

association of university and college employees

Membership Meeting

TUESDAY, AUGUST 21, 1984

HENRY ANGUS BUILDING ROOM 104

12:30--2:30 P.M.

AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Guest Speaker.....re: Solidarity in Poland
3. Adoption of the minutes of June 21, 1984
4. Business arising from the minutes
5. Nominations: Strike Committee, Tech Change Committee
6. Contract Committee
7. Grievance Committee
8. Secretary-Treasurer's report
9. Health & Safety Rep.'s report
10. Other business

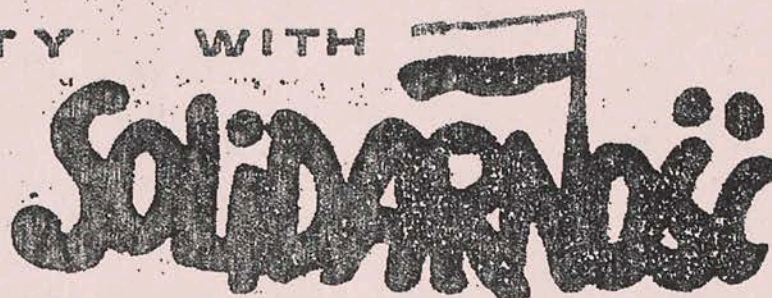
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MATHEMATICS

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SOLIDARITY WITH



JUSTICE AND IDEOLOGY

AN EXCERPT FROM A SPEECH GIVEN BY W. KARP, M. ENG.,
VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT ASSOCIATION AT A
UNIVERSITY IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF POLAND (1980-1981) AND
ADVISOR TO SOLIDARITY'S NATIONAL COMMISSION OF EDUCATION AND
SCIENCE (1981).

The subject of our meeting is Justice! Lack of Justice is a source of suffering caused by one person to another. As a result of injustice, suffering arising from the natural course of human existence is increased by undeserved suffering. An oppressed person, realizing that he or she is being subjected to an undeserved suffering, to an injustice, will try to eliminate it. At the very basis of many social changes there lies a desire to eliminate undeserved suffering and to re-establish Justice.

With time the theoretical grounds of the concept of Justice have not changed. Justice has always remained inseparably joined with truth, and through it, with reality. In the light of this remark, the concept of Justice as it has been officially propagated within the communist block countries is truly an astonishing phenomenon: it is Justice based on ideology.

Ideological Justice judges an action not in the light of its good or harmful social effects, but in the light of its conformity with ideology. The implementation of an ideology may prove to be harmful, leading for instance, to a drastic decline of the nation's economy; to the deterioration of the morality of its citizens; or to the disintegration of national culture. Nevertheless, this ideology will receive continued support from those who are dependent upon its success.

The political system, based on ideology prevailing in the Eastern Block countries, appears to be a new version of absolutism within which a small minority concentrates in its hands the enormous potential of the country, and attempts to enslave the minds of its people. Laws and regulations are not enacted there in order to make life easier for the people; rather, they serve to implement the ideology which becomes an end in itself. In this context, it ceases to be important whether someone is a good or poor specialist in his or her profession; it is more important whether one is obedient to the ideology, and forces others to comply with it. There is no such category as historical truth. In communist social science, history is understood as a course of development which finds its realization in ideology. Finally, all moral concepts when used by Soviet communists take on a completely different meaning.

Truth does not signify agreement with reality, it signifies agreement with ideology. Freedom means acting in accordance with the requirements of ideology. Justice means no justice for those who have a different point of view. The word peace actually means war, since the ruling ideology aims at spreading its domination throughout the world.

People in Western cultures in which certain stable criteria are sought to define reality commit a very serious error when they take such terms as freedom, peace, and justice, spoken by communists, out of their ideological context. In the communist language, these terms mean something quite different from what they mean in the West. One must not be misled.

On the brick wall of the Gdansk shipyard at the time of the memorable strike in 1980, a slogan was written in large letters: "Truth, Justice, Solidarity." It seems that man does not live by bread alone; even if from childhood fed on lies, sometimes he desires truth.

The tradition of the Polish nation incorporates a will to fight for freedom and to maintain national independence. Nearly the entire Polish national culture, so obscure to other nations, is linked with the problem of the struggle for freedom, both national and personal, since for Poles there can be no freedom for the nation without freedom for the individual. This culture, with its deep religious aspect, has made the Polish nation resistant to ideological slogans. It has provided Poles with other moral models, and prevented them from forgetting the old meanings of the words. Thus, over the years of the communist system in Poland, there has grown up a disparity between the meanings of concepts passed down by the Christian tradition and those imposed by the communist system. The consciousness of this disparity has grown increasingly acute.

The Independent Self-Governing Trade Union SOLIDARNOSC, sprang up when people gained a realization of their suffering on such a wide scale that in a few weeks, within a country of 35 million citizens, there was born a union of 10 million working people. In Poland, it was not a matter of the return of the capitalist economy. Nor did SOLIDARITY want to take over the power of the state. Its aim rather, was to create conditions under which justice could be realized; to remove exploitation and falsehood; and to take the country out of the hands of a small group of people dependent upon Moscow, and hand it to the society which would then choose its own representatives.

The purpose of SOLIDARNOSC was to create for the person, the citizen of an independent Poland, the most advantageous conditions for a full and free development. SOLIDARNOSC called for the removal of censorship, the removal of control from the hands of ideologists, and the free election of the parliament. It also endeavored to guarantee working people proper working conditions. It defended them against unreasonable increases of prices and unwarranted dismissal from work based on ideological grounds. SOLIDARITY stood for programs such as the reform of the economy, the educational system, and the courts in the country. It was necessary to put forth such proposals in view of the incompetence of the ruling apparatus.

The politicians say that SOLIDARITY was a political movement, but for us Poles it was a movement of renewed morality. Because of it, ideas such as truth, justice, and freedom have again found their original meanings.

➔ Polish Credit Union, 1155 Fraser Street, Vancouver, B.C.

➔ Account #1037-1 "SOLIDARNOSC"

➔ Donations sent to the above address will be used to support the underground at present SOLIDARITY movement in its effort to help political prisoners and their families, and to assist independent education, press, and culture in Poland.