

THE POZNAN TRAGEDY

No person of good will can feel anything but grief and regret at the terrible loss of life in Poznan, Poland.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the Poznan workers whose long-neglected needs were manipulated to explode in violence.

The tragedy is heightened since it comes at a time when the most diverse sources agree that Poland has been outstanding, among the socialist countries, in liberalizing and democratizing its system.

But in the course of years many grievances accumulated—justified grievances among the workers about economic conditions. This is frankly admitted by the Polish government. It is also admitted that there were insufficient avenues for the expression of discontent and for securing redress of grievances.

Premier Jozef Cyrankiewicz admits the workers were dissatisfied "by economic difficulties and various frequently annoying grievances." He speaks of "mistakes and incorrect application of existing laws." He concludes:

"It is obvious that these mistakes must and will be immediately corrected." Above all, he states that the Poznan riots will not stop "the process of democratization of Poland's political life."

There is considerable evidence, from the fact that the riots occurred in Poznan at the time of the international fair when many westerners would be present, also from the availability of arms and the targets of the riots, that this was no "spontaneous" uprising but a long-planned instigation. Thus, long pent-up grievances were exploited for ulterior motives.

It was only two years ago that the Saturday Evening Post boasted that the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency)—headed by Allen Dulles—was organizing an underground in Poland and in other socialist countries.

American taxpayers have been shelling out millions of dollars for such Projects X. In fact, CIA in many ways stands above the rest of our government. It is not accountable to the people and it pursues its cloak and dagger operations with complete disdain for the wishes of the country.

And now, the State Department, headed by the other Dulles—John Foster—moves, in the words of yesterday's N. Y. Times, "to exploit the unrest" with a food offer. Certainly the American people will welcome an offer of food for Poland or any other place where there may be a need. But it is terrible hypocrisy to offer food only in the belief that the hungry recipient may agree with your policies!

For years the government barred the sale—let alone the donation—of surplus food to socialist countries.

Furthermore, Americans who abhor the idea of anyone intervening in our country to stir up force and violence will be justified in demanding an accounting from both Allen Dulles and brother John.

Meanwhile, in Poland the tragic events show how much still remains to be done in democratization despite the steps already undertaken by the government. Only this way can the foes of socialism be blocked.

The establishment of complete justice, greater rights for the unions, and spurring their militancy, the elimination of bureaucracy and securing full democracy—only this can guarantee against the recurrence of such tragic events. This is the path by which socialism will bring both economic security and the blessings of liberty.