

NEWS

Solidarnosc

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IN A STATEMENT released on 9 March, Lech Walesa has called on the authorities in Poland to compromise with society to avert economic disaster. Walesa said the document was the result of consultations he had held with "Solidarnosc" activists and economic experts. Excerpts and a summary of the document follow; the full text will be published in our next issue.

In the 4 page document, Lech Walesa attacks the stifling of reforms won by the independent union before it was suppressed in 1981. He urges the government to encourage the survival of private farming, allow the growth of individual enterprise in business and give scope for genuine worker self-management in industry.

The document blames the deepening crisis on "the economic omnipotence of the Communist Party and the state apparatus, which wield uncontrolled and unlimited power....It is a system which wastes human work and leads to a low standard of living". Describing the quality of daily life, Walesa says Poles are forced to waste time in lines for scarce food, are poorer because of the decline in real wages and live with a catastrophic shortage of proper housing. Industry and transport, he says, suffer from lack of investment, the situation in agriculture is worsening, the government is resorting to desperate measures in its attempt to obtain hard currency, and debts to both the West and other Communist countries are growing.

"We are devastating our natural environment, which is close to an ecological catastrophe and not less dangerous than the threat of war", added Walesa. He says the authorities are mistaken in resorting to conventional economic remedies such as raising the price of food and extending working hours.

The confidence of workers, he states, could be restored only by breaking the party bureaucracy's stranglehold on the economy and allowing them a voice at all levels of decision-making.

He accuses the authorities of blocking the reforms won by "Solidarnosc" and expresses little confidence that they will respond to his appeal now.

THE TEMPORARY COORDINATING COMMISSION (TKK) issued a statement in late February appealing to international humanitarian organisations to support the struggle for political prisoner status and better prison conditions. The statement is signed by all 4 TTK members: Zbigniew Bujak, Mazowsze Region; Bogdan Lis, Gdansk Region; Tadeusz Jedynek, Slask-Dabrowski Region; Eugeniusz Szumiejko, Lower Silesia Region.

MEMBERS OF CHARTER 77, OF "SOLIDARNOSC" and of the former Worker's Defense Committee (KOR), issued the following statement in both Prague and Warsaw on 12 February 1984.

"In the spirit of the joint meeting of Charter 77 signatories and members of KOR on the Czechoslovak-Polish border in 1978, we wish to express jointly today our determination to struggle for the observance of human rights and civil freedoms. As Charter 77 signatories, "Solidarnosc" activists and former

KOR members - we want to continue the fight for democracy, sovereignty and freedom of our countries. At the same time we protest against the imprisonment and harassment of our friends and colleagues, Charter 77 signatories, "Solidarnosc" activists and members of the former KOR and we appeal to all people in the world who hold dear the freedom and dignity of man to join our efforts to free political prisoners in Poland and Czechoslovakia which is not in the interest of our countries alone. Charter 77 as well as "Solidarnosc" and KOR have always fought for the greater respect of man, his natural interest and inalienable rights by peaceful means. While their activities continue to be suppressed there will be no genuine peace in Europe and in the world."

The 24 Polish signatories include all 4 TTK members and other underground "Solidarnosc" leaders. The statement was signed for Charter 77 by Vaclav Havel, professor Jiri Hajek and 18 others.

16 YEAR OLD WARSAW STUDENT, Andrzej Robert Debski died on 1 January 1984 of injuries inflicted during a beating by the militia. Debski and a friend were stopped on the street after a New Year's party. They were kicked and beaten in the stomach while their identification was being checked. Debski's friend managed to escape. Upon returning home, Debski complained of stomach pains. He was taken to a hospital and died during surgery. Doctors discovered similar injuries to those of Gregorz Przymyk; a split liver, pancreas and spleen lesions.

- Tygodnik Mazowsze, No. 75/76

PIOTR BARTOSZCZE, 33 year old son of Rural "Solidarnosc" leader Maciej, died in mysterious circumstances on 9 February 1984. His family and sources close to "Solidarnosc" believe he was murdered and explain that head wounds displayed evidence of battering. Bartoszcze had previously received death threats.

- Uncensored Poland News Bulletin, No.4/84

POLISH FARMERS RESISTANCE COMMITTEE (OKOR) issued a statement on 6 January, signed by new OKOR leader Romuald Glowacki, denouncing the arrest of many rural activists in December 1983. The statement appeals to unions of agricultural workers in the West for protest action in defense of imprisoned elderly activists and women, and particularly former OKOR president, 70 year old Jozef Teliga. Teliga and 2 other activists were arrested in Warsaw last December.

- KOS, No.48

ZBIGNIEW JANAS' HOME was broken into for the second time on 4 January, in spite of it being strictly watched by Security Services. Janas is a member of the underground "Solidarnosc" leadership in the Mazowsze region. His wife Bogumila, repeatedly harassed by the police in recent months (see News No. 10/11), suspects the Security Police. A tape recorder, a lambskin coat and 20,000 zl. were found missing.

- Tygodnik Mazowsze, No. 75/76

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A SPECIAL FUND was established in Warsaw in December '83 following the suspension of lawyer Piotr Andrzejewski and the forced retirement of Wladyslaw Sila-Nowicki. The fund was set up to aid lawyers handling political trials and to collect information and documentation on all manifestations of lawlessness.

- Tygodnik Mazowsze, No .75/76

WORKERS FROM WARSAW UNIVERSITY and other educational institutions and publishing houses in Warsaw, sent a letter to the Ministry of Justice protesting the harassment of lawyers Maciej Bednarkiewicz and Piotr Andrzejewski (see News No.16,18), known for their defense of political prisoners. Letter signatories stress the social inacceptability of the measures and note that they are attempts at weakening the defense of political prisoners and protestors.

- KOS, No. 48

A SUCCESSFUL STRIKE for free Saturdays took place at the Pilsudski ship repair yard in Gdansk on 18 February. The yard employs some 5,000 workers. At the initiative of the "Solidarnosc" clandestine enterprise committee, workers gathered at the yard entrance where leaflets calling for the strike were distributed. Instead of entering the yard, workers returned home, refusing to work on that day. Free Saturdays have now been instituted.

INTENSIFIED POLICE OPERATIONS were carried out on a national scale in January and February. There was a proliferation of reported arrests, detentions and searches. In view of the former, the editors of Tygodnik Mazowsze (No.77) remind readers that refusal to testify and to answer questions during interrogation is the best form of self-defense as well as the duty of every "Solidarnosc" activist involved in clandestine union work.

109 ACADEMICS AND ARTISTS in Wroclaw were detained by the security police on 10 January. Among those detained were 3 former rectors, several deputy rectors, and many professors- all signatories of an appeal calling for the release of imprisoned "Solidarnosc" members and advisers. Following a routine interrogation, the detainees were all released.

- Tygodnik Mazowsze, No.75/76

WELL-KNOWN WRITER MAREK NOWAKOWSKI (see News, No.18) was arrested in Warsaw on 7 March and charged with "collaborating with Western organisations carrying on activities detrimental to the Polish State". Nowakowski is best known for his book of short stories on the state of war published by the underground press in Poland and translated into various languages in the West. In 1983, he received the "Freedom Award" from the French PEN Club and was also a recipient of the TKK's "Culture Award" for 1981/82. His wife Jolanta, is defense attorney of Adam Michnik, member of the former KOR.

AN ORIGINAL OPINION POLL was conducted on 20 January in 2 large Warsaw apartment buildings comprising some 700 dwellings. The action was announced half a day in advance and entailed signalling (turning on and off house lights) a response to whether or not inhabitants had any hope of bettering their standard of life. Close to 40% of the dwellings responded, 92% signalled their lack of faith in any improvement.

- IS, No. 189

35 PERSONS WERE ARRESTED on 28-29 February in Wroclaw members of a group supporting "Solidarnosc" called "Solidarnosc Walczaca" (Fighting Solidarity). The arrests were reported in the official Polish media.

WARSAW TELEVISION announced on 1 March the arrest of 4 "Solidarnosc" activists from Wroclaw. 2 radio transmitters and spare parts were seized.

- Le Monde, 4-5 March 1984

5 WORKERS AT HUTMEN (metal production plant in Wroclaw) were dismissed and 67 others fined for striking in protest of food price increases. The date of the dismissals is not certain.

- Uncensored Poland News Bulletin, No. 4/84

A 15 MINUTE WORK STOPPAGE to demand higher wages was held at the Polmo Tczew enterprise near Gdansk on 25 February. The protest action was organised by the local "Solidarnosc" enterprise committee. No reprisals have been reported.

IN THE WAREL ELECTRONICS ENTERPRISE in Warsaw, 550 persons were dismissed since 13 December '81 out of a workforce of 1800. Among those fired were "Solidarnosc" activists and leaders. However, in the recently held elections to the Workers' Council, not a single Party member was elected in spite of there being 80 Party members on the list of candidates.

- Tygodnik Wojenny, No.77

A DEMONSTRATION AGAINST PRICE HIKES took place in Nowa Huta on 30 January '84. Approximately 2000 persons participated, mostly women and workers who joined the demonstration after leaving work. ZOMO riot police dispersed the crowd and detained 105 persons. Many others had their identification papers confiscated.

- Tygodnik Mazowsze, No. 77

AMONG THE 4000 EMPLOYEES of Jagiellonski University (Krakow) only 150 belong to the official trade union. Within this group there are 77 pensioners, 44 academics, 11 administrators and 18 service workers.

- KOS, No. 47

THERE ARE 244 POLITICAL PRISONERS in Poland, according to the Political Prisoners Committee of "Solidarnosc" in the Mazowsze Region. 93 persons have been sentenced and 151 persons are awaiting trial. Of those sentenced, 48 persons are serving prison terms ranging from 3,5 to 5 years. In a document signed by underground "Solidarnosc" leader Zbigniew Janas, the Committee urges persons in contact with the families of prisoners to forward detailed information about prisoners- including the place and date of arrest, place of detention and charges- through underground union structures. It also asks that the names of persons released from prison be immediately forwarded to the Committee.

- Tygodnik Mazowsze, No. 75/76

POLITICAL PRISONERS IN BRANIEWO PRISON addressed an open letter to society on 10 January in which they explain that self-defense against harassment and the possibility of legal defense against arbitrary acts by prison authorities are the main goals of their struggle for political prisoner status.

"Some people claim that by easing prison regulations, conditions will be improved for both political prisoners and common criminals...We disagree; the authorities persistently attempt to subject political prisoners to so-called resocialization by enforcing repressive prison regulations. The objective is

clear: in this way, the authorities seek to force political prisoners into changing their beliefs. We consider this type of behaviour as inadmissible interference in the area of basic human rights and freedoms, devoid of all humanitarian and moral principles. This is why we believe it is essential to obtain political prisoner status. First, because society has so far not been able to protect persons holding different opinions than the official ones against trials and sentencing. Second, because political prisoners have a right to decent treatment which should be reflected in prison regulations...In summary, we seek political prisoner status simply in order to be treated with dignity, with respect for our convictions and our fundamental human needs.

KOS, No. 48

13 POLITICAL PRISONERS in Leczyca prison (close to Lodz), began a hunger strike on 14 February in support of their demand for political prisoner status. The strikers include several miners from the Lubin copper mine, where a number of persons were killed by the police during demonstrations in 1982. Different protest actions, including hunger strikes, continue in Strzelin, Barczewo and Braniewo prisons. According to informed sources, many of the protestors are ill or in poor physical condition.

93 MEMBERS OF THE DANISH PARLIAMENT representing various political parties sent a letter to the Polish Embassy in Copenhagen on 2 March protesting the deferment of elections to the Polish Sejm. On 26 January, the Sejm voted an unlimited extension to its term, thereby violating the Constitution which provides for elections to be held in 1984.

THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS of America passed a resolution of endorsement and support for "Solidarnosc" in late January. Noting the struggle of "Solidarnosc" for the "restoration of trade union freedom, democratic protection for workers and an independent and just judicial system....the Teamster General Executive Council officially endorses the cause, work and actions of the Solidarity movement; and pledges its moral, material and financial support to the Solidarity cause."

THE COORDINATING OFFICE ABROAD OF NSZZ "SOLIDARNOSC" is disturbed about the recent increase in the number of documents allegedly stemming from the Brussels office. We ask our readers to be attentive to potential forgeries and to check with the office if in doubt concerning the authenticity of documents or correspondence. Telephone: 32/2/230.24.65.

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