

A LESSON FROM POLAND

One of the cruelest manifestations of Western liberalism has been the acceptance by the West of the legitimacy of Communist Party rule and the arrogant "Brezhnev Doctrine" of suppression within the Soviet empire. Our media even receive at face value Soviet statements in justification. The resolution below¹ was issued on 22nd September 1981 by workers of the Ursus tractor factory near Warsaw in reply to Soviet coercion of the Polish politburo. Directly, it puts the Communist Party to shame. And indirectly it provides a lesson for the West in honesty and courage.

We, the workers of the tractor assembly division of the Ursus Mechanical Works . . . protest against the statements contained in the declarations of the Politburo of the Polish United Workers' Party, the Cabinet of the Polish United Workers' Party, the Cabinet of the Polish Peoples' Republic, and the Politburo and Government of the Soviet Union.

We will not be insulted, nor will we allow our labor union to be insulted. We are not counter-revolutionaries — it is those who govern, who have attempted to distort our history, destroy our culture and who have pushed our country to the brink of economic disaster who are the counter-revolutionaries and anti-socialists . . . We have elected our leaders in democratic elections. The attempts to brand them as liberals or radicals, as good ones or bad ones are tricks of a discredited and deceitful propaganda.

From the very beginning our union was the object of attacks by totalitarian, inhuman and anti-worker authorities. Our fight is in defence of our union and our society. We respect the Constitution of the Polish Peoples' Republic. Our goal is to insure that, in accordance with the Constitution, "authority in the PPR belongs to the working people of cities and villages." We are achieving this through the establishment of a true self-government of the workers.

Stop threatening us. You should realize that it is our work that supports you. You should know that Polish soldiers will not shoot at us. The Polish soldier knows which way to point his bayonet. We will not be deceived by your speeches; we know what you are after. You do not care for our country, you are only interested in your privileges, your earnings and your palaces. This is why you are scared of the workers who are trying to save the country from the dictatorship of the red regime.

We are outraged by the brutal intervention of the Bolsheviks into the internal affairs of our republic. The Government and the party meekly accepted the threats of Moscow's imperialism. They have shown once again whom they serve and whom they represent . . .

Footnote

1. Quoted *Globe and Mail*, 27 October 1981.