COORDINATING OFFICE ABROAD OF NSZZ «SOLIDARNOŚĆ» P.O. BOX 112, 1040 BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

NEWS

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THE TEMPORARY COORDINATING COMMISSION (TKK), the underground leadership of our union in Poland, issued the following statements signed by Zbigniew Bujak (Mazowsze region), Tadeusz Jedynak (Slask Dabrowksi region), Bogdan Lis (Gdansk region) and Eugeniusz Szumiejko (Lower Silesia region).

ON PRICE INCREASES IN POLAND

The economic crisis prevailing in Poland for the past 40 years has recently developed into a decline unsurpassed in the history of industrialized nations. This decline is a direct result of the imposition of a totalitarian system of authority on our country. The conditions necessary for the gradual reconstruction of the Polish economy could be attained through a reform of the system as proposed in the Program of the NSZZ "Solidarnosc" First National Convention.

The economic situation was seemingly improved after the December coup which deprived citizens and workers of their rights. Improvements were only achieved, however, through an intentional disorganisation of the market in 1981 and through the introduction of drastic price hikes in 1982. These were measures calculated to produce short-term results. Additional food rationing and higher prices are now in sight. The economic reform implemented by the authorities proved to be shallow and ineffective.

Now, when the Polish state's paramount concern should be the formulation of domestic and international policies which mitigate the economic decline, the regime persists in its battle against the entire society. It is consistently destroying independent organisations and repressing activists. The national economy is subordinated to Party policies and a lifeless ideology. The authorities' position is causing the international isolation of our country and forcing it to take part in an absurd arms race.

We are convinced that the authorities' current policies are contrary to the polish raison d'etat and are pushing the country toward an inevitable catastrophe.

For the past two years, the cost of living has been rising more rapidly than the wage rate. At present, over one-third of the population exists below the official poverty level. Ignoring the spread of poverty, the authorities continue to raise prices, squander national resources, and impose ever-longer work hours as well as other drastic forms of exploitation. In defending its own existence, the regime is leading the society toward unavoidable poverty.

Further toleration of this situation is tantamount to an acceptance of self-annihilation. The history of the Peoples Republic of Poland, especially the events of 1956, 1968, 1970, 1976 and 1980, show that the society retains its instincts of self-preservation and is capable of defending itself. Our union's responsibility at this point is to coordinate and assist the resistance movement which is growing in opposition to the new price hikes.

Underground enterprise commissions or other informal groups of "Solidarnosc" members must formulate the most effective forms of resistance for their work place. The responsibility for action conforming to the will of the workers rests on their shoulders. Union structures outside the enterprise should ready themselves for the coordination of spontaneous pro-

tests and strikes, and for the preparation of assistance campaigns. The struggle for the minimization of the damaging consequences arising from previous price increases should be planned according to individual conditions. It must be remembered that only actions which strike directly at the fundamental interests of the administration will be effective (for example, where the fulfillment of production quotas or production priorities are concerned). The most important element of each act of resistance is solidarity among workers. Persons breaching this solidarity should be openly condemned.

We appeal to everyone to join in our common struggle under the slogans: 'no more price increases - no more decreases of food rations - higher cost of living benefits'.

1 November 1983

ON THE 11 NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARY

65 years ago, on 11 November 1918, Poland became an independent country. It regained its independence after more than a century of subjugation; after repeated and unsuccessful uprisings ending in countless deaths, prisoners and exiles. It finally emerged not only because of a favorable international situation, but also because there were people in the country who refused to accept their subjection, who had the courage to declare their goals for freedom openly, and who were prepared to suffer sacrifices for the realization of these goals.

The 11th of November was commemorated as a national holiday throughout the 20 years of the interwar period. Today it is a day of great hope for us as a reminder that the united effort of a society prepared to make sacrifices for the attainment of its goals must, sooner or later, lead to victory.

1 November 1983

ON POLITICAL PRISONERS

October 31 marks the end of the period which the authorities hoped would lead to the disintegration of existing "Solidarnosc" structures because of activists coming out of hiding. The partial amnesty announced by the authorities also expires on that day. Yet our colleagues sentenced for trade union activities remain in prison; political trials are being prepared against senior activists of the NSZZ "Solidarnosc" National Commission and members of the Workers' Defense Committee (KOR); persons charged with illegal activities remain under investigative arrest.

It is our moral and social responsibility to struggle for the release of political prisoners and for a legal system which will preclude imprisonment for political activities.

We declare 31 October Political Prisoners Day. We will observe this day each year as long as politically motivated repression exists in our country.

Let 31 October of this year mark the beginning of a month-long campaign. Let us hold demonstrations and organise the distribution of leaflets and posters. Let us prepare petitions in defense of whose who are imprisoned and those who suffer repression because of trade union and political activities. Let us ensure that the families of all the imprisoned and the detained are cared for. Let us make use of all possible means to demonstrate our support and solidarity to our colleagues in prison - let's flood them with

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our letters.

We trust the underground union press and independent publications will take up the issue of political prisoners and that of a status for prisoners of conscience. We appeal to activists engaged in independent groups and organisations, particularly those involved in education and culture, to join our initiative.

15 October 1983

ON THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

It is with satisfaction that we received news of the awarding of this year's Nobel Peace Prize to the President of NSZZ "Solidarnosc", Lech Walesa.

The Committee's decision is a sign of recognition for Lech Walesa's achievements to date as well as a response to the almost year-long defamation campaign against the "Solidarnosc" President by Party propaganda.

For the Polish society, the Norwegian Committee's decision confirms the validity of the road chosen in August 1980 and pursued after 13 December 1981, as well as the validity of the means adopted in the struggle for the right to truth and freedom, for the right to free association. These fundamental values are an inseparable component of peace. The Committee's decision is particularly noteworthy meaningful as it is yet another condemnation in the international sphere of the provocation and brutality engaged in by General Jaruzelski's regime. It is a condemnation of all those who brandish peace slogans while constantly creating new sources of tension; of whose who with impunity deprive their citizens of freedom while demanding tacit acceptance from the West as a condition for peace.

5 October 1983

PRESS RELEASE

COORDINATING OFFICE ABROAD OF NSZZ "SOLIDARNOSC"

Recent developments indicate that the fate of the trials against 11 senior "Solidarnosc" leaders and advisors is being reconsidered by the Polish authorities. In early October, the prosecution forwarded an act of indictment to the court, detailing charges brought against Jacek Kuron, Adam Michnik, Zbigniew Romaszewski and Henryk Wujec, members of the former Workers' Defense Committee (KOR) and "Solidarnosc" activists. The final stage has been reached in the investigation against 7 members of the NSZZ "Solidarnosc" National Commission: Andrzej Gwiazda, Seweryn Jaworski, Marian Jurczyk, Karol Modzelewski, Grzegorz Palka, Andrzej Rozplochowski and Jan Rulewski, accused of attempting to overthrow the Polish government by force.

A reading of the indictment act against the 4 KOR members offers the best illustration of the actual state of Poland's legal system. The union activists are charged, among others, of "presenting demands to the authorities concerning wages, working hours, workers' privileges and respect for the right of free association and the right to strike". According to the prosecution, this was how the defendants prepared to overthrow the system in Poland.

It is, however, the authorities that have demonstrated the greatest contempt for the judicial system which they themselves set up. The government press spokesman, in total disregard of existing legal norms and of the prosecutor's realm of competence, publicly offered freedom in exchange for emigration to all "Solidarnosc" activities who were either sentenced or are still awaiting trial.

In light of the above facts, it is difficult to comprehend that several democratic countries should decide, at this time, to lift the restrictions imposed on the Polish authorities after the introduction of the state of war.

The Coordinating Office Abroad of NSZZ "Solidar-nosc", in line with previous appeals by Lech Walesa and the Temporary Coordinating Commission (TKK), calls on the free trade union movement around the world to exert pressure by all means possible so as to stop the trials. We also urge a strong condemna-

tion of the authorities' underhanded attempts to force emigration upon union activists.

4 November 1983

TEXT OF WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT ON POLAND issued in Washington D.C. on 2 November:

"The Polish government continues to defy the wishes of the majority of the Polish people; a number of political prisoners are still encarcerated and indictments have been brought against certain of these prisoners; free labor unions have not been restored; no genuine economic reforms have been implemented and stringent censorship still exists. For these reasons our sanctions presently remain in place.

These include:

-the suspension of Polish civil aviation privileges in the United States;

-the freeze on export-import banks' line of export credit insurance for Poland;

-the implementation of a 'no-exceptions' policy which restricts export licensing of high technology items to Poland;

-opposition to the extension of any new credits $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) +\left(1\right) +\left($

-suspension of Poland's most favored nation status; -curtailment of the shipment of non-humanitarian agricultural commodities for distribution by the Polish government;

-suspension of joint travel under the Maria Sklodowska Curie Fund which finances joint scientific research projects;

-curtailment of Polish fishing in U.S. waters.

We seek repayment of U.S. loans to Poland. In this regard, the U.S. is not extending Poland new credits nor supporting Poland's entry into the IMF. As a bilateral step, we have agreed to permit Polish officials to engage in discussions with private fishing companies about potential fishing arrangements. Our ban on Polish fishing in U.S. waters still remains in place. Moreover, even though discussions have been authorized, no actual allocation of fish will be provided at this time. Rather, any future allocation of fish at the end of the discussions will be contingent on the Polish government's actions on human rights.

These steps taken represent a limited response to very modest improvement in the human rights situation in Poland. We are waiting for the Polish government to take definitive action to restore the human rights of the Polish people - rights which belong to them from birth and which are not government's to take away."

According to the deputy White House press secretary, "Poland's total debt to the West is estimated at over \$25 billion, of which western governments are owed \$17 billion. Including arrears, Poland owes 1982 and 1983 debt payments of over \$8 billion to official creditors. Poland owes the US government about \$2 billion and it owes private US banks about \$1.1 billion".

AN INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMISSION (MKK) was established to coordinate "Solidarnosc" activities in the Konin, Sieradz and Kalisz regions (central Poland) in early September. The MKK's documents are to be signed by A. Pietkiewicz, an activist in hiding, in line with the TKK's request not to use pseudonyms. (Nasza "Solidarnosc" no. 2)

A RESOLUTION CALLING for the reinstatement of all employees unjustly dismissed and compensation for all workers repressed during the state of war was passed by a majority vote during the 7 September meeting of the self-government council at the 'Elana' synthetic fiber enterprise in Torun. The resolution was handed over to the director with a 2-month deadline for its implementation. (Elana no. 19)

Z DNIA NA DZIEN - From Day to Day (no. 34/293) - Government sponsored trade unions at the Pawafag, Hydral and Stolbud enterprises are primarily engaged in the sale of new coins commemorating the Pope's

visit, the distribution of housing privileges and hard to get consumer items, and the organisation of soccer matches, reports the Lower Silesia underground paper Z Dnia na Dzien. It writes that workers usually join the new unions to get apartments of for fear of losing their job unless they join. The paper notes, however, that despite pressures very few workers are in fact becoming members. It also reports that "Solidarnosc" bulletins are being printed in the Pawafag, Polar and Hydral enterprises and that "Solidarnosc membership dues are regularly collected.

- A petition addressed to the Polish Parliament demanding the release of Wladyslaw Frasyniuk and Piotr Bednarz, TKK members until their arrest (see News no. 9), is being circulated among enterprises in the Lower Silesia region. (Note: this is the third collective action in the region. The first, in January of '83, was a petition to the Voivodship council for the release of workers imprisoned for union activity. In the second, workers demanded the allocation of confiscated "Solidarnosc" assets to a collective social fund.)

18 workers at the Communication Equipment Works (WSK) in Wroclaw were taken in for questioning in September. They were asked about union dues and the enterprise "Solidarnosc" paper Hydralek, about who is active in the underground and who distributes the paper. Managers and foremen are still under pressure from the SB (security agents) to join the new government unions.

BOGUMILA JANAS (see News no. 10) sent the following letter to Halina Skibniewska, vice-president of the Polish Parliament and a similar one to the Polish

Episcopate.

I am the wife of Zbigniew Janas. I have been harassed by security agents (SB - Sluzba Bezpieczenstwa) for almost two years. I have often been threatened: they say they will take my child away, or my apartment. They usually came to my apartment during the night, which has had a very negative influence not only on my, but especially my child's, psychological well-being. I was recently on medical leave from work to stay with my sick child. It was then, on 5 October 1983, that they came for me. It was a Wednesday evening. They took me away even though I pleaded that I had to stay with my child, who had a fever of 40 C. I was terribly mistreated at police headquarters. I was forced to listen to a tape of my alleged sex life with other men during my husband's absence. They told me that they would get my whole family and my husband's family together and let them listen to the tape and that my family would disown me then. They said they would play it next at my work place, and I wouldn't be able to show me face there again. Then the tape would go to the underground, because they said they have their people there. My husband would hear it and would certainly come out of hiding afterwards, but he would have my parental rights taken away and would have me evicted from the apartment. I was brutally forced to sign a statement which said that no one would find out about the tape from me, or about our conversation. They told me my husband had three days to come out of hiding. They promised that no one would be watching the apartment building during these three days, which of course wasn't true. An entire army of undercover agents was posted in front of the building. Every move I made was observed. Please help me with your intervention in my case. I cannot be blamed for being Janas' wife. Warsaw, 13 October 1983

JAROSLAW SWITEK AND STANISLAW JAROSZ, underground "Solidarnosc" activists in the Gdansk region, have been sentenced by the Naval War Tribunal in Gdynia to prison terms of 8 years, 3 months and 4 years, 9 months respectively for attempting to organise a strike after the imposition of the state of war on 13 December 1981. The sentences were, however, reduced to 3 years for Switek and 2 years for Jarosz under the partial amnesty of July '83. Roman Polczyn, also accused, was sentenced to 10 months for hiding one of

the two activists. The trial, which took place in October, was held behind closed doors.

JACEK KALABINSKI is under investigation by the Public Prosecutor's Office in Warsaw for allegedly "spreading false news reports abroad attacking the fundamental interests of Poland", according to the Polish news agency PAP on 20 October. Kalabinski, a journalist formerly with Polish Radio and head of the Warsaw branch of the now-dissolved Union of Polish Journalists, is currently in the US on scholarship at Yale University. (Uncensored Poland, no. 20/83)

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF LAWYERS in Poland has expressed concern over the treatment of repressed members of NSZZ "Solidarnosc" and the recent government announcement that these activists may be forced to emigrate. A resolution, passed during a 2-day Congress at the beginning of October, urges the government to instruct regional administrative offices to cease discrimination against "Solidarnosc" activists. The Council also appealed for the release of political prisoners (including KOR and "Solidarnosc" members), the introduction of a special status for political prisoners, and an investigation into prison conditions. Maria Budzanowska, a parliamentarian who voted against the banning of "Solidarnosc" and other unions in October of 1982, was elected as Council chairperson for a three-year term.

LECH WALESA announced on 3 November that his wife Danuta and 13 year old son Bogdan would go to Oslo to accept the 1983 Nobel Peace Prize in his name. After meeting Norwegian embassy officials in Gdansk, Walesa said he is inviting the following persons to the 10 December awards ceremony: John Vanderveken, Secretary General of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions; Jan Kulakowski, Secretary General of the World Confederation of Labor; Francis Blanchard, Director General of the International Labor Office; Rodolfo Seguel, President of the Chilean Copper Miners Union; Sandor Gaspar, President of the World Federation of Trade Unions located in Prague; and Bishop Stefan Wesoly, the Polish Episcopate's delegate to the Vatican.

LECH WALESA, president of NSZZ "Solidarnosc", sent a message, dated 3 November, thanking the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Union for presenting him its 'Gold Badge' award. The award was officially announced during the British union's Biennial Delegate Conference held this year in Blackpool, England, November 7-11. Jerzy Milewski accepted the distinction on Mr. Walesa's behalf.

LIONEL MURRAY, Trade Unions Congress (TUC) General Secretary, met with Jerzy Milewski, Director of the Coordinating Office Abroad, on 10 November. Mr. Murray reaffirmed the TUC's support for "Solidarnosc" as the truly representative trade union in Poland. He also expressed indignation over the show-trials against freely-elected trade union representatives and called for the release of all "Solidarnosc" prisoners.

THE COORDINATING OFFICE ABROAD has received a detailed 40-page report on the legal situation in Poland after the lifing of the state of war on 22 July '83. The report, compiled by the underground Helsinki Committee in Poland, assesses various legislative acts which the authors consider the basis for the creation of a police state. The English translation, with an introduction by Bogdan Lis, will be available through the Office by the end of December.

*_*_*_*_*_*_*_*_*_*_* "SOLIDARNOSC" 1984 CALENDAR (44x60cm) is now available from the Coordinating Office Abroad (PO Box 112, 1040 Brussels, Belgium). Fantastic photos of "Solidarnosc" activists and events. Hurry while supplies last. \$5.00 US includes postage and handling.