

# Priests are murdered while Walesa deals

by Konstantin George

The recent murders of two Polish Catholic priests, Father Niedzielak, and Father Suchowolec, leading anti-Bolshevik resistance fighters and Polish patriots, constitute yet another bitter lesson of the price paid for appeasement of Moscow and its satellite regimes. The murders, Jan. 20 and Jan. 27, committed on KGB orders by the Polish secret police (SB), occurred during and after the visit of Polish Prime Minister Mieczyslaw Rakowski to Bonn, West Germany Jan. 20-23. The purpose of Rakowski's visit was openly stated in Bonn by Rakowski himself: to line up billions in credits, state credit guarantees, and debt write-offs, as the financial edge of an East-West goal of stabilizing Rakowski and, as Rakowski himself said, to in turn "help Gorbachov."

Father Niedzielak, 74, was found dead in his home the morning of Jan. 21. He had been beaten and tortured, suffered a broken spine, and had his fingernails pulled out. He had been active in the anti-Bolshevik resistance for decades. He served as a priest with the Armija Krajowa ("Home Army," the patriotic anti-communist resistance during World War II and the postwar years). During the post-1945 period, Niedzielak was a driving force behind the public debate to unveil the full truth on Stalin's mass execution of Polish officers at Katyn forest in Belorussia.

In 1980, he erected a monument for the Katyn victims at the St. Borromaseus Cathedral, as well as commemorative signs for all those Polish officers and soldiers deported to the Soviet Union under the terms of the Hitler-Stalin Pact, and who never returned. Niedzielak worked closely with the most patriotic components of the Solidarity movement. He had repeatedly received anonymous death threats, telling him he would "die the same death as Popieluszko" (the Catholic priest murdered in 1984 by the secret police). The last death threat was a threatening phone call only 24 hours before his murder. On that day, Jan. 19, he had told close friends: "They are going to get me."

Father Suchowolec was a leading Solidarity activist, and had been one of the closest associates of Father Jerzy Popieluszko. From 1983-86, Suchowolec was the priest in the small town of Suchowola, near Bialystok. Suchowola was the home town of the late Father Popieluszko.

The Polish regime, in contrast to the Popieluszko case, where they tried at first to cover up the murder, this time immediately announced Niedzielak's murder, and allowed

the autopsy report to speak for itself of his torture and murder. While pledging a "full investigation" into both cases, the regime has said that there is "no proof" of a political murder in either case. The murder was handled this way to "send a message" to all Polish patriots: "Stay quiet or you'll be next." The message has also been sent to the Polish Pontiff, John Paul II, that the Vatican is not to interfere in Moscow's empire.

Well-informed sources report that both priests had been on the regime's list of 150 clerical "extremists." Polish government spokesman Jerzy Urban, in his Jan. 31 press conference went out of his way to deny that a "list with 150 names" existed. But he then denounced "right-wing extremists" as responsible for a "climate of political provocations," thus confirming the list's existence and adding to the climate of terror.

## Walesa's deal

Lech Walesa, the nominal leader of Solidarity, has been corrupted into accepting Rakowski's "offer" that in return for a meaningless "legalization" of Solidarity, the Walesa wing of Solidarity will emasculate itself, supporting the government's austerity and adopting a strike moratorium. Walesa's organization receives funding from the "Project Democracy" networks of the United States and other Western quarters coordinating the "save Gorbachov" East-West condominium. Some sources see these funding hooks as one of the obvious factors behind Walesa's recent corrupt behavior.

When Popieluszko was murdered in 1984, Walesa and Solidarity organized a wave of national protests and an international campaign of outraged protest. But in the wake of Niedzielak's murder, not only is the total silence stunning, but Walesa, showing how far his capitulation has gone, did not even attend the funeral.

To date, Walesa has actively fulfilled his side of the dirty deal with the regime. For instance, 48 hours before the murder of Niedzielak, a new strike wave began to erupt in Poland, with a textile workers strike in the city of Lodz and a transit strike in Elblag. Walesa representatives were dispatched to both cities, and brought the strikes to an end.

However, as these strikes show, the Rakowski-Walesa deal, a desperate maneuver to buy time, can, at best, hold for some two or three months. Walesa does not control the opposition, and his discredit is growing by the day. The younger generation of Solidarity activists will not tolerate continued submission to austerity and a future which patriotic forces play counterinsurgent policemen for Moscow. Added to this are the effects of the huge January price rises, which have brought even the cheapest, pet food quality meat and sausage—the "meat" consumption for Poland's poor and pensioners—beyond the affordable range for most of the people. On Jan. 31, the next price explosion struck, as all medicines rose between 40% and 2,000%. The Rakowski-Walesa deal has only postponed the next explosion.