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# Polish Envoy Seeks Asylum, Flies To US

**Polish Ambassador to Japan Zdzislaw Rurarz left Japan Thursday night for political asylum in the United States with his wife and a daughter aboard Northwest Orient Airlines flight No. 008. He is the first foreign envoy to Japan who has sought political asylum since the end of World War II.**

Foreign Ministry sources quoted the ambassador as saying that he "cannot tolerate the military rule" in his homeland and that "the state of war in Poland would only benefit the Russians."

Foreign Minister Yoshio Sakurauchi told newsmen that the Polish ambassador expressed his desire to seek political asylum but refused to discuss details.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Rurarz called at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo Wednesday night with his wife Janina and 25-year-old daughter Eva and expressed his desire for political asylum in the U.S.



Polish Ambassador Dr. Rurarz is seen when he visited the Mainichi Newspapers in Tokyo on Dec. 10 and conferred with President Daisuke Yamauchi and others.

The Foreign Ministry was immediately informed of this and confirmed the intention of the ambassador. Rurarz told Foreign Ministry and police officials, "I can no longer perform my duties as ambassador representing the Polish government which has denied the fundamental rights of the Polish people."

The ambassador was also

quoted as saying, "There is freedom in the U.S. and I will carry on the struggle against the military rule in Poland."

The United States has accepted the envoy and his family, the officials said.

Rurarz's request for asylum followed that of Poland's Ambassador to Washington Romuald Spasowski who announced Sunday his decision to defect to the U.S. because of "the state of war" imposed on Poland.

At 51, Dr. Rurarz is an expert on statistics and a leading member of the Polish United Workers' Party. He welcomed Solidarity leader Lech Walesa to Japan last May and, because of this, he has been regarded as being close to the free union Solidarity.

The ambassador's defection also followed that of several of the crewmen of a 10,124-ton Polish freighter, the Phenian, in Japan since last week.

As of Thursday evening, a total of 16 crewmen and their family members left the freighter to seek political asylum in the free world. The first group of 13 Poles defected during the ship's call at Nagoya port last week.