

# Crackdown in Poland: An Ambassador's Disillusionment

## Polish Ex-Envoy to Japan Tells Why He Defected

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 2 — Zdzislaw Rurarz, the Polish Ambassador to Japan who defected last week, says he and "most of the people in Poland" have grown disillusioned with Communism.

"I am disillusioned, and this disillusionment is not of recent making," Mr. Rurarz said at a news conference here Thursday, adding that the Communist

system in Poland had "proved to be incapable of evolution."

Mr. Rurarz, who joined the party as a teen-ager, was asked whether he still considered himself a Communist.

"No, definitely not," he said with emotion. "Definitely not."

He said the liberalization won by the Solidarity labor movement before the military crackdown Dec. 13 had presented both the Polish Communists and

the Soviet Union with a "historic opportunity" to nurture democratic impulses. However, he said, the imposition of martial law was a "demonstration to the whole world that not the slightest change is possible."

### Second of Two Polish Defectors

Mr. Rurarz, who with his family took refuge in the American Embassy in Tokyo last week, was the second Polish diplomat to be granted asylum. Rom-

uald Spasowski, the Ambassador here, defected Dec. 20.

Mr. Rurarz was critical of the Polish armed forces for carrying out the orders of the martial-law regime.

"The soldiers cannot be absolved," he said. "The duty of soldiers is to fight against aggression."

Although Mr. Rurarz, who is 51 years old, had a steady rise in the bureaucracy, he was known among diplomats for his outspokenness and even for his criticism of the Communist leadership.

As Ambassador to Japan, he played host to Lech Walesa, the leader of Solidarity, during a visit to Tokyo and became an admirer of the labor movement.

"I was somewhat proud that a movement like that went on in Poland without bloodshed, that compromise and tolerance were guiding the negotiations," Mr. Rurarz said at the news conference. "I think it was in the best Polish tradition."

He said Solidarity represented "my last hope" and that the military takeover had prompted him to defect.

### Crackdown Led to Decision

"The crackdown was on my own nation," he said. "I could not stand that. Please believe this. I was never thinking of seeking asylum in the West until that day. I always believed that something, somehow, could be changed in a peaceful way and in the best Polish tradition."

Mr. Rurarz set himself apart from the waves of Polish immigrants who in the last century have come to the United States for economic reasons.

"I have not come here to seek a better life," he said. "My life in Poland was good. I left a lot of things behind. But I wanted to save my soul. I am not interested in material things."

He said he believed that great numbers of Poles would also like to move to the West.

"A modern country, as Poland claimed to have been, having no soap, no matches — it is a shame," he said.

"But that is not all. The material things are not the main thing. The main thing is the lack of freedom."