

Report on a Working Conference [of Opposition Leaders]

1 September 1988

A report from a working conference

At a meeting held on 1 September 1988, chaired by Prof. Andrzej Stelmachowski, there was a discussion on preparations to a possible “Roundtable.” Participants in the discussion were: B. Geremek, P. Czarotorski, M. Krol, H. Wujec, A. Michnik, J. Kuron, S. Grabska, K. Sliwinski, T. Gruszecki, R. Bugaj, J. Moskwa, A. Wielowieyski, K. Wojcicki, H. Bortnowska, Z. Grzelak.

Differences of opinion among the participants concerned mostly the degree of to which emphasis should be placed on the [legal] registration of “Solidarity” as opposed to the preparation of broader topics of possible future talks. Attention was drawn to the danger of too wide a range of topics, which might water down the cause of “Solidarity.” In this connection it has been agreed that it is necessary to prepare a detailed schedule of negotiations, in which the question of “Solidarity” would be awarded the first place.

Another matter discussed was the status of social participants in the “Roundtable” discussions. It has been acknowledged that it has to be precisely defined.

In the course of the meeting M. Krol submitted a report on his talk with Minister Kiszczak, and P. Czarotorski described the situation in Silesia.

As a result of the discussion it has been agreed:

1. The point of departure for the preparations for the talks is a document submitted by L. Walesa on 25 August 1988, in which three major areas for talks have been formulated: unions, pluralism of associations, and economic and political reforms;
2. The date for the meeting of the so-called Group of 60 was set for 9 October 1988 in Gdansk (still to be agreed with L. Walesa);
3. The formation of topical groups, which were to prepare papers for the Gdansk meeting, as well as for future talks conducted by L. Walesa. The following groups have been set up:
 - a group for trade union matters (Kuron, Merkel, Malanowski, Wujec, Rosner, Milczanowski);
 - a group for economic questions (Wielowieyski, Gruszecki, Bugaj—with an invitation to G. Janowski for agricultural matters);
 - a group for pluralism of associations (Geremek, Szaniawski, Paszynski, Bratkowski and possibly M. Krol—future systemic questions).

It has been agreed that further topical groups should be established, which would cooperate with a group of “Solidarity” advisors. Among other things, the question of youth and generational differences should be brought up.

The question of contacts, the press and other media was entrusted to J. Moskwa, and the preparation of papers for discussion in Gdansk—to K. Wojcicki.

[Source: Andrzej Stelmachowski Papers. Translated by Jan Chowaniec for CWIHP.]