

X/13/9 P--BRITISH PROFESSORS PROTEST EXPULSION OF WARSAW ACADEMICS

LONDON MAY 6--(RFE SPECIAL/WELLS)--SIXTEEN

BRITISH SCHOLARS HAVE SIGNED A LETTER WHICH APPEARS IN THE TIMES TODAY PROTESTING THE EXPULSION OF SIX PROFESSORS FROM WARSAW UNIVERSITY MARCH 25.

THEIR LETTER REFERS TO A LETTER FROM PHILOSOPHER BERTRAND RUSSELL IN THE TIMES APRIL 6 ON THE SAME SUBJECT AND EXPRESSES THE "DISMAY AND INDIGNATION" OF THE SIGNERS AT THE EXPULSIONS.

IT CONCLUDES WITH AN APPEAL TO THE POLISH GOVERNMENT FOR THE RESTORATION OF THE SIX TO THEIR FORMER POSITIONS AND SAYS IF THIS IS NOT RPT NOT DONE, THE POLISH GOVERNMENT "WILL STAND CONDEMNED BEFORE ACADEMIC OPINION ALL OVER THE WORLD."

HERE IS THE TEXT OF THE LETTER:

"LIKE BERTRAND RUSSELL (THE TIMES, APRIL 6), WE HAVE LEARNT WITH DISMAY AND INDIGNATION OF THE EXPULSION FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW ON MARCH 25 OF SIX EMINENT SCHOLARS, SOME OF THEM INTERNATIONALLY FAMOUS. THEY ARE PROFESSORS BRONISLAW BACZKO, LESZEK KOLAKOWSKI, STEFAN MORAWSKI, ZYGMUNT BAUMAN, MARIA HIRSZOWICZ AND WLODZIMIERZ BRUS. AT THE SAME TIME, THE FORMER MINISTER OF EDUCATION, PROFESSOR STEFAN ZOLKIEWSKI, WAS OUSTED FROM THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE. ALL OF THEM LIKE SOCRATES, HAVE BEEN ACCUSED OF CORRUPTING YOUTH AND THE COMMUNIQUE PUBLISHED IN THE OFFICIAL TRYBUNA LUDU (MARCH 26) STATES THAT "THE HIGHEST INTERESTS OF THE STATE AND THE NATION" REQUIRE THAT THEY SHOULD BE "BARRED FROM INFLUENCING THE EDUCATION OF YOUTH."

(MORE) BMCG/A/11/0948/68

"IN 1956, AT THE TIME OF THE POLISH SPRING IN OCTOBER, KOLAKOWSKI WAS THE CONSCIENCE OF POLISH YOUTH. BRUS WAS ONE OF THE FIRST, IF NOT THE FIRST, ECONOMIST IN THE WHOLE OF EASTERN EUROPE TO PROPOSE THE IDEA OF ECONOMIC REFORM, AN IDEA WHICH WAS LATER TAKEN UP IN SO MANY OTHER COUNTRIES OF THIS AREA (BUT STIFLED IN POLAND). IT IS IRONICAL THAT AT THE VERY MOMENT WHEN THE STRUGGLE FOR POLITICAL LIBERTY AND ECONOMIC RATIONALITY IS SO SUCCESSFULLY PROMOTED BY THE CZECH INTELLECTUALS, THEIR POLISH COLLEAGUES WHO SHARE THEIR ATTITUDES AND IDEALS, AND WHO WERE THE FIRST IN THE FIELD TO MAKE A BID FOR FREEDOM, SHOULD BE PENALIZED FOR BEING FAITHFUL TO THEIR CONVICTIONS AND BE EXPELLED FROM THE UNIVERSITY. THESE SCHOLARS ARE KNOWN TO SOME OF US PERSONALLY. DURING THE LAST 12 YEARS THEY HAVE BECOME FAMILIAR AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND WESTERN UNIVERSITIES TO MANY OF THEIR PROFESSIONAL COLLEAGUES, WHO HAVE THE HIGHEST REGARD FOR THEIR SCHOLARLY STANDARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS. THEIR BOOKS HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED IN THIS COUNTRY AS WELL AS IN AMERICA AND WESTERN EUROPE AND HAVE BEEN TRANSLATED INTO MANY LANGUAGES.

"WE APPEAL TO THE POLISH GOVERNMENT TO RESTORE THESE SCHOLARS TO THEIR FORMER ACADEMIC POSITIONS AND TO PROVIDE THEM WITH THE CONDITIONS OF WORK WHICH ARE COMPATIBLE WITH CIVILIZED STANDARDS. IF IT IS NOT DONE, THIS GOVERNMENT WILL STAND CONDEMNED BEFORE ACADEMIC OPINION ALL OVER THE WORLD.

"YOURS FAITHFULLY,

H.B. ACTON,	A. HEADLAM-MORLEY,
S.L. ANDRESKI,	R.H. PEAR,
A.J. AYER,	
R.C. CROSS,	A. QUINTON,
R. FLETCHER,	J. REX,
M. FREEDMAN,	I. SCHAPERA,
M. GASKIN,	E. SHILS,
J. GOULD,	HUGH THOMAS,
C. LEWY,	A.G. WENHAM."

BMCG/A

1000/68

MAY 6 1957

X/13/9-- 2ND ADD BRITISH PROFESSORS (CN 36) XXX WENHAM

THE POSTS HELD BY THE SIGNATORIES TO THE LETTER ARE
AS FOLLOWS:

H.B. ACTON--PROFESSOR OF MORAL PHILOSOPHY, EDINBURGH
UNIVERSITY

S.L. ANDREWSKI--PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY, READING UNIVERSITY

A.J. AYER--PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY, NEW COLLEGE,
OXFORD UNIVERSITY

R.C. CROSS--PROFESSOR OF LOGIC, ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY

R. FLETCHER--PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY, YORK UNIVERSITY

M. FREEDMAN--PROFESSOR OF ANTHROPOLOGY LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

M. GASKIN--PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL ECONOMY, ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY

J. GOULD--PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY, NOTTINGHAM UNIVERSITY

C. LEWY--LECTURER IN PHILOSOPHY, TRINITY COLLEGE,
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A. G. WERNHAM--PROFESSOR OF MORAL PHILOSOPHY, ABERDEEN
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