

Polish Ambassador Flees His Tokyo Post And Defects to U.S.

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By ROBERT D. McFADDEN

The Polish Ambassador to Japan has defected to protest the military crackdown in his homeland. He flew to the United States with his family yesterday, saying he said he could no longer represent a "regime which denies the fundamental rights of the Polish people."

The 51-year-old Ambassador, Zdzislaw Rurarz, was the second Polish envoy to be granted political asylum in the United States this week. Warsaw's Ambassador to Washington, Romuald Spasowski, defected last Sunday, also to protest the military takeover in Poland. Mr. Rurarz, his wife, Janina, 49, and daughter, Eva, 25, arrived in Seattle on a flight from Tokyo yesterday morning, then took off again for Washington.

How His Family Escaped

The Ambassador told fellow passengers on his Pacific flight that he had used a false story about attending a school Christmas party to get his wife and daughter out of the Polish Embassy in Tokyo, where, he said, some personnel, including his principal deputy, were armed.

Japanese Foreign Ministry officials said Mr. Rurarz and his family took refuge in the American Embassy in Tokyo at noon Wednesday and asked for asylum in the United States. The request

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was quickly granted and the family remained under around-the-clock protection by the Japanese police until leaving the country.

Japan does not customarily grant political asylum but helps arrange passage to other countries that do for those who request it. Japanese officials said they had helped Mr. Rurarz and his family "for humanitarian reasons."

However, American and Japanese officials kept the defection secret for 24 hours, until after the plane carrying the Ambassador and his family had left Japan.

Then, Alexander Liebowitz, a spokesman for the State Department's Poland Working Group, made the announcement in Washington. "We can confirm," he said, "that he has asked for and been

granted asylum, and is on his way to the United States."

Telephone calls to the Polish Embassy in Tokyo for comment yesterday went unanswered. There was no comment from the Polish Government, which has barred normal communications since the declaration of martial law Dec. 13. There was no immediate comment from the White House.

Mr. Rurarz, who had been Poland's Ambassador to Japan since last February, is a career diplomat and economic expert who served as an attaché at the embassy in Washington from 1962 to 1966 and directed his nation's foreign trade policies from 1966 to 1971.

A Meeting With Wałesa

He later served as a senior adviser to the Polish Communist Party, as a special adviser to the Secretary General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in Geneva and as an adviser to the Polish Foreign Ministry.

Mr. Rurarz received the Solidarity union leader, Lech Wałesa, in Tokyo during his visit there last May.

On his flight to the United States, Mr. Rurarz's face was lined with the strain of his defection ordeal, but he nonetheless chatted with fellow passengers, signed autographs and penned Christmas greetings in Polish for those who approached him in the first-class section.

After a dinner of filet mignon and a glass of brandy, Mr. Rurarz, who wore a charcoal gray suit and a plaid tie, wrote a Christmas message for the Polish-American in-laws of Robert White, a Tokyo businessman who was on his way to visit relatives in Wisconsin.

"Best wishes for a happy and joyous Christmas in 1981," he wrote, and signed it: "Former Ambassador Zdzislaw Rurarz, somewhere over the Pacific, on the way to a free America."