, one of the 8.

- 6 persons from Warsaw, charged with leading a protest in the Grand Theater which sought to block official celebrations for the anniversary of the October Revolution.

- Ireneusz Ostrokolski, editor of the "Solidarnosc" Bulletin for the Pulawski region was not released under the amnesty. His first trial was set for 7 December '81, but was interrupted by the state of war. The next trial was to be in April '83; his case has yet to be settled. (Tygodnik Mazowsze, no. 58)

ZBIGNIEW ROMASZEWSKI is to stand trial once again, this time with other KOR activists, including Kuron, Michnik, Wujec and Litynski. A member of the National Commission, KOR activist, sentenced in February 1983 to 4,5 years in prison in the Radio "Solidarnosc" trial, Romaszewski has spent over a year in the Rakowiecka prison. He is denied certain privileges and rights: limited correspondence, no family visits, no permission to work. Romaszewski has lost 17 kilos during his imprisonment. (Biuletyn Informacyjny, no. 71, Paris)

TADEUSZ JEDYNAK - age 32, married, 1 child. Elected chairman on 3 July 1983 by the Regional Executive Committee of the Silesia-Dabrowa Region and authorised to represent the Region in the Temporary Coordinating Commission (TKK). Formerly Vice chairman of the Inter-factory Strike Committee and a signatory of the Jastrzebie Agreement, subsequently a vice chairman of the Inter-factory Workers' Committee; elected member of the National Commission during the "Solidarnosc" Congress. Interned on 13 December 1981; released on 22 December 1982.

In an interview he explained his decision to join the underground: "... I had no choice. It was my moral duty stemming from faithfulness to the ideals of "Solidarnosc", and to those who elected me. Also, being a miner, I feel obligated by the recently shed miners' blood. We must work for better living and working conditions. Nearly 250 people died in mining accidents last year. There's no point in depending on the 'new' unions; they are needed only by the Party and they serve only it." (Regional "Solidarnosc" Information, no. 13/37, July 1983)

THE TEMPORARY COORDINATING COMMISSION (TKK) met on 22 August 1983. The following issues were discussed: 1. the authorities' campaign against Lech Walesa, 2. the dissolution of the Union of Polish Writers 3. preparations for the 3rd Anniversary of August '80 (the signing of the Gdansk Agreements, ed.).

The TKK stated that:

1. The authorities unleashed a defamation campaign against Lech Walesa just prior to the "Solidarnosc" anniversary. Their lies were officially broadcast through the Polish Press Agency PAP. We affirm that the malicious propaganda will not deprive the NSZZ "Solidarnosc" President of his right to represent the interests of his electors; neither will it resolve Poland's internal problems.

2. The dissolution of the Union of Polish Writers (ZLP) ended the systematic process of suppressing independent unions and organisations. The authorities have destroyed an organisation with a 60-year old tradition and have deprived Polish writers of a union which was founded by Stefan Zeromski. We affirm that we shall continue to implement the cooperation agreement signed by NSZZ "Solidarnosc" and the ZLP during the First National Convention of our Union.

3. We support the initiatives of the NSZZ "Solidarnosc" Underground Enterprise Commission (TKZ) at the Lenin Shipyard. The authorities have not undertaken a dialogue, despite appeals and counter to ordinary common sense. Under these circumstances, the Gdansk shipyard workers' appeal for a work slow-down between 23-31 August remains valid. At the same time we reiterate that all union members are duty bound to participate actively in the celebrations of the "Solidarnosc" anniversary on 31 August by boycotting public transportation between 14:00 and 16:00 hours, and by taking part in other forms of protest organised in regions, enterprises and other circles.

22 August 1983

Zbigniew Bujak /Mazowsze Region/
Wladyslaw Hardek /Malopolska Region/
Tadeusz Jedynek /Slask-Dabrowski Region/
Bogdan Lis /Gdansk Region/
Eugeniusz Szumiejko /member of the Presidium of the National Commission/
Witold /Dolny Slask/ was present at the meeting

A DELEGATION FROM the Coordinating Office Abroad of NSZZ "Solidarnosc" attended the annual Trades Union Congress held in Blackpool, England, 5-9 September. It presented the Congress with a letter from the Temporary Coordinating Commission (TKK), thanking the TUC for supporting the struggle of NSZZ "Solidarnosc" for a democratic trade union movement in Poland. The TKK stressed the special significance of cooperation with the TUC, noting that it testifies to the existence of international solidarity. The Polish trade union situation was discussed in the TUC Report of the General Council, which outlined TUC activities of assistance for the Polish society. Moss Evans, Chairman of the International Committee, affirmed that the Polish authorities "have no chance of overcoming the crisis which confronts them unless it is through reconciliation with society. The independent trade union movement is...the only channel available. ...legal dictat, detention, murder will not destroy a movement which like Solidarity, the only one in Poland we recognise, the only one we support, has genuinely won the support and commitment of working people."

MESSAGE TO CHILEAN UNIONISTS from the Coordinating Office Abroad of NSZZ "Solidarnosc", Brussels, Belgium: "In the name of Lech Walesa and the entire leadership of the Polish trade union NSZZ "Solidarnosc", we express our solidarity with the trade unionists of Chile in their struggle for fundamental rights, human dignity, justice and democracy. We remember that 11 September marks the 10th anniversary of the bloody military coup in your country. In view of this tragic anniversary, we express our admiration for the resolute resistance of the Chilean workers and people to the terror and mass repression perpetrated by the military dictatorship. We wish you a speedy victory."

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NUMEROUS MESSAGES OF SUPPORT for NSZZ "Solidarnosc" and for the struggle of the working people of Poland were received from democratic trade unions around the world on the occasion of the third anniversary of the Gdansk Agreements. On behalf of Lech Walesa and the underground union leadership, the Temporary Coordinating Commission (TKK), the Coordinating Office Abroad of NSZZ "Solidarnosc" expresses its deep gratitude to the democratic trade union movement for its continued support and solidarity, and for recognizing the struggle of NSZZ "Solidarnosc" for trade union rights, justice and democracy as legitimate. Messages received by the Brussels Office are reproduced below.

CONFEDERATION FRANCAISE DEMOCRATIQUE du TRAVAIL (CFDT), FORCE OUVRIERE (CGT/FO), FEDERATION de l'ENSEIGNEMENT NATIONAL (F.E.N), CONFEDERATION GENERALE de l'ENCADREMENT (CGC), CONFEDERATION FRANCAISE des TRAVAILLEURS CHRETIENS (CFTC) express unreserved support for the protest actions marking, in Poland, the third anniversary of the Gdansk accords which led to the official recognition of the first free trade union in the communist world.

As we affirmed on 13 December 1981, after the imposition of the state of war which abrogated the freedoms of the workers and the people in Poland, "the five trade unions consider the struggle for unions rights and civil liberties carried out by the Polish workers, organised in "Solidarnosc" since August 1980, to be akin to the activities of the French trade union movement." In view of the on-going attempt to suppress an entire nation, the five unions recall that the right to freely organise independent trade unions constitutes a fundamental freedom. We denounce the new repressive laws which perpetuate and strengthen the regulations of the state of war.

We demand that the proposal for negotiations put forth by the underground leadership and Lech Walesa be taken into consideration. We demand the release of all those imprisoned, indicted or sentenced for social and political activities.

We demand the lifting of sanctions which deprive thousands of persons of employment, education and artistic or scientific pursuits.

We reaffirm our solidarity with "Solidarnosc" in the struggle for justice, dignity and freedom initiated three years ago.

The CFDT, CGT/FO, FEN, CGC and CFTC shall pursue activities supporting these ideals. We call upon the workers and the people of France to join in this effort.

DOMEI, together with other ICFTU Japanese affiliates, strongly protested the suppressive policy measures taken by the Polish government against the trade union movement in Poland to Mr. S. Skowron, charge d'affaires ad interim of the Polish embassy in Japan, on August 31. The protest consisted of the following requests:

1. to immediately and unconditionally release those leaders and activists of "Solidarnosc" who have been under unreasonable detention,
2. to restore the rights prescribed in the ILO Constitution, the right for free organisation of the workers, in particular,
3. to immediately accept the ILO fact finding mission.

THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ETUC) stressed the Confederation's solidarity once again with the Polish working people who have created "Solidarnosc" and have been able to and will continue to keep it active throughout the whole country under very hard times and difficult conditions.

He also added that the abolition of martial law has not at all improved the situation for the trade union rights in Poland. No other way is acceptable for us than the Polish Government re-establishing trade union rights according to the Gdansk agreement and international standards set up by the ILO.

ETUC vehemently demands the immediate release of the thousands of democratically elected trade union leaders and active trade unionists who have been arrested. We also demand that all these trade unionists and others who have been arrested because of their activities within "Solidarnosc", on their release, are reinstated to their jobs.

To get Poland out of the political and economic crisis is not possible by military or government repression. Therefore, we urge the Polish government to start negotiations and talks with the real representatives of the Polish working people.

(Mr. Hinterscheid stated that the time had come when eastern and western countries should lift their military threat on the one hand, and economic sanctions on the other, against the Polish people and introduce an aid programme so that they get Poland out of its existing economic crisis which hurts the working people the most.)

The ETUC appealed to its affiliated organisations to continue their actions to help the Polish people.

FEDERATIE NEDERLANDSE VAKBEWEGING (FNV), Netherlands. On the 3rd anniversary of the signing of the Gdansk Agreement : In spite of the Statute from October 8, 1982 delegating "Solidarnosc", this organization had not ceased to exist. FNV continues to recognise "Solidarnosc" as the representative of the Polish working people. In these difficult circumstances "Solidarnosc" is celebrating its 3rd anniversary. We wish our Polish friends strength in their struggle for union and other democratic rights. Illegal statute and contrary to international norms statutes, cannot crush the democratic trade union movement, nor can they put together new party-controlled unions.

Ending martial law has not brought improvement. Statutory revisions effected last June tend to confirm the negative assessment of the direction the situation is evolving reflecting the formalization of increasing repressions. Amnesty announced for union and political prisoners is only partial. FNV supports Lech Walesa and the TKK in their appeal for a governmental guarantee of a full amnesty for political prisoners. FNV affirms its position demanding, among others, a genuine dialogue between the authorities and the leadership of "Solidarnosc". We strongly appeal to the Polish authorities to choose the path of national agreement. When such an agreement is effected, we will call for an economic aid program for Poland, with participation of both East and West. Together with our international confederations ICFTU and ETUC, FNV shall continue to support the democratic and independent trade union movement in Poland and the whole world.

THE FEDERATION OF ITALIAN TRADE UNIONS CGIL-CISL-UIL supports your efforts to begin negotiations between the authorities and the working people in Poland aimed at returning to the letter of the Gdansk Agreement of August 1980. Italian working people express their genuine solidarity with the working people in Poland in their struggle for rights, freedom and union pluralism. We are convinced that no economic, social or political problem can be solved without social support, dialogue and negotiations. The Italian Trade Unions affirm their fraternal support for you and "Solidarnosc".

With cordial greetings and highest respect.

WORLD CONFEDERATION OF LABOUR (WCL), BRUSSELS:

For the first time in a communist country, the signing of the Gdansk Agreements on the 31st of August 1980, gave shape to the recognition of a spontaneously created labour movement. The independent and self-governed trade union "Solidarnosc" was the first officially recognised embodiment of a dream shared by millions of workers in Poland and throughout the world. The 31st of August 1980 was the starting point of a vast programme encompassing economic, juridical and cultural reforms on which to build a public life based on freedom and dignity. On the eve of the third anniversary of the Gdansk Agreements, the ideals and hopes of August '80 are still alive. Although its freedom of action is greatly hindered, "Solidarnosc" is still alive and active. Banned by the authorities, "Solidarnosc" has been forced into the underground. In spite of the obstacles, a whole network has been built which continues to defend the achievements of August 1980. Every day, several thousand activists discuss, draw up information bulletins and distribute leaflets to bring a recent past, made up of the recognition of civic and trade union rights, back to life. The activists exert themselves tremendously, and training continues to be provided in an atmosphere of oppression and distress: several thousand activists are in prison and the workers are either threatened or set against each other. Because human dignity is a fundamental right and because freedom of speech is a must in a democratic State, the World Confederation of Labour (WCL) - faithful to its principles - has never stopped supporting "Solidarnosc" actively. The spontaneous expression of millions of Polish workers must, again, receive all its chances through the recognition of genuine pluralism.

The 31st of August is a day of commemoration intended to keep alive - against oppressive structures - the autonomy of the workers' movement and its right to negotiate and to organise. "Solidarnosc" is not alone: it can count on the permanent support of the WCL.

TRADES UNION CONGRESS (TUC), Great Britain: "The Gdansk Agreement reached on August 31 three years ago between the Polish Government and the inter-factory strike committee raised the hopes of the Polish working people, and of their friends around the world. It gave formal recognition to a trade union movement which quickly came to represent ten million trade unionists who chose Solidarity as their independent organisation. It gave great strength to Polish society and offered real hope that the Polish nation could be united in finding practical solutions to pressing economic and social problems.

On December 13, 1981, the Polish authorities broke that agreement and destroyed the hope. Since then they have suspended and banned Solidarity and sought to hound its leaders and members into submission. The military regime arrested and detained thousands, disregarding the International Independent Trade Union Movement and the International Labour Organisation. The half-hearted lifting of martial law last month, and the partial amnesty decreed by the Polish authorities, have not succeeded in winning the trust of their people - nor has the continued show of force made them submit. Recent events demonstrate that. The need for national reconciliation is greater than ever and the key to that is the release of all Solidarity prisoners, and discussion and negotiation between the authorities and the freely elected representatives of Solidarity. The British Trade Union Movement urges the Polish government to take this course in the spirit of the Gdansk Agreement".

LO-NORWAY

On the occasion of the third anniversary of 31 August, the signing of the agreement between the Polish authorities and "Solidarnosc", the Norwegian Federation of Trade Unions (LO), reaffirms its support for an independent and democratic trade union movement in Poland. The LO issued a declaration expressing its support for "Solidarnosc" and its condemnation of the violation of the Agreement and of the situation in Poland for which the Polish military authorities are to blame. A letter of protest has been sent to the Polish embassy and a telegram to General Jaruzelski. Without a responsible dialogue between the Polish authorities and the workers' representatives, the situation in Poland will not be solved. The LO wishes Polish unionists the best of success in their further work and expresses its hope for an early solution of the problems in Poland.

CHILE TRADE UNION COMMITTEE (Rome) salutes the third anniversary of the Gdansk Agreements, and expresses support for the struggle for freedom and trade union pluralism of the Polish workers. We believe that the objectives of "Solidarnosc" for freedom, justice and democracy are shared by the Chilean workers; Wherever trade union rights are trampled, be it in Chile or Poland, the non-violent struggle of workers for their rights is legitimate. We are certain that neither persecution nor jail, in Chile or Poland, will defeat those who love peace, justice, democracy and solidarity.

Manuel Bustos, President
Luis Meneses, First Vice-President
Carlos Lima, Secretary
(Telegram sent to Lech Walesa on 24 July 1983.)