

Micheal T. Kaufman

Arrest In Poland Hints At Party Split

First Published: *New York Times*: November 19, 1984

Transcription, Editing and Markup: Paul Saba and Sam Richards

Copyright: This work is in the Public Domain under the [Creative Commons Common Deed](#). You can freely copy, distribute and display this work; as well as make derivative and commercial works. Please credit the Encyclopedia of Anti-Revisionism On-Line as your source, include the url to this work, and note any of the transcribers, editors & proofreaders above.

DOC 017| WARSAW, Nov. 18—

A terse announcement over the weekend saying Polish authorities had arrested a fugitive Stalinist official appears to underscore a growing view here that long latent rivalries in the Polish Communist Party have risen to the surface after the slaying of a pro-Solidarity priest.

The former official, Kazimierz Mijal, a former Minister of Economics in the mid-1950's, was said to have slipped into Poland after 18 years in Albania and Belgium.

The announcement Saturday of Mr. Mijal's arrest came as murder indictments against three security policemen were about to be filed in the case of the slain priest, the Rev. Jerzy Popieluszko.

It also came as Poland's ruling party was steeling itself for a possible showdown between the dominant, professed liberal wing and those party members who have opposed such policies as overtures to Western Europe, dialogue with the church and the amnesty for Solidarity detainees last summer.

Jaruzelski Meet With Russian

Meanwhile, the Polish Government announced that Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Polish leader, conferred today with Marshal Viktor G. Kulikov, the Soviet Commander in Chief of Warsaw Pact forces. The meeting, the first between the two in 10 months, came after sudden visits within the last two weeks by General Jaruzelski to Hungary and then to East Germany.

Diplomats here say they believe the visits to Hungary and East Germany touched heavily on the state of the Polish party after the murder.

The official disclosure of Mr. Mijal's arrest made no reference to the Popieluszko case. But the surprising re-entry of a man long vanished from the political scene, who reportedly had help from followers, added a bizarre and tantalizing element to speculation as Poles await the fulfillment of the Government's promise to seek out those who instigated the killing of the pro- Solidarity priest.

Specifically, some Polish sources say, the disclosure adds evidence to the circumstantial case being built by some supporters of General Jaruzelski that, in fact, the priest's slaying represented part of a campaign by hard-line party elements to destabilize his rule and sabotage attempts to re-establish closer ties with Western Europe. Crackdown on Rights Groups

Such analyses are being suggested by some Polish officials, particularly to Western correspondents. But until now, the most obvious response of the Government since the murder has been to crack down on the more liberal elements in Polish society, such as the civil rights groups that have been formed to monitor and report on police violence.

Before they were officially ordered banned Saturday, some of these groups reported on kidnappings by a clandestine anti-Solidarity organization with links to the police. The organization, in its notes, condemned both Solidarity and the "incompetent team of Jaruzelski."

According to diplomats and well-informed Polish commentators, the public criticism of the dissidents may be a politically necessary prelude to a more private purge of hard-liners and a possible realignment of leadership to take place in the confines of a Central Committee meeting, expected shortly.

To dissident figures, however, the slaps in their direction, with few countervailing gestures to the hard-liners, indicate that the authorities themselves have not established how extensive and powerful the cabal within the Interior Ministry and the police apparatus may have been and what protectors its members may have either in Poland or outside. Symbolic Value

In this light, the arrest of Mr. Mijal has, like almost everything in Poland, a symbolic value. He was an active member of the Natolinist faction - Polish Communists who in the late 1950's challenged Wladyslaw Gomulka's nationalism by insisting that the Soviet Union had the leading role in all policies. The faction was named after the Natolin Palace where it met.

Earlier, Mr. Mijal had been Minister of Economics in the Government of Boleslaw Bierut, and in 1957 he was the most outspoken, though not the real leader, of Mr. Gomulka's pro-Soviet opponents. The Natolinists also started anti-Semitic attacks on once prominent party leaders of Jewish origin. By the early 1960's, Mr. Mijal was removed from the Central Committee.

In 1966, he reportedly left Poland illegally for Albania, where under the protection of the then strongly pro-Stalinist regime of Enver Hoxha, he broadcast programs on the Tirana radio on Polish matters and set himself up as general secretary of an organization he called the Communist Party of Poland.

In announcing his arrest, the authorities in Warsaw did not say when he returned, though they said he came on fake documents. They also reported that they had seized publications and

material he planned to distribute. The authorities said the publications "contained sharp and demagogical attacks on the policies of the ruling United Workers Party and Government with respect to shaping internal relations, cooperation with other parties and church-state relations."

Given the scant information released so far, it is now a matter of speculation whether Mr. Mijal, who may face treason charges, had close links with those elements in the Polish Party that have periodically echoed aspects of the old Natolinist line or whether he was essentially an isolated and relatively Quixotic throwback.