

Polish deputy premier calls for joint action on debt with LDCs

Janusz Obodowski, a Deputy Prime Minister of Poland, went on record Dec. 24, 1982 in favor of Poland's forging a "joint policy" on debt with Mexico, Brazil, and other nations. Obodowski made this explosive statement in an interview published by the Spanish magazine *ABC*.

It was the most dramatic revelation yet made by a member of Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski's government of the fact that Warsaw circles are considering an approach to Poland's debt crisis along the lines of "Operation Juárez," Lyndon LaRouche's outline of joint measures for debtor nations to take to avert an international financial collapse. The *Special Report* in *EIR*'s Feb. 1 issue, entitled "EIR in Poland: Nation's Future Lies in Global Debt Fight," was a first-hand account of how Polish economics and finance officials are looking at the country's internal crisis, the international crisis, and Poland's potential role in finding a constructive solution to both.

Obodowski told the Spanish magazine that Poland's finances had to be viewed "with a comprehensive, overall perspective . . . at the world level. It is the whole world picture which must be assessed and changed."

ABC's Joaquin Navarro-Valls commented on the magnitude of Poland's debt, and the following exchange occurred:

Obodowski: "You need not remind me: I already know. But . . . the Polish foreign debt per capita is below that of other citizens of the world."

ABC: "Are you referring to Mexico, Brazil, and so forth?"

Obodowski: "For instance . . . I believe that we will have to make a joint policy with these countries. If one of those nations declares itself bankrupt, or is declared bankrupt, it is the whole world financial system which will collapse. In those problems there is a solidarity which is necessitated by . . . reality and common sense."

ABC: "Can I infer that you are optimistic?"

Obodowski: "You can say that I am realistic. Allow me to make a not very academic but illustrative comparison. When a stocking runs, the tear runs from top to bottom and there is no way to stop it—at least, that's what my wife tells me. . . . If a highly indebted country declares itself bankrupt, the matter does not stop there: a chain disaster occurs. It is the whole system which collapses. . . . It is a problem of the whole and not just of that country. That is why I am

realistic. And that is why I see well-founded prospects for a solution. *You will see how everything will be settled by working together: our Polish problem and that of those other countries which you mentioned earlier.*" [emphasis added].

On Jan. 26, Obodowski presided over a meeting of the Council of Ministers' Planning Commission, which he chairs. According to Radio Warsaw, discussion focused on "a further tightening of economic cooperation with the CMEA countries [Eastern Europe and the U.S.S.R.];" Poland is forced to this by the fact that it must pay cash for virtually all imports from the West. But Obodowski's commission also examined how "our trade relations with Third World countries will be activated."

Papal visit set

On Jan. 30, the bishops of the Polish Catholic Church announced that Pope John Paul II's second trip, as Pope, to his native country will begin on June 18, 1983. In May the first national convention of the Patriotic Movement for National Rebirth (PRON) is scheduled to take place. General Jaruzelski is looking to this convention to institutionalize a process of "national reconciliation," and Polish Primate Jozef Cardinal Glemp has given tentative support. According to Jerzy Ozdowski, a non-communist Deputy Prime Minister who spoke at a PRON Provisional National Council meeting on Jan. 7, "The Church follows with kind attention the development of PRON and, if it is an authentic movement realizing the idea of dialogue and agreement, it would actively join in the movement."

The day after the papal visit was announced saw the escalation of an international campaign against Glemp, in a syndicated column by Evans and Novak. They described a tape, "smuggled out of Poland," of a Dec. 7 meeting of Glemp with 300 priests. "The parish priests demand daring confrontation," say Evans and Novak. "They will not achieve it so long as Glemp is their spiritual leader." That is true as far as it goes, for Glemp, like the late Stefan Cardinal Wyszynski, has appealed for the avoidance of confrontation if it be self-destructive.

But the Evans and Novak story went on to boost the thesis of one of the priests, who says on the tape that "the Church's line seems to be divided. The Vatican has one, the Episcopate another," to which Glemp replied, "This is a serious accusation. . . . I cannot talk about my discussions with the Pope here, but I can assure you, nothing is divided."

Since the time of these reported criticisms, John Paul II has elevated Glemp to the rank of Cardinal and decided to go ahead with his visit, so that the repetition of attacks on Glemp may well mean a new threat to John Paul as well. The *London Times* hinted at such a threat in a late-January mood piece about a performance of T. S. Eliot's *Murder in the Cathedral* in a church in Krakow, the city where Pope John Paul II was Cardinal Wojtyla. The *Times* found a special resonance in the play's line: "Won't someone rid me of this troublesome priest," as it was pronounced there.