

NEWS

Solidarność

DATE: 31 January 1984

B.D.I.C

No: 16

THE ILO COMMISSION OF INQUIRY on trade union violations in Poland - infringement of conventions no. 87 on the Freedom of Association and no. 98 on the Right to Organize - held hearings in Geneva, 18-25 January. Marc Blondel (Force Ouvriere - France) acted as chief complainant. Testimony was heard from trade union officials including the General Secretaries of the ICFTU and WCL, and from a number of witnesses invited by the Commission to present evidence. Lech Walesa was represented by Bohdan Cywinski, adviser to NSZZ "Solidarnosc". The government of the People's Republic of Poland which in a communique dated 24 June '83 rejected the Governing Body's decision to establish the Commission, withheld its participation. A detailed account of the Commission's proceedings will be published in our next issue.

ALEKSANDER HALL resigned from the Gdansk Regional Coordinating Commission (RKK) of NSZZ "Solidarnosc" on 6 January although he will remain in the underground, and will continue his activities in the opposition. In a document assessing the present situation, Hall notes that although "normalization" has not succeeded and that society is neither broken nor resigned to its fate, it is necessary now to work towards expanding the sphere of freedoms within the existing system in Poland. "New forms of struggle must be sought in our fight for basic national goals" of freedom and internal sovereignty. He envisages a decentralised model of independent social activity functioning at different levels and combining clandestine work such as printing and distribution of independent publications together with a growing sphere of "open" activity, whenever and wherever this is possible. He says the area of civic behavior is particularly important in this respect. "Our major national goals, the ideals which gave rise to "Solidarnosc" should remain unchanged. However, structures should be conceived as instruments, closely linked to given circumstances and prevailing conditions." Hall says resistance to the totalitarian regime remains essential though it must take on new forms, adapted to the present political situation.

AT THE INITIATIVE of the Temporary Coordinating Commission (TKK) of NSZZ "Solidarnosc", representatives from the Lenin steelworks, the Katowice steelworks, the Wujek coal mine, the Swidnik aviation plant, and the Ursus mechanical works met on 8-9 December. The meeting's objective was to reactivate the Network of NSZZ "Solidarnosc" Factory Committees in Leading Industrial Enterprises, commonly referred to as the "Network" or "Siec" in the Polish language. The discussion focused on the principles of functioning and on the action programme to be adopted under present conditions. It was decided that the Network would follow guidelines established in the pre-state of war period. During the meeting, the five participants also signed a joint statement condemning food price increases and calling for economic reform and for free trade unions.

- Tygodnik Mazowsze, No. 73

FROM LECH WALESZA, Gdansk, 19 January, a message of solidarity with the Plenario Intersindical de Trabajadores (PIT), dissolved on that day by Uruguay's military rulers: "Although my knowledge of the situation is limited, the information transmitted to me by the ICFTU concerning the recent turn of events in Uruguay has filled me with great sorrow and concern. These events have culminated in the military government's dissolution of trade unions and the banning of all trade union activities. I remain convinced that it is possible to find peaceful and dignified solutions to any conflict. My only hope is that the world will not resort to using the methods adopted by the Polish regime but that it will take heed of our example in making use of solutions that serve the true interests of workers. Working people's interests must be respected everywhere. Our mutual solidarity must defend and support them".

On behalf of Lech Walesa and the union leadership in Poland, the "Solidarnosc" Coordinating Office Abroad on 24 November sent a message of support to the Uruguayan unionists on the occasion of the day of national protest organised by the democratic forces of that country.

THE FARMERS' RESISTANCE COMMITTEE (OKOR) actively supports the development of independent commerce with respect to food. In a statement issued on 16 December, OKOR encourages smallholders to produce certain goods despite fluctuations in state purchasing prices, a result of manipulations by the authorities, it says. The Committee suggests that direct contact be established between private farmers and consumers, particularly those living in urban centers. It also expresses the view that protests against food price increases should be accompanied by concrete steps to protect and to develop independent commerce.

- Tygodnik Wojenny, No. 75

15 ACTIVISTS OF THE DISSOLVED AUTONOMOUS and branch unions and from the National Teachers' Union addressed an open letter to the Sejm on 3 December in which they call for the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in central Europe. Furthermore, the signatories declare themselves to be against the deployment of nuclear weapons on Polish territory. "Irrespective of which side they are aimed at, nuclear weapons are not a means of defense but rather a means for the self-annihilation of mankind". The same group also sent a communication to the government outlining their reasons for opposing the food price increases, due to become effective in February. On a note of interest, seven of the authors on 6 May '83 signed a statement with Lech Walesa and two other "Solidarnosc" officials demanding trade union pluralism, freedom for political prisoners and the reinstatement of persons dismissed for trade union work.

APPEAL TO PHYSICIANS, to societies and to world public opinion from the Social Resistance Committee (KOS): "The health and the life of the imprisoned "Solidarnosc" and KOR officials are endangered. Information reaching us shows a disturbing decline in conditions

40 P. 12007

at the Rakowiecka prison: a decrease in food rations to the bare minimum, delays and other obstructions in the delivery of parcels, lack of adequate medical care. The authorities have created inhuman conditions of existence for the KOR activists and the "Solidarnosc" leaders so as to force them to leave the country. We appeal to public opinion in Poland and abroad and to Amnesty International to initiate protest actions without delay. In particular, we urge the medical community to demand that the right of prisoners to health protection be respected and to protest against actions aimed at the physical destruction of our leaders. A crime is being committed before our eyes. We cannot remain silent."

- KOS, No. 46

A SPONTANEOUS DEMONSTRATION in support of Lech Walesa and "Solidarnosc" and against the announced food price increases took place in Gdansk on 22 January. Some three thousand people gathered behind Lech Walesa as he came out of St. Mary's cathedral after attending a mass celebrated by the Primate of Poland, Cardinal Jozef Glemp. Chanting "down with food prices" and "there is no freedom without Solidarity", the crowd moved through the streets of the seaport towards the Lenin Shipyard. The police turned back the crowd as it neared the shipyard and prevented demonstrators from approaching the monument to workers killed in the 1970 workers' protests.

ARMS SPENDING in Poland is expected to increase between 15 and 20% in 1984, according to the Social Resistance Committee (KOS). A considerable part of this sum will be used to increase officers' salaries as well as those of prison guards. The official Polish press admits that the defense budget has quadrupled in the past five years but attributes this development to inflation.

- KOS, No. 44/45

THE NATIONAL EDUCATION COUNCIL (REN), an independent initiative close to "Solidarnosc" structures, has started to compile information concerning education related topics. The Council is particularly interested in documenting school administration and functioning. It has asked parents and educators to transmit relevant information through KOS distributors. Problems of interest include: autonomy of Pedagogical Councils with respect to Educational authorities, personal politics and teachers' autonomy as well as the functioning of the official unions.

-KOS, No.44/45

AN EDUCATION COUNCIL was established in the Lower Silesia region (Wroclaw) on 10 November '83. The regional council will act in concert with the National REN.

- BIS Wroclaw, No. 24

TALKS ON THE "ATOMIC THREAT" are organised by PRON, the official Patriotic Front for National Liberation in secondary schools in Gliwice (Upper Silesia). Students are strongly 'encouraged' to sign petitions against American missiles. No mention, however, is made of the Soviet SS-20s.

- Podziemny Informator, No. 8

UNDERGROUND PUBLICATIONS were found among cadets and officers in the Military Medical Academy in Warsaw. A thorough inspection of ranks was carried out. Four persons were expelled, reprimands were dispensed and regulations tightened.

- AIS, No. 17

A RESEARCH INSTITUTE in the south western region of Silesia recently conducted a survey in the Rybnik mining region (ROW) comprised of between 7 and 8 coal mines. 90% of the miners questioned expressed continued support for "Solidarnosc". However, both the response and the accompanying question were omitted in the publication of the final results.

-Wola, No. 1/84

BOGDAN BUJAK, the brother of TKK member for the Mazowsze region Zbigniew Bujak, was detained on 16 December for carrying a "Solidarnosc" banner during a demonstration outside a Warsaw church. This is not the first time Bogdan is harassed by the police - see News No.10.

-Wola, 1/84

TWELVE "SOLIDARNOSC" activists were taken in for questioning in the Kielce region in late December for belonging to "Solidarnosc" underground structures. Several of the detained were also accused of distributing clandestine leaflets. According to union sources, this kind of harassment was repeated on several occasions with the security police abusing and threatening the detained, many of which were women.

- KOS, No. 44/45

TADEUSZ MAZOWIECKI, a prominent "Solidarnosc" advisor, was stopped by the police in Radom on 19 January while traveling to Krakow to deliver a lecture on the situation in Poland. According to western correspondents, Mazowiecki was held at police headquarters for one day before being allowed to return home.

FOUR WORKERS FROM RADOM were sentenced in December to two years in prison each for taking part in a street demonstration on 31 August. A one year sentence was handed down to former KOR member Jan Witkowski from Szczecin, indicted on a similar charge.

-Wola, No.40

IN A MESSAGE FROM STRZELIN PRISON dated mid-December, former TKK member Janusz Palubicki says his right to receive correspondence and visits has been cancelled for a one month period ending 15 January. It appears the measure is in reprisal for Palubicki's participation in a hunger strike at the prison last month - see News No. 15.

A RADIO "SOLIDARNOSC" BROADCAST cut into television programming in Gorzow Wielkopolski on the evening of 23 December. A message from the regional union executive and opposition songs were heard during the five minute program.

-Feniks, No. 41

ON CHRISTMAS EVE, radio "Solidarnosc" in Wroclaw aired an outdoor broadcast lasting 45 minutes which attracted a large crowd of people who were leaving church. There was no militia present.

- Tygodnik Mazowsze, No. 73

AT THE WIRE BROADCASTING CENTER in Bochnia, an 11-minute "Solidarnosc" program was aired in late November. Successive "Solidarnosc" audio clips were beamed in the towns of Pila and Swidnik in early December.

- Tygodnik Mazowsze, No. 73

THE DOCTOR TREATING Krystyna Frasyniuk, wife of arrested TKK member Wladyslaw Frasyniuk, was arrested and detained for 48 hours on 27 December. Dr. Sidorowicz is presently under investigation for 'hindering the work of state officials'.

- Tygodnik Mazowsze, No. 73

LAWYER PIOTR ANDRZEJEWSKI has been deprived of working in his profession for one year. The authorities claim Andrzejewski abused of freedom of speech by describing internment as "the outcome of inquisition like proceedings aimed at imprisonment" during the trial of a "Solidarnosc" activist.

Tygodnik Mazowsze, No. 73

AN EVALUATION SYMPOSIUM on the ICFTU programme of action in support of the independent trade union movement in South Africa, was held in the DGB House in Dusseldorf, 19-20 January. Participants included South African unionists and representatives from European, Canadian and U.S. trade union organisations. An observer from the "Solidarnosc" Coordina-

2016

ting Office Abroad also attended. The similarity of goals and interests shared by the South African union movement and NSZZ "Solidarnosc" was reaffirmed and it was agreed to work for closer ties in the future. The South African unionists thanked "Solidarnosc" for supporting their struggle for human and trade union rights and, particularly, for coming out against Polish emigration to South Africa.

A YEARLY PRIZE for the best underground book printed in Poland by a resident Polish author has been established by "Solidarnosc" members employed in official publishing houses. Eligible are all books published by the independent press in 1983. This year's winner will be announced in the first quarter of 1984.

- Tygodnik Mazowsze, No. 73

EXCERPTS FROM HENRYK WUJEC'S OPEN LETTER to the Chief Government Spokesman Jerzy Urban, dated 13 November 1983. Wujec is one of the eleven senior "Solidarnosc" leaders and advisers awaiting, in prison, their show trial.

In Trybuna Ludu (party daily) of 5-6 November 1983, I read a report from a press conference: "J. Urban said that the persons concerned reacted in various ways to the offer". What is meant is, of course, the offer to leave the country or go to prison. So far I have not "reacted" at all and have no intention of doing so because I think the offer is an insult. But I am afraid I might learn from you in the columns of Trybuna Ludu what my reaction has been and so I had better express my view myself.

The offer - as far as I understand it - means an attempt to force me (and my colleagues) to leave the country "for the period of leading Poland out of the

crisis and until full stabilization" (how many generations, in your opinion, is it going to take?) - or spend many years in prison.... Why do you want to throw out of the country those people who happen not to agree with your bosses? Man has a right to live where he thinks he belongs. He must not be forced to emigration by blackmail, persecution, prison.... as far as I am concerned, I believe that there is enough room in Poland for Kuron and Urban, for Michnik and Rakowski - just as there is enough room for Walesa and Jaruzelski. I also believe that it is possible to find a small space for myself (at present it is a very small space indeed).

I have been detained together with my friends in prison, charged with an attempt to overthrow the system by force. I am aware that I may be sentenced - just as many of my colleagues in Solidarity - to many years in prison. And although this is not a desirable prospect, the moment I began to visit Ursus, to get in touch with the people who had been beaten and dismissed from work and with the families of workers suffering imprisonment and reprisals after 1976 - I knew that I was risking imprisonment. I began those visits not on the orders of any Eastern or Western principals, but at the promptings of my own conscience. Fortunately, there is something in man which does not let him enjoy in peace the benefits of the system while others are unjustly persecuted.

Just as then my conscience made me go to Ursus, so now it does not agree to banishment from the fatherland where innocent people are still in prison, where my colleagues from Solidarity and KOR are buried and where so many people are stubbornly and hopefully toiling so that Poland might become a country free from violence and terror.

- Uncensored Poland News Bulletin, No. 1/84

