

Pope Presses on Walesa

Solidarity Union Also One of His Main Concerns

Warsaw, Poland (NC) — Pope John Paul II showed June 17 that the fate of the outlawed Solidarity labor union and its founder, Lech Walesa, are key concerns of his.

After a lengthy private meeting between the pope and Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski, Polish prime minister and head of the Communist Party, the government announced that it had no objection to a meeting between the pope and Walesa.

Government spokesman Jerzy Urban announced at a press conference that as a result of the pope-Jaruzelski meeting

on June 17, Poland's military government had given grudging consent to a private audience of the pontiff with "the former leader of the former Solidarity," as the government calls Walesa.

Solidarity, the independent trade union which Walesa founded and headed, was outlawed by the government in October 1982.

The meeting which apparently swung the tide for the pope-Walesa meeting was a two-hour and twenty-minute session involving the pontiff, Poland's Cardinal Jozef Glemp, Polish President Henryk Jablonski and Jaruzelski.



Lining the streets for the pope's motorcade through Warsaw, onlookers include a group of students holding aloft signs proclaiming Solidarity -- the name of the outlawed trade union. (NC Photo)

First Week Roundup

Pope Pulls No Punches

By NC News Service

Pope John Paul II bluntly demanded political reforms in Poland and told his fellow Poles to find courage in the Gospel, as millions thronged to see their most famous native son during his week-long second visit as pope to his homeland.

In a not-so-veiled warning to Moscow against interference in Polish affairs, the pope also repeatedly proclaimed Poland's right to sovereignty and self-determination as a nation.

Crowds greeting the pope everywhere raised their hands with fingers stretched out in a "V" for victory, a popular symbol of support for the now-outlawed independent labor union, Solidarity. In a tough two-hour private meeting with Poland's prime minister and president, the pope extracted an agreement to let him meet with Lech Walesa, former head of Solidarity and chief symbol of the Polish reform movement.

Even before he got out of the Warsaw airport June 16, Pope John Paul signaled his plans during his June 16-23 trip to confront human rights violations under martial law in Poland. In his arrival speech he declared that he came especially to visit, in spirit at least, those who were

sick, suffering or in prison -- the last a clear reference especially to martial law detainees.

He continued that theme in his first major speech, a Mass homily in Warsaw that evening, by dwelling on the imprisonment of Cardinal Stefan Wyszynski by communist authorities in the 1950s. He urged Poles to find in their late cardinal-primate's life and writings the model for how to turn their present sufferings into a victory of spirit and will over adversity.

In a nationally televised speech to the country's top government officials the next day, the Polish-born pontiff surprised even veteran pope-watchers with his pointed remarks.

He bluntly called the government's 1980 agreements with the now-outlawed independent labor union, Solidarity, an "indispensable" basis for Poland to get out of its domestic "state of war."

A visibly nervous Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski defended his government's actions, saying that it has made needed reforms, that the worst was over and that history would judge his government more kindly and fairly. He promised that the martial law declared in De-

cember 1981 would finally be lifted as soon as conditions allowed it.

But the pope, taking advantage of one of the four occasions on which he was being allowed nationwide live exposure by the government-controlled television, clearly aligned himself with the Solidarity reforms as the starting point for reviving Polish political life.

"I do not lose hope," he said, "that this difficult moment may become a path to social renewal, the beginning of which is established by the social agreements stipulated by the representatives of the state authorities with the representatives of the world of labor... I do not stop hoping that the social reform, announced on many occasions, according to the principles so painstakingly worked out in the critical days of August 1980, and contained in the agreements, will gradually be put into effect."

Saying that "it is like a state of war" when human rights are not protected and democratic participation in civil life is not allowed in a country, the pope said that Poland's social renewal would require dialogue in which all sectors of society are represented.

Several times in succeeding days the pope used the word "solidarity" generically, each time drawing extended applause and cheers, and in the Solidarity stronghold of Poznan June 20 he cited the farmers' branch of the union, Rural Solidarity, by name.



Pope to Bishops

Continued from Page 1

honest solidarity with workers."

Solidarity, the first independent trade union in the Soviet bloc, was outlawed by the Polish government last October.

The pope had begun his day at 7:30 a.m. (1:30 a.m. EDT) with a period of private prayer in front of the revered painting of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Poland's patroness, in a small chapel in the basilica on the hill of Jasna Gora.

Then he concelebrated, together with members of the hierarchy from Poland and several other countries, a Mass formally marking the 600th anniversary of the ar-

rival of the painting in Poland.

Concelebrating with the pope were more than 150 cardinals, archbishops and bishops, including Cardinal John Krol of Philadelphia, Archbishop Edmund Szoka of Detroit and Auxiliary Bishop Alfred Abramowicz of Chicago.

All together, 3 million people converged on Czestochowa, a city of 250,000, for the three open-air Masses celebrated under a chilly drizzle during the weekend (June 18-19).

The pope's homily focused on the meaning of human freedom, both interior and exterior. He suggested as "perhaps the most fundamental dimension" of the

anniversary celebration the recognition of how often interior human freedom, understood as the capacity and desire to follow the will of God, had been granted to persons by visiting the shrine.

As to exterior freedom he issued a veiled admonition to the Soviet Union and to the ruling communist government in Poland when he said, "The nation is truly free when it can shape itself as a community determined by unity of culture, language and history."

"The state is firmly sovereign when it governs society and also serves the common good of society and allows the nation to realize its own subjectivity, its own identity," he said.

Cardinal Not Surprised

'The Pope Will Not Shade The Gospel Message'

Warsaw, Poland (NC) — To Cardinal John Krol of Philadelphia, a long-time student of Polish affairs, it was no surprise that Pope John Paul II took a strong stand against martial law immediately upon his arrival in Poland June 16.

The 72-year-old cardinal said in an interview on June 17 that the pope "will not and cannot shade the Gospel message."

On June 16, at a Mass in Warsaw's cathedral, the pope had roundly scored his homeland's current government, noting the "sad events" associated with martial law and saying that he was in sympathy with "all my compatriots (who have had) their dignity trampled upon."

Cardinal Krol came to Poland for the papal trip at the invitation of the nation's primate, Cardinal Jozef Glemp of Warsaw and Gniezno.

A frequent visitor to Poland, where his parents were born, the Philadelphia archbishop has broadcast to that country for 23 years over Radio Free Europe and Voice of America and is chairman of Catholic Relief Services' Tribute to the People of Poland campaign, which since July of 1981 has brought more than \$100 million worth of food to needy families in Poland.

The cardinal drew waves of applause Sunday at Czestochowa when the pope introduced him to about a million people at the Jasna Gora monastery.