

TOWARDS A NEW POLAND

A programme for a new political and economic constitution for post-war Poland has been submitted to the Polish National Council in London by the Members of the Socialist and Peasant Parties on the Council.

Twelve out of thirty Members of this Council signed a motion requesting the Government to prepare a detailed project for the reconstruction of the Polish State. The motion states that a free, independent and social-minded individual in an organised community should be the creator and the beneficiary of this new State, which will be based on the following principles:—

1. Political democracy and parliamentary government with adequate safeguards. Equality of rights without distinction of race or religion.
2. A proper system of local government.
3. Democratic control of a planned economy and industry. Equality of opportunity for all citizens. A just distribution of the national income and work as the only title to a share in this income.
4. Recognition by the State of the essential rôle of trade unions, co-operatives and other similar bodies.
5. Strong economic and political ties with all the countries of Central Eastern Europe, especially with Czecho-Slovakia.
6. An extensive social insurance system. Widest opportunities for productive and consuming co-operatives in industry and agriculture on which the distribution of goods will be based.
7. Land reform, creating sound small holdings for the peasants, and to be included in the wide network of co-operatives.

The signatories urged the Government and the National Council to prepare now decrees which will be made law immediately Poland has been freed from the enemy. These first steps will cover:—

- (a) Land reform, through expropriation of the larger estate owners, and formation out of these estates of a reserve of land for the creation of small holdings, entrusting such lands to the care of communal and regional committees for land reform for eventual handing over to the peasants.
- (b) Expropriation—and handing over to the State, to Communal or Co-operative bodies—of industries and enterprises ripe for socialisation, and the formation of a social control for such industries and enterprises.
- (c) Reform of taxation, aiming at a just and equitable distribution of the burden of taxes upon all classes of society.
- (d) Repeal of all Acts of the occupying Power concerning the property and the well-being of Polish citizens. The transfer of these properties to the trusteeship of specially appointed public bodies until they can be taken over by the ultimate owners.
- (e) The trial before free Polish Courts of Justice of all cases of citizens betraying the Republic by serving the occupying Power.
- (f) Formation of a special tribunal to try civilian and military high officials of the pre-war regime who have been guilty of abuses and acts detrimental to State and people.
- (g) A new election to the Sejm and the Senate under the principles of democratic franchise.

The motion is based on a significant document which reached London recently through underground channels from the leaders of the Underground Movement of Peasants and Workers in Poland.

This document, which provides a powerful new political weapon for the armoury of the United Nations, has been translated into English and is published in a penny pamphlet by Liberty Publications, 11, Waterloo Place, S.W.1. The pamphlet carries a foreword by the Rt. Hon. Arthur Greenwood, M.P.

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A programme for a new political and economic constitution for Poland has been submitted to the Polish National Council in London by the members of the Committee for the Polish People's Republic.

The programme is based on the following principles:

1. The Polish people have the right to determine their own political and economic system.
2. The Polish people have the right to elect their representatives to the National Council.
3. The Polish people have the right to elect their representatives to the National Assembly.
4. The Polish people have the right to elect their representatives to the National Council of Ministers.
5. The Polish people have the right to elect their representatives to the National Council of Economic Affairs.
6. The Polish people have the right to elect their representatives to the National Council of Cultural Affairs.
7. The Polish people have the right to elect their representatives to the National Council of Scientific Affairs.
8. The Polish people have the right to elect their representatives to the National Council of Educational Affairs.
9. The Polish people have the right to elect their representatives to the National Council of Health Affairs.
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