

NEWS

SOLIDARNOŚĆ

B.D.I.C

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No. 9

STATEMENT BY THE COORDINATING OFFICE: The 1983 Nobel Prize for Peace has been awarded to Lech Walesa. The Coordinating Office Abroad of NSZZ "Solidarnosc" considers the award as an expression of singular recognition for the entire trade union NSZZ "Solidarnosc", which perseveres in its peaceful struggle for trade union and human rights, despite the military dictatorship. The prize reflects the conviction that the East European nations' struggle for basic rights does not pose a threat to world peace; on the contrary, it is an underlying condition of this peace. It is also a symbol of international support at the very moment when the Polish authorities are putting the entire union, in the person of its leaders and advisers, on trial. It is evidence for us that Poles do not stand alone.

ZBIGNIEW BUJAK, TKK member for the Mazowsze region, believes that the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded, through Lech Walesa, to all of the repressed in Poland. In a statement dated 7 October, Bujak says the prize is "for those sentenced, those awaiting trials (reference to the 11 'Solidarnosc' leaders and advisers), for the repressed and persecuted and for the thousands of anonymous 'Solidarnosc' activists". Above all, however, "the prize is for Walesa himself, to honor his great humanism and his role as leader of the Polish working world", notes Bujak, adding that "the Nobel Committee's decision is particularly important today when so many people throughout the world are suffering and live in fear of those for whom man is but an object".

COINCIDING WITH THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY of the military coup in Chile, the Temporary Coordinating Commission (TKK) addressed an open letter, dated 18 Sept., to the Chilean working people. In affirming its support for the trade union struggle in Chile, the TKK stated that "the way to a just social system is through the implementation of democratic principles, and not through a democracy lacking in rights for free trade union activity, lacking in rights for human and civil liberties". It also noted that the cause of "Solidarnosc" is strengthened by all those who refuse to accept social injustice and by "every society which refuses to be deprived of its basic rights."

JANUSZ PALUBICKI, member of the TKK, went on trial 19 September (earlier than the 26 September date reported in no. 7/8 NEWS) before a military court in Poznan. Palubicki was charged with leading an illegal union, distributing illegal publications and use of forged documents. The prosecution demanded a 5 year prison sentence. On 10 October, the court passed a sentence of 4 years imprisonment, reduced to 2 under the amnesty of 22 July. Palubicki has been in jail for 9 months, having been arrested in December 1982.

WLADYSLAW FRASYNIUK was transferred to one of the worst prisons in Poland on 13 September, report reliable sources in Poland. His cell conditions at the prison in Barczewo, Olsztyn voivodship, are so bad that his life may be endangered. According to the information received, Frasyniuk is being held in a

cell together with common criminals; he has been refused a special diet ordered by the prison physician in Leczyca where he was formerly held; he was not allowed to receive warm clothing from his family during their last visit which was brutally interrupted after only ten minutes; he is subjected to constant persecutions by prison guards and has been threatened with beatings on several occasions. Frasyniuk was a leader of one of the largest regions of NSZZ "Solidarnosc" and member of the Temporary Coordinating Commission until his arrest in the Fall of 1982. He was sentenced to 7 years in prison for continuing trade union activities after the imposition of the state of war.

IN A RELATED ITEM, Frasyniuk and five other "Solidarnosc" leaders (Piotr Bednarz, Andrzej Slowik, Jerzy Kropiwnicki, Edmund Baluka, Patrycjusz Kosmowski) went on a hunger strike in Barczewo prison during the second half of September. Their demands included improved prison conditions and recognition of the status of political prisoners. At the time of going to print, the only further information was a statement by government spokesman Urban on 4 September, that the strike had ended and that the prisoners' demands were 'partially met'. On 30 September, the French trade union Force Ouvriere expressed its concern about the fate of the imprisoned unionists in a statement to the public and to French authorities.

A PARTIAL LIST OF POLITICAL PRISONERS STILL HELD after the amnesty of 22 July was received from Gdansk. The sentences cited were handed out after the amnesty.

At Potulice prison, in north-western Poland:

- MARIUSZ HINZ - 2.5 years for leading a strike in December 1981.
- ANTONI GRABARCZYK - 3 years, 9 months for leading a strike in December 1981.
- JAN KUPITURSKI - 2 years, 3 months for continued union activity and distribution of illegal publications.
- KURZ - high school student; 2 years for membership in an illegal organization.
- GRZEGORZ LESINSKI - employee in a Gdansk business; 1 year, 9 months for taking part in a demonstration.
- ANDRZEJ MILCZANOWSKI - sentence after the amnesty unknown.
- KRZYSZTOF OLSCHESKI - army private; 3 years, 7 months.
- RYSZARD TOCZEK - 2 and a half years for leading a strike in December 1981.

In Gdansk prisons:

- STANISLAW JAROSZ - chairman of the Gdansk Shipyard Council; arrested 30 July 1982; charged with leading a strike in December 1981 and continuing union activity.
- LESZEK-MARIAN SWITEK - vice-chairman of the "Solidarnosc" Enterprise Commission on the Gdansk Shipyard; arrested 11 January 1981; charges same as Jarosz.

(Biuletyn Informacyjny: Paris, no. 73)

4°P.12007

A PROTEST LETTER was circulated among members of the Association of Polish Librarians (SBP) protesting the Board's decision on 28 June 1983 to join the Patriotic Movement of National Rebirth (PRON - a government-backed political front), as incompatible with the union's statute, made without consultation with the membership and voted on by persons not on the Board. The letter, signed by 94 persons who disaffiliated from the union in protest against "this transgression of democratic principles and autonomy", urges union members to do likewise. (Wola, no. 27)

PRIVATE DAIRY FARMERS in the Bieszczady region (south-eastern Poland) went on strike from 3 July to 8 August. The farmers took turns withholding milk deliveries to state warehouses. About 80% of the dairy farmers in the region took part in the protest. The primary grievances were: low prices paid by the state for milk deliveries (the price is presently lower than that for mineral water); increases in prices for state services, farming equipment, (cost of Ursus C-330 tractors jumped from 340,000 to 470,000 zlotys last July), fertilizers; new insurance taxes on land and crops. The farmers also demanded that a 5 class categorization of milk be introduced, with a 9 zloty price difference between the first and fifth class.

The vice-minister of agriculture arrived in Ustrzyki Dolne to meet with the strikers on 8 August. When about 600 farmers showed up, the Minister refused to meet with such a large group. Military units surrounded the group of farmers, which dispersed after a few hours. (KOS, no. 38)

According to another source (Tygodnik Mazowsze, no. 60), all the private dairy farmers in the region joined in a strike from 14 - 16 August.

"SOLIDARNOSC" IN THE FACTORIES

(Tygodnik Mazowsze, no. 61)

- Two departments of the Rail Equipment Repair Enterprise in Ostrow Wielkopolski went on strike 18 July and 18 August to protest wage cuts, due to enforcement of norms which are set up at the ministerial level, irrespective of a factory's technological characteristics and production capability. Base wages at the plant were decreased by approximately 3,000 zlotys a month. The workers rejected the management's proposal to hold negotiations with elected representatives. In the course of talks with the striking workforce, the management agreed to review salaries. No reprisals against workers who took part in the strike have been reported to date.

- A petition by a majority of employees at the MERA-KFAP Electronic Enterprise in Krakow demanded the allocation of confiscated "Solidarnosc" enterprise commission funds to a social fund benefitting the entire workforce. One of the two managers who presented the petition to the administration was forced to go on leave without pay.

- Assembly line workers at the FSO Fiat Factory in Warsaw staged a several hour long strike on 15 August to protest a decrease of 1000 zlotys in vacation pay. Management claimed the decision came 'from above' and was irreversible.

- A 12-hour workday was scheduled at the same enterprise for 23 and 24 August. To protest the longer hours, welders held a 15-minute work stoppage on 23 August, forcing management to postpone a decision in this matter. The underground FSO information bulletin Monter (no. 19) comments: "management will try to corner us into making a choice: either two 12-hour days a week or no free Saturdays." It appeals to the workers to boycott and oppose these measure.

- Underground libraries, circulating publications outside of government censorship, are cropping up in workplaces throughout the country. In the Mazowsze

region, the underground newsheet at the Energo-Montaz Enterprise, a high-technology electrical works, announced new additions to the factory's "Solidarnosc" library. Four "Solidarnosc" library cells have been set up at the Polish Pharmaceutical Works. "Solidarnosc" members at the Atomic Research Institute have printed a pamphlet about the first six months of the state of war.

MEMBERS OF THE POLISH WRITERS UNION (ZLP) Executive signed a letter protesting the banning of the Union on 19 August. The 17 signatories expressed their fear that this may lead to the impoverishment of Polish culture by making it subservient to the authorities and isolating it from the West. The date of the letter is uncertain, reports Uncensored Poland News Bulletin, no. 18/83.

EDITOR'S NOTE: It is very difficult, due to conflicting information from the Polish government, to get a clear picture of the number of people who have benefited from the 22 July amnesty. Similarly, official statistics on persons affected by the 'work-shirkers' law are contradictory. The figure of "23,000 persons" (see News, no. 7/8) referred to persons who have been sentenced under the provisions of this law as reported by AFP and Le Monde. The Uncensored Poland News Bulletin, however, writes that "Polish police say there are some 45 thousand work-shirkers - men and women aged 18 to 55 - 'who neither work nor study and thus live at somebody else's expense.' Under the law, 33,717 people have been registered, 20,041 of whom found work. The cases of 11,000 people who failed to comply with legal requirements were referred to Petty Offence Courts."

THE TEMPORARY COORDINATING COMMISSION (TKK) of NSZZ "Solidarnosc" met on 18 September 1983. It discussed the overall situation in the country as well as organizational matters, and drafted letters to Chilean unionists and to the AFL-CIO. The TKK reaffirmed the practise of having all its members appear under their own name. The chairman of the Regional Strike Committee (RKS) in Lower Silesia (Dolny Slask) uses a pseudonym because he is not in hiding. After consultation with him, it was decided that Eugeniusz Szumiejko would represent the Lower Silesia Region within the TKK.

The TKK issued the following statements during its meeting:

STATEMENT ON ELECTIONS TO THE SEJM (Parliament) and peoples' councils

The legal deadline for parliamentary elections is approaching at a time when the Peoples' Republic of Poland faces the greatest political crisis in its history, at a time of economic stagnation and the impoverishment of the society. The deadline for elections to the peoples' councils expired three years ago. Almost forty years of rule by an authority bereft of a social mandate have compromised the totalitarian system and paralysed the country's economy. There is no doubt that the nation can only be rescued from total disaster by an authority enjoying social support and serving the vital interests of the nation. One of the conditions for Poland's recovery is elections to the Parliament and peoples' councils based on an electoral law that guarantees society real influence over appointments and execution of authority. There is no indication that such a law is being prepared. There is, however, mention of postponing the elections. This is evidence that the ruling group realizes its complete social and political isolation.

STATEMENT CONCERNING THE APPEARANCE of NSZZ "Solidarnosc" activists on Polish television
All appearances in the mass media by union activists who have either turned themselves in voluntarily or who were caught by the police merit condemnation.

This is directed particularly at persons who held leadership positions at the enterprise, regional or national level in the "Solidarnosc" structures. Their functions and the responsibilities which they undertook exclude the possibility of their coming out of hiding until such time as conditions allowing for open union activity exist. They are, above all, expected to maintain their dignity and be responsible for their words and deeds, no matter how difficult a situation they find themselves in. They are, and must remain, a model for others.

There can be no justification for the behaviour of Wladyslaw Hardek after his capture by the police: his agreeing to the farce of his 'turning himself in', his appearance on television, and his discrediting of TKK in the official press. He did not withstand the test which many imprisoned union activists have successfully withstood, including all the arrested TKK members: Wladyslaw Frasnikiuk, Piotr Bednarz, Jozef Piniur, Janusz Palubicki. He has lost all credibility by publicly denouncing his work in the union. So as not to remain permanently an instrument for the security forces in their fight against NSZZ "Solidarnosc", and in order to regain the personal freedom which even imprisonment cannot destroy, Wladyslaw Hardek must find enough personal strength to resist further pressure and blackmail by the organs of the ministry of the interior.

18 September 1983

Temporary Coordinating Commission of NSZZ "Solidarnosc" (TKK)
 Zbigniew Bujak (Mazowsze region)
 Tadeusz Jedynak (Slask Dabrowski region)
 Bogdan Lis (Gdansk region)
 Eugeniusz Szumiejko (Dolny Slask region)

"WE WANT THE AMERICAN PUBLIC TO KNOW that "Solidarnosc is still alive" with Lech Walesa as leader and that support from unionists in the U.S. is "of enormous significance for our movement", said the Temporary Coordinating Commission (TKK) in a message to the 15th Constitutional Convention of the AFL-CIO. The TKK stressed that Poles repudiate official Polish propaganda aimed at discrediting the AFL-CIO and American trade unions. It said it will continue to pursue relations with the free trade union movement and to support the struggle of workers in countries under dictatorships. It thanked the AFL-CIO for its moral and material aid and expressed hope that the Convention would further strengthen and unite Ameri-

can unions, thereby benefiting the international labor movement as well.

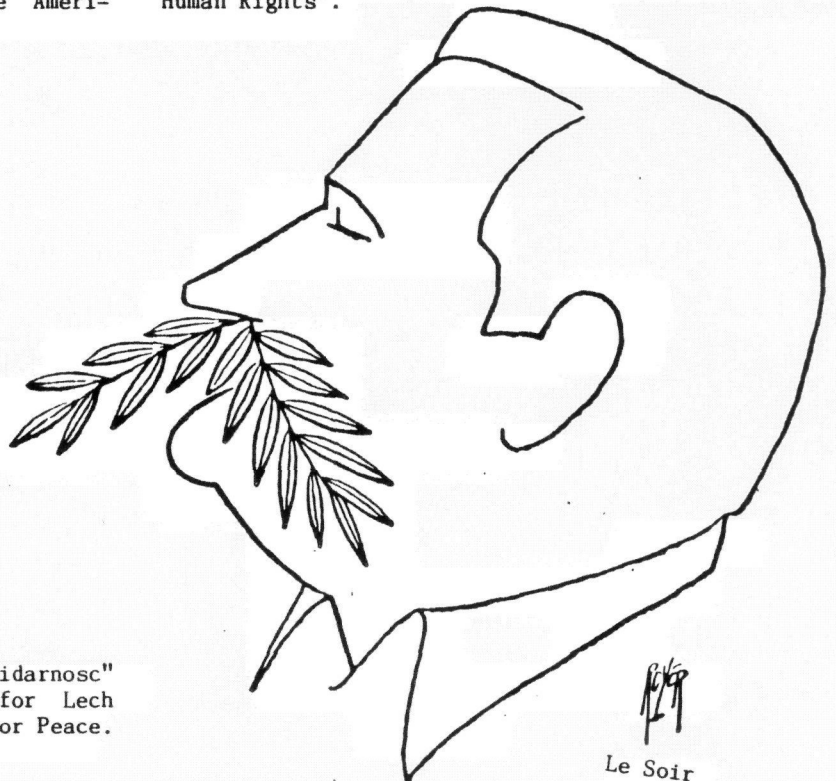
The TKK message was read to Convention delegates by J. Milewski, director of the Coordinating Office. In his statement, Milewski recalled the forthcoming trials of top "Solidarnosc" leaders and advisors. He requested "each and every union member gathered here to pay attention to these trials and to protest their taking place" and suggested concrete ways of sending a "powerful message (of protest) to Warsaw".

LECH WALESA sent greetings to the 15th Constitutional Convention of the AFL-CIO, held in Florida, Oct. 3-7. In his message, read by AFL-CIO president Lane Kirkland, Walesa noted that American and Polish unionists face different problems, particularly as regards the existence of free trade unions. However, he said, they are united by a common goal - the good of the working people. He said the past three years have been a period of struggle, hard organizational work and severe repression, but the Poles have remained faithful to the ideals of August '80. Walesa thanked the AFL-CIO for its moral and concrete assistance. "The solidarity of the working people has shown to be stronger than national borders and differences in conditions under which union activities are carried out".

IN LETTERS TO ICFTU Secretary General John Vanderveken and AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland, Lech Walesa expressed his appreciation for the close working relations and cooperation between their respective organizations and the director of the Coordinating Office Abroad of NSZZ "Solidarnosc", Jerzy Milewski.

A SPECIAL SESSION ON POLAND, with the participation of 2 representatives from the Coordinating Office Abroad, took place at the Fourth International Sakharov Hearings in Lisbon, Portugal, 12-14 Oct. The Sakharov Hearings are organized to publicize the fate of citizens in the eastern bloc, with a jury composed of eminent public figures from different countries hearing evidence presented by present and former citizens of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

"SOLIDARNOSC" WAS REPRESENTED AT THE DGB Conference on Peace by a two-member delegation from the Coordinating Office Abroad. The Conference was held in Koln, Germany on 3 and 4 October. Krzysztof Pomian took part in the panel of the workshop 'Peace and Human Rights'.



The Coordinating Office Abroad of NSZZ "Solidarnosc" received many message of congratulation for Lech Walesa, recipient of the 1983 Nobel Prize for Peace. Our sincere thanks to all!

Le Soir