

Polish defector here Tuesday, June 21, 1983 The Honolulu Advertiser

System won't work, ex-envoy says

By Robert Hollis
Advertiser Staff Writer

For a man who was a member of Poland's post-World War II elite, who joined the Polish Communist Party in 1945 when he was 15 and who loyally served his country at the United Nations, in Korea and in Japan, it is a startling admission:

"Quite simply, the communist system doesn't work in Poland, especially with the U.S.S.R., because there are too many grudges between the Polish people and the Russians."

With that, Zdzislaw M. Rurarz, who defected from his post as Polish ambassador to Japan in December 1981, said he and other expatriates are working from the West to organize Polish society "for a longer and more sophisticated protest" against the regime of Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski, which instituted martial law in the nation of 35 million 18 months ago.

Rurarz — sentenced to death in absentia after his defection — is here on a speaking

tour, one of several he has made in recent months. He is scheduled to talk to the Pacific and Asian Affairs Council today.

Rurarz defected two days before Christmas 1981, at the height of the worldwide outcry that followed the Jaruzelski regime's crackdown on the Solidarity trade union and the detention of its leader, Lech Walesa.

Last week, sitting in the afternoon sun near a Waikiki hotel swimming pool, Rurarz described Poland's future, which he views as grim but not without hope.

The communist system's failure to provide basic economic necessities in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union has convinced Rurarz that the Soviets "have certain sinister plans" for war against the West.

"The Soviets have many and mounting internal difficulties," he said. With no solution to the nation's own economic and social problems, the Kremlin leadership knows it must maintain "external tension" in order to keep the lid on its own restive population.

"The Soviets believe they are now stronger than the rest of the world combined. Many (in the Kremlin) believe they should attack now because they don't believe they can win the next round of the arms race."

Rurarz said Pope John Paul II's current visit to Poland is a "message of hope" for the millions of Poles who oppose the military regime. And although the visit has the grudging approval of Moscow, Soviet leaders are "certainly unhappy" with John Paul's well-publicized tour of most major cities.

"The church is a time bomb," he said. "The church is in open opposition with what's happening."

The tour — which has triggered huge but peaceful demonstrations of support for the now-outlawed Solidarity union — will also give a boost to the growing number of underground protest groups throughout the country, Rurarz said.

At last count, he said, groups opposing the government were putting out 247 clandestine publications throughout the country, including a number within the Polish armed forces.

The unrest in Poland — and the unreliability of its armed forces in the Warsaw Pact — may be a factor in curbing Soviet adventurism, he suggested.

Since his defection, Rurarz, his wife and daughter have lived in suburban Washington, D.C. He works as a consultant for a trading firm while writing and speaking against his former government.



Rurarz