

ILLOGICAL IMMIGRATION POLICY

The immigration policy of the Reagan administration has for some months been raising increasing doubts. It is simply becoming incomprehensible. Classified INS and State Department memos, about which one hears, suggest that the number of Polish refugees to be admitted from Austria should not be increased. It is estimated that there are some 50 to 60,000 refugees in Western Europe; of those 29,000 are registered for emigration in Austria alone.

It should be pointed out that 99% of those who wish to emigrate left Poland before the imposition of martial law and for months have been trying to find a country which would accept them for permanent resettlement.

Because of the traditions of Polish emigration, there are millions of Poles and Americans of Polish descent in the U.S. and a majority of the refugees in Austria would like to come to the U.S. They experienced great difficulty in being admitted as refugees before the imposition of martial law. The representatives of INS insisted that most Poles leaving Poland did not do so for political reasons and that therefore they could not be considered as refugees.

During the first quarter of fiscal year 1982, only 633 Polish refugees were admitted to the U.S. This is happening during a period when the East European quota was raised to 9,000 per year and when in Poland there is martial law rule by terror and repression and mass detentions. It is happening during the same period that President Reagan instituted sanctions against the Polish People's Republic and the USSR and when he announced "Solidarity Day with the Polish nation".

The situation is more and more incomprehensible. Canada, Austria, and South Africa are trying to encourage the Polish immigration, and the U.S. government is de facto turning away from them.

It seems that the U.S. government has come to the conclusion that by not letting Polish refugees into the USA it will be exerting pressure on the (Jaruzelski) junta to lift martial law.

The Polish American Congress protests against this type of twisted reasoning. The United States should open its doors to all Poles who, fleeing their country are seeking refuge in America. We have to demand this from the government decisively and univocally.

IN L.A. & San Francisco Poles decided not to support until substantial change of policy.

WE APPEAL ON BEHALF OF THE REFUGEES

We must face facts. A large number of Polish refugees who have found themselves in refugee camps in Austria and other European countries face the possibility of having to stay there for a very long time. Some of them will be taken by Australia, Canada and South Africa, but those who had hoped to come to the United States—where there is a several million strong Polish American group—have very small chances of getting here.

As we wrote in our previous editorial only 633 Poles of the mass of 29,000 registered were admitted as refugees from Austria (and other West European countries) in the first quarter of fiscal year 1982.

Today it is a well known fact that the Reagan administration does not plan to treat the question of Polish refugees in a humanitarian way. The bureaucrats of the State Department and of the Immigration and Naturalization Services in Washington have created an absurd theory that keeping Poles in refugee camps in Austria and other Western countries is a form of pressure on the Jaruzelski junta to lift martial law. One might assume further that, in the opinion of the Washington eggheads, all the Poles now in refugee camps will happily return to Poland to benefit from the munificence of the totalitarian government which Jaruzelski and Moscow are establishing. There is no need to prove the lack of logic in the administration's reasoning.

We are very glad that the International Communication Agency, at the suggestion of the President himself and in cooperation with the AFL-CIO organized Solidarity with Poland Day. But, we do not hesitate to say - that solidarity should manifest itself not only in the political sphere, but also in the humanitarian one. Every Pole who left Poland because he saw no

What's the absurd!

Idiotism!

also copy sent to Presidential Task Force instead of money club

future for himself and his family in the communist system, is a political victim of that system, and he is also a victim of American-English-Soviet World War II agreements — Teheran and Yalta — which placed Poland under Soviet domination and a communist government. That is why every Polish refugee should be treated by the United States in a humanitarian manner, with an understanding of the situation.

The Administration, however, is doing nothing regarding this question or it elaborates completely absurd interpretations of nonpolitical character of immigration.

The decision on Polish refugees rests in the hands of the government. The Polish American Congress, in spite of many meetings (with the State Department) and interventions, has not been able to convince the administration that it treat Poles more logically.

For this reason we believe that all of Polonia - as a big part of American society - should use its possibilities for exerting pressure. We have to tell the Reagan administration that its attitude toward Polish refugees must change. We can do this through our congressmen and senators. The government and Congress must consider our electoral power. We have in our hands enough strength to convince the bureaucrats that they are thinking and acting inappropriately.

INDIVIDUAL FOOD PARCELS TO POLAND: AN ALARMING SITUATION

When President Reagan imposed sanctions against Poland demanding an end to martial law, he stated that humanitarian assistance would continue. We have no doubt that the President had the best intentions; in practice some serious problems have developed, however. Apparently stevedores — members of the International Longshoremen's Organization — who load container ships with food for Poland consider that only two institutions — Catholic Relief Services and CARE — send humanitarian assistance to the Poles. Consequently, they are refusing to load containers with private person to person parcels from individuals in the Polish-American community to their families and friends in Poland. Such parcels may be prepared by the sender or purchased in special firms. And it is this type of assistance which has a particularly humanitarian character. For instance, assistance to families of interned or imprisoned persons can only be sent through these channels.

The dockers request that each container of individual parcels be certified by Catholic Relief Services that it contains humanitarian aid. But this institution is not equipped to perform such a function.

At this very moment several thousand individual parcels already packed into containers by shippers, are standing on the docks because the stevedores refuse to load them. A vicious circle has developed. The dockers don't want to change their misguided policy. Their president, Mr. Theodore Gleason is in Florida attending the AFL-CIO conference as is the president of AFL-CIO, Mr. Lane Kirkland. The Department of State has washed its hands of the problem. The Polish American Congress is helpless and Catholic Relief Services, justly, considers the problem to be outside its scope.

Bureaucracy reigns supreme.

We believe that our government in Washington and the ILO in New York should act immediately and issue a regulation permitting the dockers to load containers with individual assistance parcels addressed to individuals in Poland. No one has the right to make it impossible for the Polish American community to come to the aid of its brothers in Poland.

We write these words in anger. This absurd situation must end immediately.

This should be done immediately because it is against Perfidus with someone publicaly.