

# NEWS



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No. 10

THE COORDINATING OFFICE ABROAD of NSZZ "Solidarnosc", acting on behalf of the union leadership in Poland, reiterates its appeal to the West not to lift the economic sanctions imposed after the 13 December '81 coup.

The significance of these sanctions is purely symbolic, and not economic. Their removal, therefore, will constitute a gesture of support for the totalitarian-communist dictatorship in Poland. Polish society can be genuinely assisted in other ways, such as credits for the Catholic church's fund for private agriculture or humanitarian and medical aid. Donations to the "Solidarnosc" underground structures in Poland are also possible; donations placed at the disposal of the union's national leadership by way of the Coordinating Office in Brussels.

NSZZ "Solidarnosc" supports and urges the preparation of viable economic assistance programs to Poland once union rights have been restored and once the government is made accountable to the society.

LECH WALESZA has invited former Nobel Peace Prize laureates to send an appeal to the Polish authorities demanding the release of all political prisoners and the initiation of a true national dialogue. The postal service in Gdansk refused to handle the message. The text of Walesa's appeal was, however, publically read out by Polish poet Czeslaw Milosz (1980 Nobel Prize for Literature) on 26 October in Paris at the opening of an international conference 'Science and Peace - the Response of Nobel Laureates'.

(La Libre Belgique 27 October '83)

WLADYSLAW SILA-NOWICKI, one of Poland's most distinguished lawyers who served as defense counsel in many political trials, will be forced to retire from legal practice on account of his age on 1 October 1983. His forced retirement is based on a provision of the law on the Legal Profession that took effect 1 October 1983 and which automatically disqualifies person over 70 from practicing. The only exception are lawyers given special permission by the Minister of Justice. Sila-Nowicki is the only lawyer in Warsaw to whom this regulation applies. His removal from public life is particularly untimely as he was engaged in the defense trials of the 11 top "Solidarnosc" leaders and advisors. It is a heavy blow for all of Poland's independent opposition.

(Radio Free Europe Research, vol. 8, no. 42)

THE TRIAL of four founding members of the Committee for Workers' Defense (KOR) Jacek Kuron, Adam Michnik, Zbigniew Romaszewski and Henryk Wujec is likely to be postponed several months, reported Agence France Press on 24 October. They are among the 11 top "Solidarnosc" leaders and advisors who are awaiting trial. Quoting reliable sources in Warsaw, the French news agency said the Polish authorities are now hesitant to proceed with this political trial because of the risk of internal and international protest. It also says the delay shows the ruling team is split on this issue.

THE HELSINKI COMMITTEE in Poland reports that about 1000 internees (about 10% of the total) underwent medical examinations during and after internment. The

exams, conducted by the medical staff of the Primate's Committee for Aid to Internees, revealed that the health of nearly 60% of the cases deteriorated significantly as a result of internment or beatings by the police, greatly handicapping both their physical and psychological capacities. The most recurring illnesses were gastric ulcers, spinal disorders, rheumatic symptoms and psychological disorders.

120 SIGNATURES gathered in a Warsaw church on 18 September initiated a protest action in defense of Seweryn Jaworski. The vice-president of "Solidarnosc" Mazowsze region is being held in the Rakowiecka prison in Warsaw and is reported to be in bad health.

THE WIFE OF ZBIGNIEW JANAS, member of the underground "Solidarnosc" leadership in the Mazowsze region, was beaten and maltreated by security agents (SB) on 5 October while questioned about her husband's activities. Underground union sources said Mrs. Janas was threatened with violent reprisals if her husband did not give himself up to the police.

GRZEGORZ WALESZA, 18 year old nephew of Lech Walesa, was detained and brutally beaten by police in Bydgoszcz on 20 August. (Tygodnik Mazowsze no. 63)

ROBERT BUJAK, brother of TKK member Zbigniew Bujak, was laid off from work again on 15 July. Since he was first fired for no valid reason in March 1982, Bujak has been subjected to constant police harassment: frisking, 48 hour arrests, and interrogation. (Tygodnik Mazowsze no. 62)

JAN WITKOWSKI was detained on 30 August in Szczecin and taken to police headquarters, where he was forced to run through the 'path of health': a double row of policemen swinging clubs. As a result, he went blind in one eye and is now partly paralyzed. Witkowski worked closely with the Workers' Defence Committee (KOR). (Tygodnik Mazowsze no. 62)

RYSZARD MAJZDIK was laid off from work in the Krakow 'Elbud' factory. Majdzik organized the August '80 strike at the factory and was a delegate to the "Solidarnosc" National Convention. The reason given for his dismissal was "arrogant behaviour towards his boss and unauthorised leave of absence on 31 August". (Tygodnik Mazowsze no. 62)

TEN WOMEN, most of them former employees of "Solidarnosc" regional offices and ex-internees, were detained at the beginning of August in Bielsko-Biala under suspicion of working for Radio "Solidarnosc". Each one was forced to read into a microphone. One of them, Jadwiga Skowronska, was arrested on 29 August. (Tygodnik Mazowsze no. 62)

AN INTER-ENTERPRISE COORDINATING COMMISSION of NSZZ "Solidarnosc" (MKK) was established on 3 August 1983 by the underground enterprise commissions (TKZ's) in the Grabiszynek region near Wroclaw. The MKK is represented in the Lower Silesia Regional Strike Committee (RKS) and publishes the bulletin Victoria. (Tygodnik Mazowsze no. 62)

ALL SEVEN OF THE POLITICAL PRISONERS held in Potulice Prison, near Gdansk, (see News no. 9) were transferred to Braniewo prison, on the northern Polish-Soviet

border, on 8 October. Conditions are undeniably worse. The warden greeted them as "common criminals". All had their beards and heads shaved. All personal clothing was confiscated. They are allowed to see each other for three hours every third day; family visits are limited to one a month during which the prisoners may receive 1 kilo of food, 100g of tea and 2 packs of cigarettes. They may only send and receive 4 letters per month. Access to reading material is severely limited. (Tygodnik Mazowsze no. 63)

3,327 IS THE LATEST FIGURE cited by the Polish authorities concerning activists who 'voluntarily' came out of hiding to take advantage of the conditional and limited amnesty announced on 22 July '83. The figure quoted by the authorities cannot be verified though past experience shows that official statistics are often unreliable. Moreover, accounts in the underground press contradict the authorities' promise that activists who give themselves up will enjoy full legal protection under the amnesty. The cases described below are just a few examples of how "Solidarnosc" activists are made to appear as having 'come out of hiding'.

Piotr Kapczynski, from the Gdansk region "Solidarnosc" underground and Krzysztof Wyszowski, active in the union paper Tygodnik "Solidarnosc", wrote a letter published in the Tygodnik Wojenny no. 65. They explained that the "statement given by the Polish press agency PAP and TV news on 23 July 1983, concerning our voluntary coming out- is a lie. We were detained by police in Kartuzy, near Gdansk, and then released on the basis of the amnesty. We have refused to submit any explanations or statements".

Artur Lega, in hiding since December '82, presented himself at the Public Prosecutor's Office in Pruszkow, near Warsaw, on 28 July '83. He was told the amnesty does not apply in his case and was released. On 5 August, after several visits from police officers, he received a summons in which he was described as 'suspect'. (Uncensored Poland, no. 19/83)

The Gorzow bulletin (Feniks no. 31) writes: "the press recently printed information about Henryk Rutkowski coming out of hiding in the Gorzow region. We would like to make clear that no person of this name is known in our region". (Tygodnik Wojenny no. 65)

Marek Adamkiewicz, a student at the Higher Pedagogical School (WSP) in Szczecin, was summoned to SB headquarters on 30 July and told that he "should come out of hiding". He was fingerprinted and threatened with prosecution for slandering a security agent. On 2 August, another student at WSP, Andrzej Kotula was encouraged to 'come out of hiding'. During questioning it was proposed that he take advantage of the amnesty or face trial. (Obraz no. 4)

On 13 August, the TV news carried a report about a group of underground press couriers at the 'Silwana' textile enterprise in Gorzow Wielkopolski come out of hiding. In fact, the SB first conducted a search of the couriers' work places and homes and then arrested the seven on 12 August. Four of them were removed from work by security agents. Their voluntary television appearance was preceded by lengthy interrogations at police headquarters.

(Biuletyn Informacyjny, Paris, no.73)

In many cases, workers freed under the amnesty are refused employment at their former work places. Ryszard Mistrzek and Jan Malczewski were not rehired at a mechanics enterprise in Bydgoszcz; while in Torun, Stanislaw Wielogosz, Kazimierz Noga and Marek Koper were refused work at a synthetic fiber plant. (Eydgoski Podziemny SI no. 21, 'Elana' no. 19)

PRESSURED BY NUMEROUS PROTESTS, Warsaw authorities reversed a decision to close a hematoloy and gerontology clinic and dismiss its director Dr. Zofia Kuratowska (see News no. 5) for her work with the Primate's Aid Committee. Over 700 Warsaw doctors, the World Health Organization, the International Red Cross, doctors in France and private individuals joined the campaign in support of Dr. Kuratowska. In

August, 6000 signatures were collected at a church in the Ochota neighborhood. (Tygodnik Mazowsze no. 62) THE POLISH EMBASSY in London on 27 September refused to accept 23 letters from British MPs, from all political parties, protesting against the forthcoming trials of 11 top "Solidarnosc" leaders and advisors. The letters were refused on the grounds that no prior request had been made to the Ambassador. (Uncensored Poland no.19/83)

THE UNDERGROUND FACTORY COMMISSION at the Home Construction Works in Warsaw reports that it regularly disburses various benefits, specified in the union's statute, to its dues-paying members.

(Wolna Trybuna no. 7)

The Coordinating Commission at the Warsaw Polytechnic published its financial statement for the period 1 January to 10 June '83. Expenses included: financial aid for workers and students - 36.1%; aid for repressed persons not connected with the Polytechnic - 28.4%; publications - 21.0%; union benefits - 14.5%. After examining its financial situation, the commission decided to increase benefits to 3500 zlotys. (Biuletyn Informacyjny no. 22-23)

The union treasury at the Warsaw Auto Factory reports that 246,000.00 zlotys worth of maternity and death benefits were paid out during the period ending 30 June '83. Only members who pay dues regularly (100 zlotys) are eligible for benefits.

(Biuletyn Informacyjny, Paris no. 73)

TV VIEWERS IN POZNAN have recently been able to hear Radio "Solidarnosc" broadcasts on TV 2. The auidial clips last from 10 to 15 minutes. Just before 31 August, union appeals for boycotts were heard. Broadcasts ran daily from 16-19 September, preceding the trial of Janusz Palubicki (see News no. 9).

A radio transmitter and recorder with a taped "Solidarnosc" newscast were found attached to three helium balloons in Upper Silesia in September, reported the local party bulletin. The balloons lift the equipment quite high, making reception exceptionally clear and far-reaching.

Listeners in Warsaw heard Radio "S" on 29 September. A false program broadcast by the security forces was aired simultaneously. The real Radio "S" says that it is easy to spot the 'fakes': the text is monotonous, demonstrations are always being cancelled, people are urged to stay home, or to come out of hiding. Radio "S" comments that this is an attempt to spread the belief that "Solidarnosc" is penetrated and surrounded by police. (Tygodnik Mazowsze no. 63)

Radio "S" ran an appeal from the Regional Executive Committee (RKW) in Beskidy (southeastern Poland) for celebrations on the 31 August anniversary. On 27 August, security forces circulated forgeries of the local underground "Solidarnosc" paper containing an appeal to cease union activity and cancelling planned demonstration. (Tygodnik Mazowsze no. 62)

40% OF ALL POLISH FARMS lack a tractor or even a horse to assist with farmwork, according to an official Warsaw Radio broadcast on 23 October. The same source also reported that manual labor accounts for 40% of all work on private holdings.

PRIVATE WORKSHOP OWNERS in Warsaw who have hired people fired from previous jobs because of "Solidarnosc" activities are being summoned by the SB. The security agents order them to dismiss these persons, threatening the employers with heavy taxes or closure of their shops. (Tygodnik Mazowsze no. 63)

"SOLIDARNOSC POST OFFICE" issued four series of stamps in August and September depicting various historical events. The series, each consisting of 3 stamps at 25 zlotys, commemorate the Polish-Soviet war of 1920, the Warsaw Uprising of '45, the '80 Gdansk Agreement as well as the German and Soviet invasion of Poland in '39. (Tygodnik Wojenny no. 67)