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STATE OF WAR IN POLAND

*Excerpts from the Address of
President Reagan to the Nation*

December 23, 1981



DARKENED POLAND

by Dr. Janusz Rzeszotarski

At midnight, Saturday, December 12, 1981, apparently on order from the Kremlin, General Wojciech Jaruzelski proclaimed a "state of war" in Poland. The sixteen months long bright beacon of reform was trampled and darkened.

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Good evening. At Christmas time, every home takes on a special beauty, a special warmth, and that's certainly true with the White House, where so many famous Americans have spent their Christmases over the years. This fine old home, the people's house, has seen so much, been so much a part of all our lives and history. It has been humbling and inspiring for Nancy and me to be spending our first Christmas in this place.

A few months before he took up residence in this house, one of my predecessors, John Kennedy, tried to sum up the temper of the times with a quote from an author closely tied to Christmas, Charles Dickens. We are living, he said, "in the best of times and the worst of times." Well, in some ways that is even more true today. The world is full of peril as well as promise. Too many of its people, even now, live in the shadow of want and tyranny.

As I speak to you tonight, the fate of a proud and ancient nation hangs in the balance. For a thousand years, Christmas has been celebrated in Poland, a land of deep religious faith.

But this Christmas brings little joy to the courageous Polish people. They have been betrayed by their own government. The men who rule them and their totalitarian allies, fear the very freedom that the Polish people cherish. They have answered the stirrings of liberty with brute force, killings, mass arrests, and the setting up of concentration camps. Lech Walesa and other Solidarity leaders are imprisoned, their fate unknown. Factories, mines, universities, and homes have been assaulted. The Polish Government has trampled underfoot solemn commitments to the UN Charter and the Helsinki accords. It has even broken the Gdansk Agreement of August 1980, by which the Polish government recognized the basic right of its people to form free trade unions and to strike.

The tragic events now occurring in Poland almost two years to the day after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan have been precipitated by public and secret pressure from the Soviet Union. It is no coincidence that Soviet Marshal Kulikov, Chief of the Warsaw Pact forces, and other senior Red Army officers were in Poland

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POLONIA MEDIA CONFERENCE IX

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DARKENED POLAND

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It was at this time that Jaruzelski became increasingly visible. On February 9th, 1981, he became the Prime Minister; on September 18th he took the Party reins as the First Secretary. All this was added to his post as a Minister of Defense.

Jaruzelski's curriculum vitae reads like that of the typical senior officer in today's Polish Army: service with the Soviet Red Army; participation in the eradication of remnants of resistance to the Communist takeover in 1945-47; higher military education in the Soviet General Staff Academies; a *Soviet wife*; Soviet allegiance.

Despite such clear evidence to the contrary, there were still people in Poland and abroad that hoped, as in 1956 with Gomulka, that Jaruzelski would be a Pole first and a Communist second. In some circles, hope seems to be a replacement for logic.

The surveillance of Lech Walesa and his colleagues was intensified, as was the propaganda campaign. The regime began backing away from the signed Accords. The right to strike was to be discarded. On October 26th, the Politburo requested the Parliament (SEJM) to abolish that right. On December 2nd, the militia attacked and evicted the striking students of the Firefighters Academy. On the 7th, Soviet Marshall Victor Kulikov landed in Warsaw, obviously to supervise the long-planned military crackdown.

Gathered in Gdansk, the leaders of *Solidarity* had a premonition of what was coming. On the 12th Walesa proposed a national referendum for a vote of non-confidence in the Jaruzelski regime, for free elections and for a noncommunist government. Troops were already on the move.

Evidence is abundant of the care and detail of Jaruzelski's traitorous preparations for the declaration of war on his own people. The secret police had their own keys to the hotel rooms in which the leaders of

"Return to Poland" A Hit on PBS

by Henry Nagorka

Filmmaker, teacher and journalist Marian Marzynski visited his Polish homeland in the Spring of 1981 for the first time since emigrating in 1969. Having been born a Jew and raised a Catholic, his emotional path was strewn with difficulties. The result of his personal filmmaking was produced as a one-hour special by WGBH Boston and aired also in Washington, D.C., on WETA in November.



Marian Marzynski by Oren Jacoby

Characterized as a poignant personal story of survival, the film has also been related by Washington Post reviewer Peter Osnos to Poland's tragic current events.

The series "World" on which "Return to Poland" appeared, is a regular Public Broadcasting Service program.



Solidarity were staying. Only hours later communication with the outside world was cut off.

The Communist iron curtain again has darkened and isolated Poland. □

"... One of the Most Anti-Semitic..."

PERSPECTIVES has received numerous objections from readers regarding recent attacks on Poland in the popular press. Prominent among these were a commentary by Henry Fairlie in the Washington Post of Sunday December 27th, 1981, which characterized Poland as "one of the most anti-Semitic nations in Europe."

Another article by Susan Green of the Burlington (VT) Free Press, prominently displays comments by local Rabbi James C. Glazier that "... I would see a poetic justice in what is happening now. The Polish people are being put into one of the same Nazi concentration camps that Jews were put into 40 years ago, with the blessing of the Poles who hated the Jews. . ."

In its next issue PERSPECTIVES will undertake answers to these and other attacks on Poland.

Polish Envoy To Japan Takes U.S. Asylum

Poland's Ambassador to Japan, Zdzislaw Rurarz, within hours after the defection of Ambassador Romuald Spasowski requested and was granted political asylum in the United States.

Accompanied by his wife Janina and daughter Ewa, he has taken up residence in the U.S. with the stated intention of continuing his fight against the military regime in Poland.



Defecting Ambassador Zdzislaw Rurarz