

# 'Ex'-communists win in Poland

by John Sigerson

Riding a wave of popular revulsion over the West's refusal to help rebuild the country after decades of communist rule, a refurbished edition of the old Polish communist party was democratically voted back into power on Sept. 19. According to official results available so far, the Democratic Left Alliance (SLD), as the communists are now called, emerged with nearly 20% of the vote, allowing it to occupy one-third of the seats in the Sejm, Poland's lower house of parliament. The next-highest vote, with 15%, went to the Polish Peasant Party (PSL), which during what many now consider the "good old days of communist rule" were allied in a coalition with the communist party.

It is a foregone conclusion that the SLD and PSL will now form a coalition, the only outstanding question being whether or not any of the other parties represented in the Sejm can be induced to join as well. The third-largest winner, the centrist Democratic Union (UD) which won approximately 11% of the vote, has already formally declined to join, announcing that it would not lend its name to the future actions of the communist-dominated government. But there are rumors that the two dominant parties may open the door to the minuscule BBWR party of President Lech Walesa, which just squeaked by the 8% minimum vote required for parliamentary representation. Solidarity, the organization that Walesa founded which led Poland out of communist rule, did not even win enough votes to enter Parliament.

Western media sewers are generally playing down the significance of SLD victory, with Reuters commenting that western economists "do not expect a return to old-style communism under a leftist government. They also do not expect a big impact on returns in the short term, although these are likely to slow down."

But this entirely misses the point. With a communist-run parliament and a President still committed to carrying out the disastrous "shock therapy" reforms dictated by the International Monetary Fund and robber-barons such as George Soros, the political situation resembles that in both Russia, where things have reached the breaking point, and in neighboring Belarus, where a similar confrontation is shaping up. Walesa dissolved the Polish government on May 29, and since then has been using his status as Poland's virtual dictator to push a form of forced privatization which in the words of one Warsaw economics professor has been "worse than

Stalinism; Stalin at least built something!"

Once it is seated, the new Polish parliament will go about testing its own strength against that of President Walesa. Alexander Kwasniewski, the young chairman of the SLD party who is virtually certain of being chosen prime minister, declared in Warsaw on Sept. 21 that the new parliament will examine closely which powers Walesa is going to keep. Along with SLD party manager Jozef Oleksi, Kwasniewski reiterated his offer for cooperation with the President, but warned that the "imbalances in the Polish system" (i.e., Walesa's presidential powers) were in large part responsible for the political paralysis which the country has slipped into, and that a new parliament ought to have sufficient powers to allow the country to be governed efficiently.

Meanwhile, Walesa is proceeding in exactly the opposite direction, putting hopes in adopting a "little constitution" which would extend his powers.

## No internal solution

But as has been the case for centuries, Poland's fate will be determined by what happens beyond its own borders, especially in regard to whether the West abandons its insane policy of supporting speculators such as George Soros to suck eastern Europe's economies dry as a spider drains its prey. Only this can explain why a political commercial aired on television by the small Samoobrona farmer-labor party—which did not even get enough votes to enter parliament—has created such a ruckus both inside and outside the country. The TV spot targeted Soros's Batorego Foundation as a leading "academic conduit" for promoting the economic crimes which are dismantling the country. The spot corroborates intelligence gathered by *EIR*, which reported on June 11 that the entire plan for privatizing Poland's state-owned enterprises had been arranged in the course of secret talks in 1989 between the Stefan Batory Foundation and the *communist* Rakowski government.

Responding to the advertisement, three Polish sociologists—Prof. Andrzej Rychard of the PAN institute, and Profs. Edmund Wnuk-Lipinski and Antonina Kloskowska of the Institute of Sociology—wrote a letter appearing in the Sept. 15 issue of *Gazeta Wyborcza* denouncing Samoobrona and jumping to Soros's defense as a great benefactor to Poland.

In Germany, Samoobrona came under attack from the country's leading liberal newspaper, the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*. On Sept. 22, the paper said that Polish politics is in danger of being "lepperized"—a reference to Samoobrona leader Andrzej Lepper, who is now facing trial because of farmer protests he led this past spring. Lepper, similar to activists in another political formation, the Solidarity 80 trade movement, has been campaigning in opposition to the IMF, and has exposed the use of Israeli investment funds as part of the effort to ruin Poland's state sector economy—a stance for which he has been slandered as an "anti-Semite."