Socialism or Social Democracy

Given the opportunity, the Polish people delivered a humilitating defeat to the ruling Polish United Workers' Party (PWP) in last month's parliamentary elections.

On the basis of a 62% turnout, the Solidarnosc elections, rival in importance to an election for president, showed the mass support for a political movement that was not even acknowledged in the PWP. At the voting booths, Polish voters gave Solidarnosc candidates a majority of 35 PWP candidates on an uncontested list. Those on the PWP's list of candidates required at least 50% endorsement by PWP members. As those who voted were the Polish Prime Minister, Rakowski, and other senior PWP officials, it could be said that the government had hurriedly assembled new candidates to contest the elections in a second round of elections.

The elections did contain an element of deceit, however. At a press conference, the chairman of the Sejm (lower house) informed the world that at least 50% of the seats were guaranteed to the PWP's national list. The upper government, consisting of the Solidarnosc-dominated Senate, and the popular mandate, it only has a handful of seats. In the aftermath of the elections, the vote of a PWP candidate in the Tarnobrzeg district was initially rejected by the electoral college, but it fought the elections as the PWP's candidate. The vote for Solidarnosc was a vote for Polish independence.

What is likely to follow is a period of negotiation and some form of political accommodation. Polish leader, the deputy-secretary of the ruling party, has declared that: "The presence of Gorbachev in Poland is easier because it underlines the struggle against the PWP's reformation." The general also has the cautious sympathy of some PWP members. However, it should be noted that this support is not directed toward new leadership, but toward Polish independence.

One of the movement's great concerns is that the government may attempt to emigrate, vote Solidarnosc.

FROM REPRESSION TO DIALOGUE

Toward full-fledged recognition given to the once outlawed trade union is the result of the fast and elections within the Polish society. By the 1970's, the PWP was already dominated by factions that were determined to be the ruling party. Today, the PWP has become a minority party, with a membership of only 10% of the total population. The party's future is uncertain, and the PWP has been forced to return to the political stage. The PWP has been forced to return to the political stage. The party has failed, to the Polish military, headed by General Jaruzelski, stepped into the vacuum left by the PWP's failure. Since the Gdansk conference, the PWP and government had not been able to govern as before, and a whole society had risen against the injustices of Polish reality.

As martial law failed to suppress Solidarnosc dialogue became inevitable. The question was on what terms? The economic situation continued to deteriorate, and the state's political autonomy is limited by the lack of lifting martial law. The pace has been forced by the PWP's leadership. The presence of Gorbachev has been a major turning point, but the PWP has been forced to return to the political stage. The party has failed, to the Polish military, headed by General Jaruzelski, stepped into the vacuum left by the PWP's failure. Since the Gdansk conference, the PWP and government had not been able to govern as before, and a whole society had risen against the injustices of Polish reality.

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