

Sobczyk fights for free Poland

By Steven Reynolds
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A Lander college professor has not given up hope on a friend who was arrested two years ago and has since disappeared.

Dr. Garret Sobczyk, a professor of mathematics at Lander, is still working for the release of Kornel Morawiecki, founder of Fighting Solidarity, an organization devoted to the establishment of "an independent Solidarity republic, to free the people ... from the yoke of Communism."

Polish officials blamed Morawiecki's arrest on "subversive and anti-socialist" smuggling of items such as miniature cameras, weapon sights and tear gas canisters.

Dr. Sobczyk, a member of Fighting Solidarity, has petitioned the American government to seek Morawiecki's release. He is also working on an English translation of Fighting Solidarity's Manifesto and a book, "Return Ticket to Poland."

Dr. Sobczyk was doing research and teaching at the university in Wroclaw, Poland, when Pope John Paul II made his historic visit to Poland in June, 1979.

Along with Kornel, Sobczyk carried a banner proclaiming faith and independence. "With some trepidation, I took it and carried it proudly," writes Dr. Sobczyk in the manuscript of his book.

Almost a year and a half later, the Free and Independent Self Governing Trade Union Solidarity was born in the shipyards in Gdansk. According to the Lander professor, Solidarity was 10 million strong "in its heyday."

On December 13, 1981, martial law was imposed and the Solidarity movement was suspended by the Communist authorities in Poland. The union organizers, including Morawiecki, went underground but still continued organizing strikes and work stoppages.

Morawiecki, convinced that dialogue with the Polish government was useless, "broke away from the official representatives of Solidarity" and formed Fighting Solidarity — "an active movement for change."

The principles and goals of Fighting Solidarity are outlined in its Manifesto. In an interview done before his disappearance, Morawiecki said, "We propose democratic order founded on the ideas of Solidarity (and) postulance of this new system guarantees basic human rights."

"Kornel's purpose was to start Solidarity movements in the Baltic states and elsewhere," said Dr. Sobczyk, "and he represented a threat to Poland and the USSR."

His "anti-Communist" literature reached workers (and soldiers) in the Ukraine and the Baltic states.

On November 9, 1987, Morawiecki was arrested by police at an apartment in Wroclaw. According to a Polish government spokesman, Morawiecki was arrested for smuggling. He was also alleged to have false identification papers.

Morawiecki's daughter, Anna, says that Interior Ministry agents searched her father's apartment for six hours after the arrest. On the same day agents seized Morawiecki's son, Mateusz, a university student.

According to Dr. Sobczyk, "no one has heard from him (Kornel) since his arrest. It's rumored that Morawiecki was taken to the Soviet Union."

"Fighting Solidarity is much more than just me," said Kornel Morawiecki. In an interview (made before his arrest in November), Morawiecki made a statement concerning the goals of Fighting Solidarity: "Truth, Goodness, Justice and Solidarity are always on the horizon — you can come closer to it; it always recedes. You will never attain it but press on anyway. It is worth it."

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