

NEWS

DATE: 2 February 1984

SOLIDARNOŚĆ

No: 18

B.D.I.C

THE TEMPORARY COORDINATING COMMISSION (TKK) issued three statements on 23 January '84, signed by Zigniew Bujak, Mazowsze region; Bogdan Lis, Gdansk region; Tadeusz Jedynak, Slask-Dabrowski region; Eugeniusz Szumiejko, Lower Silesia region.

STATEMENT ON ELECTIONS TO THE PEOPLES' COUNCILS

The bill on elections to the Peoples' Councils presented by the Council of State does not differ in any fundamental way from presently binding legislation. Furthermore, it does not take into account any corrections proposed by the so-called National Council of the Patriotic Movement for National Rebirth (PRON). It is obvious that the bill is designed to maintain a situation where society is deprived of any influence on appointment procedures and on the manner in which power is wielded.

Authentic elections are conditioned on:

- the repeal of repressive legislation and the release of political prisoners.
 - the existence of independent social organisations able to function and to express their views freely.
 - a democratic electoral law providing all social groups and organisations with the right to propose candidates and to oversee the electoral process.
- Because these conditions are not fulfilled in our country, elections serve only to subjugate the society. In accordance with the opinion of the majority of NSZZ "Solidarnosc" cells, our only response should be an outright refusal to participate in the vote. The mere presence at the voting polls will serve to confirm propaganda lies about society's support for the government. Consequently, suggestions of placing empty envelopes into the ballot boxes and counting the non-returned ballots, or of striking out the entire list of candidates, are unacceptable.

We call upon all union cells to organise an information campaign and to supervise the boycott of elections in their respective areas.

COMMUNIQUE ON THE NEW COLLECTIVE LABOUR CONTRACTS

Many large enterprises have recently received drafts of the new collective labour contracts. According to preliminary information, the proposed contracts will adversely affect workers' wages, particularly those of highly skilled workers.

This action is being carried out by the authorities in cooperation with the government sponsored trade unions, while the workers are not informed of developments. The new collective labour contracts are to be approved by the official unions in the name of workers.

In order to assess this government action, it is necessary to make a thorough analysis of the proposed labour contracts. We therefore request that all projects, opinions and other pertinent information be forwarded to "Solidarnosc" regional committees and that these materials be published in the underground press, at the regional and enterprise levels.

STATEMENT ON PRICE INCREASES

The authorities of the People's Republic of Poland

have decided to introduce food price increases, effective 30 January 1984. The position of "Solidarnosc" on this issue was outlined in earlier statements: "Statement on Price Increases in Poland" of 1 November 1983 and "Communique on Lech Walesa's Meeting with the TKK" of 20 November 1983. We state once again that, in view of the lack of a genuine economic reform, the price rises do not solve any major economic problem and place the brunt of the economic crisis on the society. The price increases serve to protect the authorities' interests, and cause a significant impoverishment of society - especially as regards families with many children and low income households.

The authorities' inability, for political reasons, to carry out a true economic reform compels them to systematically lower the living standards of the population as the sole means of coping with the crisis. In order to offset workers' discontent with the government's economic policies which run counter to the interests of society, the authorities introduced so-called consultations on price increases, and year-end wage hikes in selected sectors of the economy. Despite these measures, the firm position adopted by working people forced the authorities to moderate and to postpone the planned increases. However, the basic demands of society, aimed at halting mass impoverishment and preventing a collapse of the national economy, have not been met. Cost of living compensations were not introduced even though further price increases were announced. While increasingly large sectors of the population are being pushed into poverty, billions are spent on maintaining a huge apparatus of repression. The Agriculture Fund for Private Farmers, which awakens the hope that Poland's food problems may be resolved, has been blocked for months. The government's repressive policies hinder the lifting of economic sanctions against Poland.

Only continuous pressure by society can force the government into making concessions. The struggle for cost of living compensations and against the impoverishment of ever broader social groups is today the responsibility of every factory crew. The TKK reiterates its support for all actions in defense of the economic interests of the working people.

THE 40th SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS is taking place in Geneva, 6 February - 16 March 1984. The human rights situation in Poland will be discussed under Agenda item 12 b - Question of the Violation of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms in any Part of the World, with Particular Reference to Colonial and Other Dependent Countries and Territories. During this session, the Commission will examine an up-dated Report on Poland, prepared under the direction of the UN Secretary General's representative, Mr. Hugo Gobbi. Representatives of the Coordinating Office Abroad of NSZZ "Solidarnosc", (Jerzy Milewski and Jan Zielonka, accredited with the ICFTU and WCL delegations respectively) will be present during the debate on Poland. In view of the discussion on the 1984 Report and Resolution, the

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ICFTU in a circular dated 22 December, requested affiliated organisations whose governments are represented on the Commission to approach the appropriate government institutions in their country to ensure that the international free trade unions' concern and suggestions for an improvement in the social and human rights situation in Poland is reflected. At the time of writing, the following organisations took action in this matter: Canadian Labour Congress (CLC), Canada; Cyprus Workers' Confederation (CWC), Cyprus; Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund Bundesvorstand (DGB), Federal Republic of Germany; Force Ouvriere (CGT-FO), France; Trades Union Congress (TUC), Great Britain; Federatie Nederlandse Vakbeweging (FNV), Netherlands. The Confederation des Syndicats Chrétiens (CSC), Belgium and the Confederation Française Démocratique du Travail (CFDT), France also approached their respective governments on this issue.

WORKERS AT THE URSUS TRACTOR FACTORY outside Warsaw staged a go-slow on 30 January 1984, the day when the general price hikes were introduced. Also, short demonstrations took place in Wrocław.

- Le Monde, 2 February 1984

40 POLISH LAWYERS, ACADEMICS AND JOURNALISTS signed an open letter in January protesting the escalation of pressure on lawyers who take up politically sensitive cases. In particular, the letter cites the cases of Maciej Bednarkiewicz (see News No. 16) and of Piotr Andrzejewski, suspended from practice for one year. It condemns the measures taken against the two lawyers as an attempt to intimidate those who actively defend political prisoners.

- Uncensored Poland News Bulletin, No.3/84

A LAWYERS COLLECTIVE for the defense of political prisoners in Poland has been set up in Paris, France. The Committee is planning a protest campaign and urges lawyers in other countries to join in their action. Mailing address: Collectif pour la defense des emprisonnes politiques en Pologne, 132 bd. St. Germain, 75006 Paris, France.

ONE OF THE MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS of "Solidarnosc" in the Siedlce region has been the organisation of aid for repressed persons and their families, says a member of the local Social Resistance Committee (KOS) in an interview published in the underground press. He reports that his region took part in all the protest actions initiated by the Temporary Coordinating Commission. More recently he says a campaign has been started to help finance the underground press. People contribute 200 zł. every two months, and as a result, certain underground bulletins are distributed free of charge.

- Tygodnik Mazowsze, No. 74

THE FINANCIAL REPORT of the "Solidarnosc" Clandestine Enterprise Committee (TKZ) at the Polmozbyt auto parts factory in Torun was recently published in the union press, for the period between 1 October 1982 and 20 November 1983. The breakdown of expenses incurred during this period is as follows:

- 36% union activities
- 17% regional administrative expenses
- 8.5% statutory allowances
- 0.5% aid for the needy

A permanent fund for accident victims, educational activities and administrative needs, has been set up with the remainder of the funds.

- Motor Odmowy, No.3

WARSAW HOUSING COOPERATIVES will no longer publish a list of people, generally issued at year's end, to be allocated cooperative housing the following year. The government daily Rzeczpospolita on 29 December explained that "the housing plan in the current year

(1983) was not fulfilled and the plan for 1984 is so low that the preparation of allocation lists would be useless". The decision not to publish housing allocation lists gives the authorities unrestricted control over the distribution of scarce housing. According to the official news agency PAP, 400,000 new dwellings per year are needed to meet the current demand and to make up for the housing deficiency. In 1983, only 195,000 flats were constructed. Average waiting time throughout the country amounts to ten years or more, though in some areas, people wait as long as 15 and even 20 years.

- RFE Research, Vol. 9 No. 5

LECH WALESZA has added his signature to the "Manifesto" of Nobel Prize winners against hunger in the world. More than 80 Nobel laureates have signed the appeal calling "on all men and women of good will... to act... for tens of millions of people on the point of dying from hunger and underdevelopment, victims of the international political and economic disorder which prevails in the world today, to be restored to life." In a letter to Food and Disarmament International, the initiators of the manifesto, Walesa wrote: "... a solution to the problem of hunger is one of the most pressing tasks facing mankind. It is shameful that in the 20th Century, a century of advanced technologies, millions of people still suffer from hunger, a form of enslavement just as dangerous as totalitarian systems and their methods. A hungry person is not able to think about his freedom, or about culture, he cannot think about anything because he is hungry".

THE SPECIAL 2 FEBRUARY 1984 ISSUE of "Flashes", published in Prague, Czechoslovakia by the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU), carries an open letter on peace and disarmament addressed to "the working people and the trade unions of Europe".

The message, like all official East European peace initiatives attributes "the heightening of tension in the international situation" to the deployment of Pershing 2 and cruise missiles whereas no reference is made to the SS-20s. Similarly, the open letter limits the concept of peace to an absence of nuclear weapons without mentioning that true peace will be achieved only when basic human and trade union rights are respected, when there is justice and freedom. The letter is signed by the Councils of Trade Unions of Bulgaria, Hungary, East Germany, Roumania, the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia and by "Representatives of the trade union movement of Poland". The Coordinating Office Abroad of NSZZ "Solidarnosc" states that neither Lech Walesa, nor any democratically elected leaders of "Solidarnosc", of the autonomous or the branch unions in Poland are among these anonymous "representatives".

Also, one could ask whether this letter is not an 'interference into the internal affairs of sovereign states' of Western Europe or 'evidence of inadmissible political activity' of the signatory trade union organisations. It is precisely this type of accusation that was leveled against "Solidarnosc" when the following resolution was adopted at the union's First National Convention in September 1981:

"Message to the Working people of Eastern Europe: Delegates to the First National Convention of NSZZ "Solidarnosc" assembled in Gdansk, send their greetings and expression of support to workers of Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Roumania, Hungary and all the nations of the Soviet Union.

As the first independent trade union in our recent post-war history, we give you our assurance that in spite of the lies spread in your countries about us, we are an authentic, 10 million strong organisation of workers, created as a result of workers' strikes. Our goal is to struggle for better condi-

tions for all working people. We support those of you who have decided to take the difficult road towards the establishment of a free trade union movement.

We believe that soon, both you and our representatives will be able to meet and to share union experiences."

THE CRITICAL CONDITION of imprisoned "Solidarnosc" leader Janusz Palubicki (see News. 15), raised a wave of protest from the international labour movement. Responding to an appeal for action from the "Solidarnosc" Office in Brussels, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), the World Confederation of Labour (WCL), the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) and the Interamerican Regional Organization of Workers (ORIT) sent separate messages to the Polish authorities expressing their concern about Palubicki's health and backing the demand for a separate status put forth by political prisoners in Poland.

IN THE WARSAW RAKOWIECKA PRISON, Henryk Wujec, one of the eleven imprisoned "Solidarnosc" leaders and advisers, was subjected to in-cell harassment on the 2 January 1984: his cell was searched and many objects removed such as the act of indictment against him, his own notes on the case, other documents important to his defense, letters addressed to him (which had by-passed the prison censors), books which he was allowed to have with the express permission of the Prosecutor's Office, an English text-book, a rosary, official press cuttings. Food was carefully contaminated with detergents, photographs were ripped, personal belongings torn or destroyed. Wujec complained to the Warsaw Military Court (where he is to be tried), stating he interprets this type of harassment as an attempt to prevent him from defending himself in court and as a pressure tactic aimed at provoking him to emigrate.

- Tygodnik Mazowsze, No.74

RADIO "SOLIDARNOSC" BROADCAST a program in Warsaw on 23 February 1984 calling for a boycott of the elections to the Peoples' Councils set for June '84. The program lasted close to 6 minutes and was clearly audible in many neighborhoods.

- La Libre Belgique, 24 February 1984

THE HEAD OF the workers' self-management council at the Elana factory in Torun, S. Czuszel, was interrogated at the regional security police headquarters on 28 December. During the 7 hour ordeal, he was accused of "involvement in political affairs", namely, of defending repressed workers. Although Czuszel was threatened, he refused to answer any questions.

- Informator Torunski, 1/77

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN of the "Solidarnosc" enterprise committee at the Metron electronic measuring instruments factory in Torun, R. Mueller, was dismissed from his job on 30 December after months of harassment by management. Following his release from internment, Mueller was forced to sign a loyalty oath, moved to a lower paid job, surrounded by informers and even accused of theft. In early December, he was threatened with dismissal and was fired several weeks later.

- Informator Torunski, 1/77

WELL-KNOWN AUTHOR MAREK NOWAKOWSKI, was interrogated by the security police on 15 February. He was detained in Kutno while traveling to Poznan for a gathering of writers where he was to read excerpts from his works. Nowakowski whose books and short stories are published in the underground press, was returned to Warsaw and his home was searched. His notes, manuscripts and personal letters were seized. This is the third time he is questioned in recent weeks. Another author, Wiktor Woroszyński, has been subjected to similar harassment by the police - his home was also searched.

ABOUT A DOZEN PEOPLE employed at the Dolmel electrical works in Wroclaw were arrested on 10 February. The detained are members of what the official media described as "an illegal group engaged in clandestine activity such as the collection of union dues and the printing of leaflets, aimed at heightening social tension." Manuscripts, printing equipment and underground publications were seized.

WORKERS IN THE ASSEMBLY and varnish department at the FAM metalworks in Chelmino (near Torun) held a several hour long strike on 7 December to demand higher wages and improvements in health and safety conditions, especially as regards ventilation and heating. The workers contend that although the building is old and run-down, improvements could be made at a minimal cost and in a short time. Management's reaction to the strike was to call a meeting of factory officials, party officials and secret servicemen - but no worker representative. As a result of the stoppage, the department head was moved, four workers were fired and several others were transferred to another department. Instead of meeting workers' demands, management launched a propaganda campaign over the inner-factory radio system calling the protest action a "politically motivated strike".

-Informator Torunski, 1/77

AN EVALUATION OF WORKERS was recently carried out at the Elana synthetic fibres plant in Torun. One of the items on the evaluation sheet pertained to workers' socio-political convictions. The clandestine "Solidarnosc" enterprise commission asked workers to boycott the survey, explaining that it had been devised in order to break up worker solidarity at the plant.

- Informator Torunski, No. 2/77

IN NEWS No. 17, the names of witnesses from Poland cited by complainant Marc Blondel were not mentioned. None of the following persons, invited to testify before the ILO Commission, were able to be present in Geneva:

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| Edmund Baluka | Anka Kowalska |
| Bogdan Choina | Andrzej Milczanowski |
| Andrzej Gwiazda | Anna Walentynowicz |
| Marian Jurczyk | |

Also, in the first 250 copies of the issue, the following corrections should be made:

- p. 1 left column line 12, should read "Chile, 1974" instead of "Chile, 1964".
- p. 1 right column line 19, should read "in mid-January '84" instead of "mid-January '83".
- p. 2 right column line 25, should read "in Chile" instead of "in the Philippines".
- p. 4 right column line 48, should read "...articles 3 and 74 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Poland".
- p. 5 right column line 5, the date should be 1983 instead of 1984.