

NEWS

Solidarność

B.D.I.C

DATE: 15 December 1983

No: 14

STATEMENT ON THE 16 DECEMBER 1983 ANNIVERSARY

Thirteen years ago, in December 1970, soldiers on the Polish coast fired at workers taking part in protests against drastic decreases in their standard of living. In December 1981 in southern Poland, guns and tanks were used in the Wujek mine against miners defending citizen and worker rights.

The Polish society recognises 16 December as a day of commemoration of all those who, in struggling for their inalienable rights, paid the highest price: the loss of their life. But we owe those who died not only a day of remembrance. Their sacrifice commits all of us to continue the struggle. This cause takes on increased significance today, at a time when society is being denied all of its rights, and when living conditions are steadily worsening.

On 16 December 1983, let us honor the memory of those who died by wearing symbols of mourning and let us manifest our willingness to struggle by organising peaceful demonstrations across the whole country. Let us leave our work places together to join in marches, demonstrations and gatherings at central points throughout our cities. Regional trade union cells will propose specific celebration programs according to local custom and possibilities.

The Temporary Coordinating Commission (TKK) states that the authorities will be held responsible for any attempt to disrupt these peaceful ceremonies.

26 November 1983

Temporary Coordinating Commission of NSZZ "Solidarnosc"

Zbigniew Bujak / Mazowsze region

Tadeusz Jedynak / Slask Dabrowski region

Bogdan Lis / Gdansk region

Eugeniusz Szumiejko / Dolny Slask region

KOS STATEMENT ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN EASTERN EUROPE

The intended installation of Soviet missiles with nuclear warheads on Czechoslovakian and East German territory aims at further increasing Soviet military predominance in Europe. The fact that these missiles will not be installed on Polish soil is an achievement of the Polish society. Its unyielding struggle against the current regime has shown Moscow that entangling our country in a new stage of the arms race would carry too high a political price. At the same time as the missiles escalate the threat of war, they are also a direct threat to our security. That is why we urge support for the protest actions already taking place in these two countries and for a continuation, on both sides of the iron curtain, of the common struggle for a Europe free from nuclear weapons and from all forms of force.

Committee of Social Resistance (KOS)
31 November 1983

THE 'PUBLIC CONSULTATION' on upcoming price increases announced by the government is not genuine because society is not freely represented, contends TKK member Zbigniew Bujak in a recent article. The govern-

ment has a monopoly on information and, in addition, issues fundamentally false statistics concerning the increases. The price increases on basic consumer items will hit low income citizens the hardest, the group which already spends the greatest portion of its income on food alone. Furthermore, writes Bujak, the official press has ignored the fact that price hikes inevitably are followed by further cost increases in many other basic goods, including services. The Polish society, argues Bujak, is being forced, through the introduction of price increases, to pay for the ever greater militarisation of the Soviet bloc; for the bloc's aggressive policy toward the West. The regime's plan for economic recovery has failed. Under these circumstances, according to Bujak, the primary guarantee of economic recovery is the existence of an independent trade union movement. The most important goal of the trade union NSZZ "Solidarnosc" at present is to coordinate resistance against further price increases. The union, writes Bujak, is convinced that every protest against the hikes is justified and will be supported by the union. The union is prepared to help organise protests, though success depends on society's determination. Resistance is essential, Bujak concludes, to prevent the biological destruction of the nation.

(Tygodnik Mazowsze no. 68)

A GRAMMAR SCHOOL teacher was dismissed in November after 20 years of work for devoting three class periods to a discussion on the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Lech Walesa. The Polish language teacher from Hel (on the Baltic Coast) was accused of "discussing issues not in line with the school program".

(Tygodnik Mazowsze no. 68)

DUES COLLECTED by NSZZ "Solidarnosc" while it was legal are the center of a controversy between "Solidarnosc" underground enterprise commissions and members of the new government-sponsored unions in the Krakow region. The commissions have been fighting to have the funds allocated for aid to workers, while the new unions are demanding that the funds be put at their disposal.

(Kronika Malopolska no. 41)

FREE SATURDAYS are being abolished throughout the Malopolska region (southeastern Poland). In October, they were abolished in many enterprises, including the large STOMIL tire factory near Krakow. Kronika Malopolska no. 40 reports it likely that they will also be abolished in grammar and high schools - in order to counter influence from the Church which allegedly "took advantage of free Saturdays to organise youth meetings".

(Kronika Malopolska no. 40)

UPCOMING ELECTIONS to the Sejm and regional Peoples' Councils, due to take place in March, should be boycotted writes Wola (no. 33), an underground paper in Warsaw. On the same topic, the underground monthly Niepodleglosc (no. 21-22) proposes that voters throw blank envelopes into voting boxes and take their ballots to "Solidarnosc" activists for counting. The true voting results would then be published in the

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underground press.

A REPORT ON 1983 ACTIVITIES was compiled by the "Solidarnosc" Territorial Resistance Committee (TKO) which works in enterprises southwest of Warsaw. An information and communication network has been set up; three papers have been established: Sektor (appearing every 10 days, 36 issues to date), Baza (a monthly, 3 issues) and Polkolor (bi-monthly, 2 issues); and an Information Agency has been organised. The Committee, established on 31 August '82, also has its own radio station, distributes publications and directs self-education courses.

(Informacja Solidarnosc no. 161)

IDEOLOGICAL SCHOOLING has become obligatory for Lublin employees of RSW "Prasa", the state press monopoly. Last year, only directors and "persons interested" had to attend sessions. This year, "interested persons" are threatened with loss of bonuses, promotions and even dismissal if they do not attend.

(Informator Regionu Srodkowo-Wschodni no.74)

POLISH WRITERS' UNION (ZLP) held a founding congress in Warsaw on 4 November. Officers were elected. This organisation replaces the writers' union which was dissolved by the authorities on 19 August '83. (See News no. 6)

RADIO "SOLIDARNOSC" broadcast in Warsaw again on 9 November. Reception was reportedly good. The program discussed the government's offer of emigration for political prisoners which was firmly rejected. Also aired was an appeal to listeners to send protest letters to the authorities about the bad treatment of political prisoners.

14 POLISH SCHOLARS were refused permission to attend academic conferences at the University of Chicago, according to a University press release on 10 November. They were to attend a sociology conference in Chicago on 10-12 November and a literary seminar on the Polish poet Cyprian Norwid. Earlier intervention with Polish authorities proved unsuccessful.

CHARGES AGAINST 7 senior "Solidarnosc" leaders were changed on 17 November from "attempting to overthrow the system by force" to "preparation to overthrow the system". They now face up to 10 years imprisonment, as opposed to from 5 years to death. The new charge is the same as that brought against the four members of the Workers' Defense Committee (KOR).

ANNA WALENTYNOWICZ, Kazimierz Switon and Stanislaw Wyslenda were arrested in Katowice on 6 December and charged with "organising an illegal protest action". The three activists were detained two days earlier along with scores of other "Solidarnosc" supporters as they were placing a plaque honoring the victims of the December '81 Wujek mine killings. All of the arrested face a three year prison sentence. Walentynowicz and Switon were also indicted for "insulting state officials" and are liable to an additional three years imprisonment. The arrest and indictment of these well-known personalities can be seen as further evidence that the authorities will not tolerate protest, particularly in view of the TKK's appeal for peaceful demonstrations on 16 December.

11 MINERS FROM LUBIN were sentenced in late November to between one and a half and five and a half years imprisonment for "attempting to organise strikes" and for allegedly bombing a copper mine. The charges were related to a demonstration held on 31 August '82, which was violently broken up by the police. Another three miners were acquitted and three more had their sentences postponed. The trial took place in Wroclaw.

(Le Monde 1.XII.83)

"THE WORLD CONFEDERATION OF LABOUR (WCL) supports the resolute but non-violent action taken by the Polish workers for the defence of their rights"; it "asks the Polish authorities to release and rehabilitate the political and trade union prisoners, to stop and annul the current legal proceedings and to re-instate the dismissed workers"; it also "calls upon the Polish authorities to comply at least with the appeal to a real dialogue launched, with courage and sense of responsibility, by the president of NSZZ "Solidarnosc", Lech Walesa". Excerpts from statement issued by the WCL on the occasion of the 2nd anniversary of the 13 December coup.

"WHEN WILL THE POLISH AUTHORITIES cease to resort to violence in response to every "Solidarnosc" call for dialogue and national reconciliation", said ICFTU Secretary General, John Vanderveken, in a statement issued on the eve of the 13 December anniversary. He stated that "the deployment of force across the country and the new wave of arrests constitute a true provocation against the Polish workers" adding that "the Polish regime alone should be held responsible for possible consequences".

A RESOLUTION ON POLAND was adopted by the ICFTU Executive Board meeting held in Brussels, 30 Nov.-2 Dec. In it, the ICFTU reaffirms "its full and unconditional support for the Polish free and independent trade union movement NSZZ "Solidarnosc". It deplores the "harsh repression against Solidarnosc and its leaders and members" and notes "that more than 200 people are still detained in Poland because of their trade union activities". It also urges "ICFTU affiliates to take the necessary steps at all appropriate levels in order to obtain the immediate release of the top eleven leaders and advisers of Solidarnosc, or that in any case they be granted the right to a fair trial, open to international supervision; and to maintain all practical pressures on their respective governments to have the Polish regime isolated and to keep public opinion informed about the situation in the country".

A COOPERATION AGREEMENT between the Gdansk region of NSZZ "Solidarnosc" and the Regional Union CFTD - Brittany - was signed in early December by TKK member Bogdan Lis and regional Secretary General Michel Duthoit, respectively. The accord follows a meeting in November between French unionist M. Duthoit and the underground "Solidarnosc" leadership in the Gdansk region; it consolidates the working relationship between the two regions established in December '81 by providing for a continuation of moral and material support for imprisoned "Solidarnosc" activists and their families, including humanitarian aid as well as assistance in trade union work. The agreement also stipulates information exchange on union activities in both regions.

A MESSAGE OF GREETINGS from the TKK Commission to the Biennial Congress of the Federation des Travailleurs du Quebec (5-9 December) was read by Secretary General, Fernand Daoust. The message notes, among others, that when "Solidarnosc" was formed in August 1980, people believed that constructive cooperation with the authorities was possible. The authorities, however, systematically boycotted all social proposals for reform and Polish society is now deprived of its basic rights. The TKK also describes different forms of repression applied against "Solidarnosc" members since the 13 December coup. It finally reaffirms its commitment to peaceful struggle and expresses its support for the struggle in favor of trade union rights and the right to free association in other countries.