

NEWS

SOLIDARNOŚĆ

15 August 1983



B.D.I.C

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THE TEMPORARY COORDINATING COMMISSION (TKK) addressed a message to the XIII World Congress of the ICFTU (Oslo, 23-30 June) which, due to an exceptional delay, arrived too late to be read out at the Congress itself. We reproduce the text as follows:

On behalf of the working people of Poland, we wish to convey our greetings to the World Congress of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU). Our Coordinating Office Abroad in Brussels is representing NSZZ "Solidarnosc" at your Congress as the situation in our country makes it impossible for us to send a delegation from Poland. The present situation also hinders cooperation between our Union and other trade unions around the world. However, the regime has been unable to destroy this cooperation and to isolate our Union from the free trade union movement. "Solidarnosc" has ties and cooperates with many union organizations, foremost among them being the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions. The ICFTU has supported "Solidarnosc" in Poland and abroad with moral, political and material aid since the memorable August of 1980. It is assistance which continues to be very valuable and necessary for the working people of Poland. We wish to emphasise our appreciation by expressing our thanks directly to the World Congress of the ICFTU.

The free trade unions in Poland are confronted by and must resolve problems unfamiliar to trade unions functioning in democratically ruled countries due to differences in our political systems. One such example is that of elections to the Sejm; formally the Polish Parliament, though in fact an instrument controlled by the totalitarian authorities which do not

admit any independent organizations, including free trade unions. Today the Polish question is relevant to all working people in the world; only international solidarity can effectively counter the expansion of totalitarian systems throughout the world. Poland is the most glaring case in Eastern Europe; a similar situation, though without a state of war, is found in other countries of the region. NSZZ "Solidarnosc" has not and will not cease its activities in spite of repression, the murder of union activists, imprisonment and torture. Young Poles are becoming hardened by the difficult conditions which we face. They are learning how to defend their own dignity, how to defend and demand their rights. We wish to assure the ICFTU World Congress that "Solidarnosc" is, and will continue to be, active in its struggle for these values. We are convinced that our experiences, though tragic, will bear fruit in the future. We hope that this short, of necessity, summary of the conditions in which we find ourselves will further strengthen your support for NSZZ "Solidarnosc".

On behalf of Polish unionists, we extend our best wishes to the XIII World Congress of the ICFTU. We believe your deliberations will be of great significance for the future of the international trade union movement.

Gdansk, 23 June 1983

For the Temporary Coordinating Commission
of NSZZ "Solidarnosc"
/ - / Bogdan Lis

TOGETHER WITH THIS MESSAGE was a letter addressed to John Vanderveken, General Secretary of the ICFTU:

Dear Brother Vanderveken,

On behalf of Polish unionists, we wish to address this letter to you and to all members of the trade unions affiliated with the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.

Recent events in the history of Polish trade unionism have shown that our free trade union movement has not been broken despite widespread terror, repressions and administrative pressures. The authorities have been unable to alter social consciousness, and working people in Poland have remained faithful to NSZZ "Solidarnosc". This was true even after the delegalization of our union, an act which infringed all the Gdansk Agreements, as well as the ILO Conventions and other international obligations ratified by the government of the Polish Peoples' Republic.

Our union functions in a great majority of undertakings. Underground Enterprise Commissions (TKZ) are active with coordination at the regional level. The Temporary Coordinating Commission (TKK), which maintains organizational contact with Lech Walesa, directs the underground trade union movement in Poland at the national level.

The goal of our struggle is the restoration of trade union and self-government rights in Poland through the implementation of the "Self-Governing

Republic" program adopted by the First National Convention of NSZZ "Solidarnosc" in Gdansk, 1981. We will persist in our struggle for worker representation independent of the totalitarian authorities, in spite of constraints, arrests, political trials and forced unemployment. We are aware that we are fighting not only for the Polish cause. A Poland free of tension, respectful of human rights and economically stable, will contribute to international security and peace.

The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions has aided and supported our struggle since August 1980; this assistance became particularly valuable after 13 December 1981. We wish to express our appreciation and thanks for this to you personally, Brother Vanderveken. We deeply value your position of solidarity with Poland, your efforts in organising ICFTU political and moral support on an international level and financial assistance for the purchase of equipment and other materials needed for NSZZ "Solidarnosc" activities in Poland, and your backing for the "Solidarnosc" offices outside Poland. All this was and continues to be of immeasurable importance to us. We feel gratified that you personally, as well as unionists in the free world, have a correct understanding of the Polish government's allegations that your assistance constitutes an "interference in Polish affairs". This assertion is unsubstantiated and is not shared by

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Polish unionists. We are counting on further support for our struggle and on the strengthening of ties between the Polish trade union movement and the free trade unions affiliated with the ICFTU.

The workers of Poland send you and the free trade unions their greetings and their best wishes for success in your work of promoting the cause of free trade unionism and of international solidarity.

10 June 1983

For the Temporary Coordinating Commission of NSZZ "Solidarnosc"

/ - / Bogdan Lis

THE WARSAW UPRISING, led by the Polish Home Army (AK), broke out against the Nazis at 5 o'clock in the evening of 1 August 1944. The Soviet Army, standing on the opposite side of the Vistula River, failed to aid the Uprising, which ended in defeat. To commemorate the start of the Uprising, the inhabitants of Warsaw gather annually at the Powazki Cemetery, where symbolic graves of the roughly 100,000 fighters, young and old, who died in the Uprising are located. The authorities do not recognize this anniversary. This year, about 20,000 people gathered at the cemetery, demonstrating at the same time their support for the "Solidarnosc" trade union. The next anniversary which will also be celebrated without the authorities' approval will be 31 August, which marks the anniversary of the signing of the Gdansk Agreements and the emergence of the independent, self-governing trade union NSZZ "Solidarnosc". The Temporary Coordinating Commission (TKK) issued a special resolution on 28 July concerning this anniversary. The full text of this resolution will be published in the next issue of the News.

EXCERPTS FROM INTERVIEW WITH Zbigniew Bujak, member of the Temporary Coordinating Commission, published in Tygodnik Mazowsze on 1 July, prior to the lifting of the state of war. On the possibility of "Solidarnosc" activists coming out of hiding, Bujak said this would not include "Solidarnosc" leaders and their closest co-workers, "who must sacrifice their personal lives so that "Solidarnosc" can continue to function nationwide." He noted, however, that although "Solidarnosc" is forced to work in the underground, most activists lead normal working lives and are relatively safe. "The number of people hiding is not very large. Those in hiding, however, will remain so until trade union activity is no longer punishable by prison terms, in other words until a full amnesty is announced for the imprisoned and until persecution for socio-political activity is ended." Bujak discarded the possibility of dropping the boycott against the government-sanctioned unions, saying that such a step would be tantamount to encouraging membership in the new unions, and would only be possible if the unions were independent of the administration and the party. By dropping the boycott, the Polish workers would "give up their right to independent trade unions, the main achievement of August '80. All those in Poland who continue to boycott the new unions despite pressure and blackmail, want their own union and will only join such a union." On the forthcoming anniversary of the Gdansk Agreements, Bujak said it would be a time for reminding everyone of the contents of the social accords and for formulating an updated version of the August postulates, outlining basic objectives for the future.

JACEK KURON REFUSED A GOVERNMENT proposal to send him and his family out of Poland permanently. Kuron, a chief advisor to "Solidarnosc", has been jailed since December 1981 on charges of attempting to overthrow the government by force. (Herald Tribune, 5 August 1983)

BRONISLAW GEREMEK WAS RECENTLY RELEASED after being arrested on 6 May for organizing a joint meeting between Lech Walesa and the leaders of other Polish unions (branch and autonomous) dissolved by the authorities. Geremek was a top advisor to the national leadership of NSZZ "Solidarnosc".

THE 6 MONTH LEAVE FROM PRISON granted to Mieczyslaw Gil, chairman of "Solidarnosc" at the Lenin Steelworks (Krakow) and member of the Malopolska Region Executive Committee, has been revoked by the Slask Military Court. Gil was ordered back to prison for not spending his break with his parents, whose illness was cited as the reason for the leave. Solidarnosc Information no. 150 reports that Gil, who suffers from a spinal disorder, was in fact undergoing specialized treatment in a clinic during his break.

MANY PROMINENT CULTURAL ASSOCIATIONS have been either dissolved or suspended since the introduction of the state of war on 13 December 1981. The Union of Polish Journalists (SDP), the Polish Artists' Association (ZSP) and the Union of Polish Visual Artists (ZPAP) have all been dissolved. The ZPAP was banned on 23 June and replaced by a new Union of Sculptor Artists. The entire presidium of the Association of Polish Filmmakers (SFP), including Andrzej Wajda, was dismissed on 5 June. The Union of Polish Writers (ZLP) was accused by the government daily Trybuna Ludu of an uncompromising attitude following the introduction of the state of war and of being subservient to the West. The daily demanded that the Union undergo a radical re-evaluation of its attitudes and recognize socialist principles of cultural policy. The ZLP's suspension was extended on 1 July for two months.

POLISH WRITERS ARE REFUSING government-sponsored literary awards. Joanna Papuzinska, Maciej Wojtyzsko and other children's writers refused to have their names considered for the Premier's awards, granted annually during national Children's Day. Krystyna Witwicka declined to accept her monetary award and asked that it be turned over to the Primate's Aid Committee. (Tygodnik Mazowsze, no. 56)

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION for the Administration of Trade Union Assets announced on 25 June that "Solidarnosc" assets will soon be distributed, by way of a decision by the Council of Ministers, after consultations with the new government-sponsored trade unions. Capital assets of NSZZ "Solidarnosc" amount to the equivalent of some \$3.4 million US, with liquid assets of about \$6.5 million US. (Tygodnik Powszechny, 10 July 1983)

12 "SOLIDARNOSC" MEMBERS IN GDANSK were charged on 4 July with organising a clandestine railway workers' coordinating committee of "Solidarnosc", Northern Region, comprising Gdansk and Bydgoszcz. (Uncensored Polish News Bulletin, no. 14/83)

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THE FACTORY COMMUNIST PARTY COMMITTEE in the URSUS tractor factory outside Warsaw adopted a new rule obliging every party member to join the new union organization. (Polish Monitoring Bulletin, RFE, no. 194)

TWO STUDENTS AT THE SLASK UNIVERSITY were brutally beaten during an interrogation after being arrested for transporting underground papers. J. Jurkiewicz and Cz. Ciupinski, activists in the Independent Student Union (NZS), were arrested on 18 May for distributing the NZS bulletin Liberation. Jurkiewicz was taken to the hospital in serious condition after the interrogation. (Tygodnik Mazowsze No. 56)

STANISLAW AFENDA WAS SUSPENDED from his duties as a lawyer by the Minister of Justice four days after being elected dean of the Lawyers Council in Lodz. Afenda has defended many political prisoners, most recently Wladyslaw Frasyniuk, member of TKK arrested in October 1982. (Tygodnik Mazowsze No. 56)

"THE FLOWERY STYLE used by the Polish authorities to describe the new regime does not mean there will be any change in the labour policy", comments the World Confederation of Labour (WCL) in its bi-monthly news bulletin Flash, no. 207.

AFL-CIO PRESIDENT LANE KIRKLAND issued a statement on 22 July, in response to the lifting of the state of war in Poland. The statement reads as follows:

The lifting of martial law in Poland is a sham which in no way would justify lifting the modest sanctions against Poland imposed by the United States.

Many of the most repressive features of the state

of war have been institutionalized in Polish civil law, including a ban on free associations and the right to join free trade unions. The so-called amnesty will not apply to key leaders of "Solidarnosc".

The lifting of sanctions under these circumstances would betray those who have sacrificed so much for the cause of human rights. It would legitimate what the Temporary Coordinating Commission of "Solidarnosc" has called "a gesture devoid of political meaning." It would undermine the International Labor Organization's Commission of Inquiry into Poland's violations of freedom of association. It would signal Poland and the Soviet Union that the United States lacks the steadfastness of purpose required to support the principles embodied in the ILO conventions, the Helsinki Agreement, and other international human rights declarations.

The lifting of martial law does nothing to restore the rights won by the Polish people in the August 1980 Gdansk Agreement. Martial law is not needed, as the Soviets have demonstrated, to suppress freedom of association and other human rights.

The AFL-CIO reiterates its support for "Solidarnosc's" demands that the Polish government release all political prisoners, recommit itself to abide by the Gdansk Agreement, and restore trade union rights.

These were essentially the conditions originally set by the President for the lifting of his sanctions. Any retreat from them now would trivialize and demean the sacrifice and courage of the Polish freedom fighters whom the President has lauded so eloquently. It would be a slap in the face to Lech Walesa and his brave brothers and sisters in "Solidarnosc".

Until these conditions are met, the AFL-CIO will resolutely continue to oppose any rescheduling of Poland's debts or any lifting of the sanctions now in place.
