

# General Wojciech Jaruzelski

## The face of martial law

In his youth, a scout and zealous Catholic, prisoner of the NKVD, he was forced to join the Polish Army - straight from Siberia, where as an exile he cut trees in the taiga. After years of career in the Polish People's Army, he became a member of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party,

and soon one of the most hated people in the country.

He appeared on TV screens on December 13, declaring martial law.

## Planning of martial law

The analysis of the costs of the Soviet intervention prepared by Minister Stanisław Ciosek mentioned 500,000 victims and over 10 years of occupation. That is why the rulers decided to settle the matter without outside help. On the night of December 8-9, Wojciech Jaruzelski communicated the details of the planned activities of the Supreme Commander of the Warsaw Pact troops. Then a meeting of the Military Council of the Ministry of National Defense took place. The decision to introduce martial law was made on the morning of December 11.

The Polish authorities, under the watchful eye of Moscow, worked out the details. Legal acts were prepared. 100 thousand copies of the „Notice on the introduction of martial law” were printed in the USSR. Over 5 thousand names were on a list of persons intended for internment (arrested), that began to be drawn up at the beginning of 1981 and subsequently



Colonel Ryszard Kukliński

Foto PIOTR GRZBOWSKI

grew longer.. Special (reconnaissance) units, avant-garde units (for direct actions), fusiliers (to support tanks), preventive and maneuver battalions waited for the signal. Undercover agents were active. The day of the declaration of martial law was chosen on Sunday, December 13th. Lech Wałęsa was arrested on the night of December 12-13. He started the movement of Solidarity by jumping over the fence of the shipyard, so now they started with him.

The CIA, reported by Ryszard Kukliński, knew that a „Polish operation would be carried out without the participation of allied troops,” but they did not warn Solidarity.

## Symbol of brotherhood Resistors and eagles

The symbols of social resistance have become small pins worn in the lapels of jackets, pinned into sweaters, shirts, and blouses. It was the most common way of communicating on which side you were. In many high schools, only a few students did not wear resistors. Where badges had to be worn, they have not fastened with safety pins anymore, but with pins. It was assumed that the pins were a silent symbol of brotherhood and you did not talk

to people who, for example, sat on the train and point out, „I have a pin, you have a pin, let's talk”. They were almost certainly undercover cops. In 1982, crowned eagles were worn instead of the symbolic pins, and they were produced legally as collectors' items. Then came the fashion for necklaces depicting an eagle with a crown on a cross. There were a lot of them back then, today it is difficult to buy them at auctions.

Poles soon became convinced that opposition to the authorities had to pay a high price. Years later, General Jaruzelski apologized for the repressions, but when martial law was declared, he was in the top management of the Politburo. He was also the head of the Main Political Board of the Polish Army, deputy minister of national defense, chief of the General Staff, then minister, and member of the Central Committee.

In times of unbridled Solidarity and enthusiasm, Poles who enrolled in it in the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party were more and more afraid of the invasion of Soviet troops. Jaruzelski, a communist and patriot, who had contact with the „brotherly nation” from an early age, knew the most about them - as well as about the mentality of the Soviet authorities.

All those in power agreed that the Russians could not be allowed to intervene. The general who took over the leadership of the party after Kania became the mastermind behind the events to come. Martial law was declared under pressure from the USSR. After the

During the declaration of martial law, General Wojciech Jaruzelski was a member of the top management of the Politburo



internment of Gierek, Jaruzelski became the number 1 man in enslaved Poland, but also a „Welder” and a „Night Heron”, as the opposition baptized him.

He died over seven years ago. His funeral was attended by Adam Michnik, a political prisoner, interned during martial law and accused of trying to overthrow the political system.



General Jaruzelski's grave in Powązki in Warsaw

Foto PAWEŁ DĄBROWSKI, EAST NEWS



Zbigniew Bujak

Despite perfectly planned actions by the security service to rally and transport the leaders of Solidarity to the internment camps, some important activists managed to avoid detention.

Zbigniew Bujak, president of the Mazovia Region, not only did not get caught on December 13, but also successfully hid for five years. Władysław Frasyniuk, head of Lower Silesian Solidarity, after the first

warnings that „something is happening”, decided to leave the deliberations of the National Commission in Gdańsk and, together with other activists from Lower Silesia, return to his territory, where hiding places and contacts would help avoid internment. They returned to Wrocław via Poznań, without tickets - for fear of being recognized at the box office. The conductor from the train to Wrocław had a chance to see what was happening. When cursing, he closed the compartment door behind him. No one knew what to expect. The train sped on, passengers waited to see what would happen. Fortunately, the crew was on the right side. The conductor returned an hour later to warn Frasyniuk and his colleagues against the planned arrest at the station in Wrocław. He advised them to get out earlier.

However, they decided to go to a warehouse in the area they knew. They escaped by jumping out of a deliberately slowing down train just in front of the Wrocław Główny station. The driver showed them the „V” sign through the window.

The trial of NSZZ Solidarność activists: Adam Michnik, Władysław Frasyniuk, Bogdan Lis



Foto EAST NEWS

Project co-financed  
by the Chancellery  
of the Prime Minister  
as part of the Polonia and Poles  
abroad 2021 competition



FUNDACJA  
KULTURA I HISTORIA



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menedżerów.