

**August 15, 2004**

### **Cowardly democracy**

During the presidential election of 1990 I received thousands of letters from young voters with a statement that if I failed to win the election they would emigrate from Poland. In subsequent years, hundreds of thousands of young Poles left their native land to look for better places to live. What really pushed them out?

After many years of reflection I have no doubt that the main reason they left was the treason of political leaders who have become famous for dishonest manipulation of the public at large. Poland is well known for manipulation for the purpose of perpetual political power and financial gain that would secure political “elite” fame and wealth for a few generations.

With the cards stacked up against them, many young people had no choice but to look for better soil to grow elsewhere. They did not want to live in a country that is really a military dictatorship that pretends to follow democratic rules.

For it is now a well-known fact that Poland, which is the poorest country of United Europe, has the largest military spending per capita and the third largest contingent of soldiers in Iraq. Based on these facts one might think of Poland as a country of military rule that seeks a pat on the back from the powerful countries rather than support of its own electorate. It is also a well-known fact that powerful countries always seek support of military dictatorships.

For most Poles it is not a secret that former members of the communist party that have abused Poland for almost 50 years rule Poland. They have full control of newspapers, radio and TV, military and police. Furthermore they have tight control of the banking system. Most of all they have full control of the elections with the aid of proportional election law. Although they have been known to kiss any foreign ass, they are always mean to the Poles.

In any normal country such “leaders” would be accused of treason for selling the assets of the country well below market price and buying military equipment far in excess of the purchasing ability of the nation. But the word “treason” does not exist in Poland where treachery of politicians is the normal state of affairs. The political “elites” live in their own secular world and the population lives in another reality. These two groups do not talk to each other; the prevailing emotions are of distrust, hate and avoidance of the real issues. There is treason on both sides of the fence.

During the last 15 years the post-communist rulers have pushed Poland into a corner of extreme poverty and most of all have taken away all hope of any improvement. The only hope that remains is that those false and treacherous “leaders” will disappear one day, but it is a false hope as each day they become more powerful with their loot.

Thus lack of a joyful and friendly environment of constructive growth has become the biggest handicap of Poland, as the country is struggling with the oppressive mentality of its post-communist leaders who do not represent the people but themselves.

In this ugly post-communist society, political correctness and fear have reached new levels of cowardliness, as not many people are capable of speaking the truth in fear of losing something in return.

There is no use in being creative to support this state of affairs. For this reason I have decided to quit this column. Perhaps one day I will grab my pen again to write with passion about Poland. But for now the fear of the people and the hopeless mentality of their “leaders” have zapped all my energy and I would rather go fishing than write about failures. I have written this column for 24 months and now I need some rest...

But please write to me with news of valiant Poles who keep on fighting for Poland to be strong and free despite cowardly electorate and treacherous leaders! Even when I am busy fishing, I can always use some good news about my motherland...

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