

Reg. PA

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*Rappresentanza Permanente d' Italia
presso il Consiglio Atlantico
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Brussels, July 31, 1984

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THE AMNESTY IN POLAND. ITALIAN VIEWS

(Speaking Notes)

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The amnesty bill passed by Sejm on July 31, 1984 (Poland) is regarded in Rome as a first important step in the right direction. Its implementation and its consequences have to be carefully weighed, but the West should respond to this new amnesty law in a positive and concrete way.

Certainly this measure does not solve by itself the fundamental problems of the Polish society. The need for reforms remains, as well as the necessity of achieving a real national reconciliation through a dialogue among all the social forces of the Country. Western Governments there fore should continue to point out such needs to the Polish Government and express the hope that the amnesty constitutes the beginning of a new course.

The situation in Poland, however, should be consi dered with realism. It is evident in fact that the establish ment of an authentic pluralism - even a pluralism limited to the trade unions - does not appear realistic in the short run, being the regime conditioned by the geo-political situa tion of the Country. Western Governments therefore, while re

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affirming their basic principles, which cannot be renounced, should react in a concrete and positive way. A lack of such kind of reaction could be misinterpreted by the Polish Government and prove counter-productive.

A concrete way of showing such a positive attitude could be a prudent and gradual elimination of the remaining obstacles to a full resumption of the political contacts. In this connection we could explain to our public opinions that by intensifying the dialogue with Polish authorities we could exert further pressure on them in order to safeguard human rights and particularly the rights of the trade unions.

As to the so called "economic" sanctions, Italy has always maintained that the problem is a technico-economic one. In this connection we have favoured the resumption of the discussions within the Club of Paris for rescheduling Polish debt and viewed all connected aspects, including the possible concession of new credits, as being essentially of a technico-economic nature. Also the scheduled meeting of the Italo-Polish economic Commission is merely subordinate to the solution of the technical problems which still exist in the financial field.