

Resolutions and statements of XIII National Assembly of Delegates Spała, 1 –2 December 2000

Resolution on changes in the Act on trade unions

XIII National Assembly of Delegates of NSZZ “Solidarnosc” applies to the National Commission and the members of parliament of AWS to start a legislation procedure referring to the change of the Act on trade unions consisting in establishing a function of the so called “trade union officer” in companies employing less than 20 workers.

Resolution on relations between the Union and AWS

VIII National Assembly of Delegates in Poznan in 1996 decided on participation of NSZZ “Solidarnosc” in creation of a broad central and right wing formation called Electoral Action of “Solidarnosc” (AWS). The delegates of the Assembly decided then, that it was a chance for realisation of the Union’s programme, and that it was a starting point for withdrawal of the Union from active politics. Subsequent Assemblies confirmed this direction though the evolution in AWS was too slow and realisation of basic postulates of the Union was delayed.

Therefore, one year ago XI National Assembly of Delegates called on all the groups composing AWS to create a federation and, in consequence one political party, considering that this would ensure effective actions of the entire formation, end a series of public disputes and make it possible for the Union to completely withdraw from direct participation in AWS. Unfortunately, most of the groups composing AWS rejected this proposal giving priority to their own interests over the good of the entire formation created with enormous difficulties. In consequence this led to the present disintegration of AWS.

In this situation XIII National Assembly of Delegates of NSZZ “Solidarnosc” sharply criticises the actions of all these organisations and politicians (especially those who are members of the Social Movement of AWS) who by breaking all political agreements reached before including AWS Charter, and by publicly attacking the leaders of AWS, contribute to the decrease of social support and increase of electoral chances of post-communists.

XIII National Assembly of Delegates once again calls for ceasing the quarrels and adopting proposals to organise until 15 January 2001 Federation Assembly of AWS that would prepare a joint programme taking into account the proposal of the Union, accept new structure of authorities and agree on the term of creating a single political party. This would enable separation of trade union functions from political functions in parties and federations. Rejection of this proposal would mean rejection of real reform of AWS for the sake of personal fight for influence. In such a case the National Assembly of Delegates authorises the National Commission to apply to Social Movement of AWS and all those political and social groups that do care about the unity of Polish Right to appoint an organisational committee preparing establishing of one single party.

At the same time XIII National Assembly of Delegates strongly objects to any attempts of taking advantage of the name and logo of AWS. This logo united NSZZ “Solidarnosc” and many social and political organisations, therefore, it can not be a basis of divisions today.

Statement on changes in the Labour Code

XIII National Assembly of Delegates of NSZZ “Solidarnosc” supports the change of article 139 of the Labour Code limiting the work on Sundays and holidays included in

the parliamentary bill from 30 March 2000 and strongly protests against any changes attempting to limit the labour standards.

Statement on family benefits, maternity benefits and pre-retirement benefits

XIII National Assembly of Delegates of NSZZ “Solidarnosc” strongly protests against the governmental proposal of freezing the valorisation of family and maternity benefits, which would decrease the amount of benefits for millions of Polish children.

We also protest against the proposal of uniform of pre-retirement benefits at the level of 130% of the unemployment benefit. This would decrease the benefits for the unemployed in counties threatened by structural unemployment. We apply to the Members of Parliament of AWS for rejection of the governmental proposal and for maintaining the benefits in the present amounts.

The Assembly also applies to trade union Members of Parliament of AWS to prepare a project of amending the Act on employment and counteracting unemployment that would involve granting a pre-retirement benefit in the amount of 160% of the unemployment benefit, with no conditions, to all the workers who are dismissed due to company reasons, and would not limit their possibility to receive wages up to amount of 50% of the minimum wage.

Statement on health care

XIII National Assembly of Delegates of NSZZ “Solidarnosc” supports the postulates of protesting employees of the health care sector, especially in the matter of increasing expenditure on health care.

The Assembly demands that the Members of Parliament make legal changes ensuring openness of the contracts between independent health care centres and sick funds.

The Assembly calls on the Members of Parliament of AWS to urgently introduce to the agenda of the Sejm the project of amending of the act on negotiation system of establishing the increase of average remuneration in companies in order to cover also the employees of independent public health care centres.

Statement on the draft to amend the Teacher’s Charter Act

XIII National Assembly of Delegates of NSZZ “Solidarnosc” objects to the governmental draft changing article 30 of the Teacher’s Charter Act and calls on the trade union Members of Parliament of AWS to reject the draft in order to make it possible to continue the reform of teachers’ remuneration planned for 2000-2002.

Statement on armaments industry

XIII National Assembly of Delegates of NSZZ “Solidarnosc” strongly protests against the policy of the Government of Poland in relation to the companies of armaments and aviation industry.

Declaration of bankruptcy of armaments companies in Pionki (Pronit) and Radom (Lucznik) proves the lack of effectiveness of the Government of Poland in implementating the provisions of the act on support for restructuring the armaments industry and support for technical modernisation of Polish Army.

The Assembly is indignant at the lack of implementation of signed agreements guaranteeing creation of new companies, based on the assets of bankrupt companies, that would take over the production and the majority of workers.

The Assembly calls upon the Government to:

- implement the agreements with the Union on creation of an armaments factory in Radom and other companies included in the agreement,

- use the financial means from the Agency of Industrial Development allocated for creating special production companies in Pionki and Radom and ensure funds necessary for investments in these companies.

Statement on the Labour Fund

XIII National Assembly of Delegates of NSZZ "Solidarnosc" states that the means allocated for the Labour Fund are not sufficient to cover the expenses on active forms of counteracting unemployment and appeals to the Members of Parliament of AWS to increase the dues for the Fund in 2001 in order to settle the liabilities of county authorities for 2000 and ensure the financial means (not less than 30% of the Fund's expenditure) for active forms of counteracting unemployment in 2001.

Statement on the Fund of Guaranteed Workers' Benefits

XIII National Assembly of Delegates of NSZZ "Solidarnosc" states that the amount of contribution for the Fund of Guaranteed Workers' Benefits is insufficient and appeals to the Members of Parliament of AWS to increase it in such a way as to ensure payments of redundancy pay for the workers dismissed due to company reasons.