

Henryk Cimek

Resolution of the Presidium of the Executive Committee of the Communist International

Polityka i Społeczeństwo nr 5, 250-256

2008

Artykuł został opracowany do udostępnienia w internecie przez Muzeum Historii Polski w ramach prac podejmowanych na rzecz zapewnienia otwartego, powszechnego i trwałego dostępu do polskiego dorobku naukowego i kulturalnego. Artykuł jest umieszczony w kolekcji cyfrowej bazhum.muzhp.pl, gromadzącej zawartość polskich czasopism humanistycznych i społecznych.

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RESOLUTION OF THE PRESIDIUM OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL¹

**(based on an annotated translation from Russian by
Henryk Cimek)**

Top secret

Polish fascism, unable to deal with an intensifying revolutionary agitation of the masses solely by means of open terror has made espionage, sabotage, guerilla major provocation instruments in its struggle against the workers' movement, all anti-fascist and democratic forces, corrupting with dirty methods the whole political and social life in Poland. For years it has sent its spies to infiltrate all democratic workers' and peasants' organizations. The followers of Piłsudski have, however, invested most of their efforts to infiltrate the Communist movement which has constituted the biggest threat to Polish fascism.

The Presidium of the Executive Committee of the Communist International has stated basing on solid empirical data that the leadership of the Communist Party of Poland² has been for years permeated with enemies, spies of Polish fascism. Triggering often fictitious cleavages in the workers', national-democratic and petty bourgeois organizations, the supporters of the Piłsudski regime introduced their spies and provocateurs who – being supposedly in

¹ A draft of the resolution by the Executive Committee of the Communist International concerning the dissolution of KPP (Communist Party of Poland) was handed in to Stalin by Georgi Dymitrow on the 28th of November in 1937. Stalin approved of the draft four days later. On the 16th of August in 1938, it was signed by 6 members of the Secretariate of the Executive Committee of the Communist International, after its title was ultimately changed to – „Resolution of the Executive Committee of the Communist International”.

² Komunistyczna Partia Polski.

opposition – joined the Communist movement (the Polish Socialist Party³ group led by Sochacki-Bratkowski⁴, the Poalei-Zion group led by Henrykowski and Lampe⁵, a Ukrainian S-d⁶ group, the UWO group of Wasyłkiw-Turiański⁷, a group of Byelorussian SRs⁸ – Korczyk, the

³ Polska Partia Socjalistyczna.

⁴ Sochacki Jerzy (1891–1933), known by Bratkowski, Czeszejko and other names, organized within PPS (Polish Socialist Party) leftist opposition groups since mid – 1920s. In February of 1921, his membership in the party was suspended for those activities by Centralny Komitet Wykonawczy (Central Executive Committee of the Polish Socialist Party), then his case was discussed by a party court. In September of 1921, a conference took place to join the „group of PPS (Lewica) members” with KPRP during which Sochacki was co-opted to the Central Committee of KPRP. Sochacki was also an activist of KPZU and of the Communist International as well as being an MP delegated by KPP (1926–1928).

⁵ Poalei Syjon [Zion] – the Jewish Social-Democratic Workers’ Party of Zion, was split in 1921. Some of its members joined KPRP. The group was led by Saul Amsterdam-Henrykowski (1898–1937), Alfred Lampe (1900–1943), Gerszon Dua-Bogen (1892–1948) and others.

⁶ S-d is an abbreviation standing for social democracy. In this particular case, the Ukrainian Social Democratic Party is meant which – following its congress on the 18th of March in 1923 – adopted a political programme similar to the Communist one. In consequence, it was delegitimized on the 30th of January in 1924. The fact blocked a merger between USDP and Związek Proletariatu Miast i Wsi (Union of the Proletariat of Cities and Villages). As a result, some of the members of the delegitimized USDP joined KPZU. In February of 1924, five members left Ukraiński Klub Sejmowy (Ukrainian Sejm Club): Wasył Mochniuk, Andrzej Paszczuk, Tomasz Prystupa, Józef Skrzypa and Jakub Wojtiuk. They created Klub Poselski USDP. Subsequently, the deputies, with the exception of Mochniuk, established Komunistyczna Frakcja Poselska (Communist Fraction of MPs) on the 7th of November in 1924 together with ZPMiW deputies (Stefan Królikowski and Stanisław Łańcucki).

⁷ Osip Kriłyk (1898–1933?), known as Wasyłkiw and Roman Kuźma (1894–1940), known as Turiański, were leading members of Komunistyczna Partia Galicji Wschodniej (Communist Party of the Eastern Galicja) (1919–1923) and of KPZU (1923–1937). They did not, however, belong to the secret Ukrainian Military Organization (UWO), created on the 30th of August in 1920. The latter was an anti-Polish and anti-Soviet nationalist organization which aimed at uniting all Ukrainian lands with a support from Germans. After the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists was established in 1929, the UWO became part of the new organization.

⁸ The term „eserowec” used in the document refers to so called social revolutionaries, i.e. members of the Party of Byelorussian Socialists-Revolutionaries. Paweł Korczyk (1891–1937), real name Jazep Łohinowicz, belonged to the party in the years of 1920–1922. Later he was one of the founders of the Byelorussian Revolutionary Organization (1922) which became part of KPZB on the 30th of December in 1923. BOR was not a social revolutionary organization. Its stance on the

„Wyzwolenie” group – Wojewódzki⁹). The Polish defensive¹⁰, planning arrests in such a way so as to exclude from Communist organizations the most loyal elements, gradually implanted its own spies in the leadership of the Communist Party. At the same time, to ensure its provocateurs and spies enjoyed authority vis-à-vis workers and members of the Communist Party, the fascist regime frequently sentenced its agents to imprisonment, staging orchestrated court proceedings against them only to liberate them when the first opportunity arose, organizing „prison breaks” and „exchanges” of prisoners for spies and guerilla fighters caught in the acting in the USSR. Assisted by their agents implanted in the leadership organs of the Communist Party, the Piłsudski functionaries nominated during parliamentary elections candidates to the Communist Deputy Fraction¹¹ – people who were supposed to be communists, such as for instance Żarski¹², Sochacki, Dąbal¹³, instructing them to make provo-

peasant and national issues was close to the one represented by resolutions by the II Zjazd KPRP (II Congress of KPRP) (19th of September – 2nd of October in 1923). Korczyk belonged to leading activists of KPZB and the KPP.

⁹ On the 11th of November in 1924, four left-wing members of parliament: Adolf Bon, Feliks Hołowacz, Antoni Szapiel and Sylwester Wojewódzki left Związek Polskich Stronnictw Ludowych „Wyzwolenie” (Union of Polish Peasant Parties „Liberation”) and „Jedność Ludowa” (People’s Unity) and founded a separate Klub Poselski Niezależnej Partii Chłopskiej (Deputy Club of Independent Peasant Party) (1924–1927). The Club was also joined by Stanisław Ballin and Włodzimierz Szakun who left PSL Wyzwolenie in July of 1924. Somewhat later they were also joined by Alfred Fiderkiewicz (on the 25th of March in 1925 r.). The NPCh was a legal revolutionary party, collaborating with KPP and the Peasant International (1923–1931). Wojewódzki was also a member of KPP.

¹⁰ The defensive, known also as „defa” – was a popular name given to the state police investigation bureau (1919–1939) and the political police (1924–1926) in Poland whose tasks included fighting the revolutionary movement.

¹¹ Komunistyczna Frakcja Poselska.

¹² Tadeusz Żarski (1896–1934) initially belonged to the PPS, later he became one of the leaders of the PPS-Opozycja (1919–1920) which joined KPRP in August of 1920. Żarski was *inter alia* a deputy member of the Central Committee of the KPP (1923–1925, 1927–1930), member of the Central Committee of the KPP (1925), member of Biuro Polityczne (Political Bureau) of the Central Committee of the KPP (1923–1925) and a member of parliament (1929–1930).

¹³ Tomasz Dąbal (1890–1937) joined KPRP after leaving Chłopskie Stronnictwo Radykalne (Radical Peasant Party) in 1920. In July of 1921, together with Stanisław Łańcucki he established Frakcja Sejmowa Posłów Komunistycznych (Sejm Fraction of Communist Deputies). A year later he was sentenced to 6 years of prison. In the

cative speeches which the fascists used to initiate black propaganda attacks directed against the Soviet Union and to carry out bloody repressions against the worker and peasant movement.

The gang of spies and provocateurs, which became anchored in the leadership of the Communist Party of Poland, continued to implant its agents in local structures, systematically betraying the best sons of the working class and handing them in to the enemy, year after year. By means of organized betrayals, it destroyed the party organizations both in the core Polish territories and in Western Byelorussia and Western Ukraine. Incessantly, it negatively affected the party's political line in a manner which made Communism lose support by the masses while the party became more and more hostile and alien to the Communist International. Carrying out its destructive activities, Polish fascism often took advantage of the Trotskyist-Bukharin traitors who had already been agents serving the Polish defensive or willingly turned into them because of the political views shared with fascists. Using its agents, the Polish defensive instigated fighting between the party fractions, both within the Kostrzewa-Warski group and within the Leński-Henrykowski group¹⁴. It used both fractions to de-organize the party and the activities it carried out among the masses as well as to separate the workers from the Communist Party.

But the most insidious was the role of the spy ring with regard to the USSR which executed there the tasks of fascist intelligence. Taking

framework of an exchange of prisoners, he left for the USSR (on the 15th of March in 1923) where he held many positions, being for example a deputy of the general secretary of the Peasant International (1923–1928), a vice-chairman of the Executive Committee of MOPR (1924–1926) and a vice-chairman of Byelorussian Academy of Sciences (1932–1935).

¹⁴ The document refers here to the fighting between fractions which took place within KPP after the May *coup d'état* by J. Piłsudski (1926). The so called majority and minority fractions fought one another. The former fraction was led by authors of the resolutions adopted by the II Congress of KPRP, among them Maria Koszutska-Wera Kostrzewa (1876–1939) and Adolf Warszawski-Warski (1868–1937). The latter fraction was headed by Julian Leszczyński-Leński (1889–1937), Saul Amsterdam-Henrykowski (1898–1937) and others. The conflict between the fractions was rooted in earlier cleavages which divided the activists. The discussion was mainly couched in the slogan of a fight against right-wing inclinations, which only aggravated the sectarian tendencies and personal animosities. The tenor was dominated by the ultra-leftist „minority” which aimed at changing the party leadership, criticizing predominantly the authors of the II Congress resolutions and the conceptions adopted then. The „minority” won the fight between the fractions in mid – 1929. It took over the leadership of the KPP supported by Stalin.

advantage of the nationalist preconceptions of the most backward masses of the Polish nation, by means of provocative undertakings the ring tried to obstruct the friendship between the nations of Poland and the nations of the Soviet Country and undermine – on behalf and in the interest of the fascist military regime – the road to peace which was followed by the great Soviet Country with an unceasing commitment. Simultaneously, Polish fascism systematically exported agents of the class enemy to the USSR, who pretended to be political émigrés, in order to carry out inimical and pernicious intelligence operations.

All attempts at expelling the agents of the Polish fascism out of the echelons of the Communist movement without changing the present organization of the Communist Party of Poland have proved to be inept because the leadership organs of the party have been taken over by the spies and provocateurs who took advantage of the difficult, illegal situation of the Party to remain in its leadership.

Taking all this into account as well as to create for decent Polish Communists an opportunity to reconstruct their party and to purify it from the agents of the Polish fascism, the Presidium of the Executive Committee of the Communist International, basing on its statute and resolutions of the congresses of the Communist International, decides to dissolve the Communist Party of Poland because of its being littered with spies and provocateurs.

It also recommends that all decent Communists should – until the Communist Party of Poland is rebuilt – refocus their activities with a view to all mass organizations of which workers and working class people are members, fighting for unification of the worker movement and for the creation of an anti-fascist people's front in Poland.

At the same time, the Presidium of the Executive Committee of the Communist International warn Communists and Polish workers against all attempts, which might be undertaken by Polish fascism and its spying, Trotskyist-Bukharin conspiracy, to create under the guise of a pseudo-Communist party of Poland wherein a new organization of the espionage-sabotage nature which could aim at disintegration of the Communist movement.

The Communist International realizes that thousands of the Polish Communists dedicate themselves and their lives to serve and defend the true interests of the working masses. It knows that the heroic Polish proletariat has in its memorable revolutionary history more than a few magnificent periods of struggle against the tsarist and Austro-Hungarian monarchies and against Polish fascism. It acknowledges the

heroic deeds of the Dąbrowski military battalion¹⁵ which the Polish proletariat sent to defend the Spanish nation. It is also convinced that the Polish proletariat will have its own Communist party freed of insidious agents of the class enemy which will really lead the working masses in Poland in their struggle for liberation.

G. Dymitrow, D. Manuilski, M. Moskwin, Kuusinen, Florin, Ercoli¹⁶

(The present document is re-printed on the basis of facsimiles preserved in the Rossijskij Gosudarstwennyj Archiw Socialno-Politiczeskoj Istorii (RGA), which used to play the role of the Centralnyj Partijnyj Archiw pri CK KPSS. The facsimiles are stored in the division of the Communist International – f. 495, op. 2, d. 1280). See also H. Cimek, *Komuniści, Polska, Stalin 1918–1939*, Białystok 1990, s. 166–169.

¹⁵ Poles who fought on the side of the Spanish Republic in an international brigade, of which the Jarosław Dąbrowski (XIII) battalion was part. The international brigade, created in June of 1937, included battalions of J. Dąbrowski and of A. Mickiewicz. The brigade was in organizational terms part of the 35th Division commanded for some time by General Karol Świerczewski (June 1937 – May 1938).

¹⁶ Dymitrow Georgi (1882–1949), an activist of the Bulgarian and international worker movement, a Bulgarian state activist. Since 1902 a member of the Bulgarian Social Democratic Workers' Party, since 1919 a member of the executive Committee of the Communist Party of Bulgaria, active in the Executive Committee of the Communist International (1923–1933), in 1933 arrested in Berlin and charged with setting Reichstag on fire, freed in 1934; a general secretary of the Executive Committee of the Communist International (1935–1943), until November of 1945 living in the USSR; since March of 1945 a general secretary of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Workers' Party (Communists); since 1946 Prime Minister, since 1948 General Secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party.

Manuilski Dmitrij (1883–1959), a Soviet party and state activist, since 1903 a member of Social Democratic Workers' Party of Russia, a revolutionary in the period of 1905–1907; in the years of 1921–1922 a secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine; since 1924 a member of the Presidium of the Executive Committee of the Communist International, in the period of 1928–1943 its secretary; in the years of 1920–1923 and 1949–1953 a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Ukraine; in the period of 1944–1953 vice-Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Ukrainian Socialist Soviet Republic; in the years of 1923–1952 a member of the Central Committee of All-Russian Communist Party.

Moskwin, real name Trilisser Meir Abramowicz (1883–1940), a Soviet party and state activist; an activist of the Executive Committee of the Communist International. Since 1901 a member of the Russian Social Democratic Workers' Party (the Bolsheviks), a revolutionary in the period of 1905–1907; since 1921 in the central apparatus of WCzK (Vecheka, an acronym for All-Russian Extraordinary Committee to Combat Counter-Revolution and Sabotage); since 1926 deputy head of OGPU (Joint State Political Directorate). One of the organizers of the Soviet Intelligence. Since 1935 a secretary of the Executive Committee of the Communist International; persecuted in 1938, in 1940 shot, posthumously rehabilitated.

Kuusinen Otto Wilhelm (1881–1964), an activist of the Finnish and Soviet workers' movement. Since 1905 in the Finnish Social Democratic Party, one of its leaders; a deputy to the Finnish autonomous parliament delegated by the Finnish Socialist Party (1908–1917); in 1918 a co-founder of the Finnish Communist Party; since 1921 permanently stayed in the Soviet Russia and then in the USSR; in the period of 1921–1939 a secretary of the Executive Committee of the Communist International; in the years of 1940–1958 a vice-chairman of the Highest Council of the USSR; since 1941 a member of the Central Committee of the All-Russian Communist Party; since 1958 a member of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR.

Florin Wilhelm (1894–1944), an activist of the German and international worker movement; a member of the Independent Social Democratic Party of Germany (1917–1920), then a member of the Communist Party of Germany, a member of its central apparatus since 1924, since 1925 a member of the Central Committee of the Party; since 1929 a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Germany; a deputy to the Reichstag; a secretary of the Executive Committee of the Communist International (1935–1943). He died in Moscow on the 5th of July in 1944.

Ercoli, real name Palmiro Togliatti (1893–1964), an activist of the Italian and international worker movement, a politician and a journalist. Since 1914, a member of the Italian Socialist Party; since 1921 a co-founder of the Italian Communist Party, since 1922 a member of its Central Committee, since 1927 its general secretary; since 1925 a member of the Executive Committee of the Communist International; took part in the Spanish civil war in the years of 1936–1939; since 1940 in the USSR, in 1944 returned to Italy; in 1944 a Minister without portfolio, then (until 1947) vice Prime Minister and Minister of Justice; since 1948 President of the Communist parliamentary fraction.