

POZNAN DEFENSE INVOKES MARXISM

Dialectics Employed to Join Background to the Riots as Mitigating Factor

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POZNAN, Poland, Oct. 9—A Communist lawyer turned Marxist dialectics against the prosecution in the Poznan riot trials today.

Julian Wojciak, former secretary of the Poznan Communist lawyers' party cell, invoked the principles of Marx in defense of nine men charged with attacking the headquarters of the secret police and committing other criminal acts last June 28.

Mr. Wodciak made one of the major defense speeches before the trial was recessed to await judgment and sentences on Friday. He contended that the prosecution's effort to separate the riots from the strike and demonstration by workers was a mockery of Marxist theories.

Marxism teaches that nothing can be dealt with as an isolated matter, Mr. Wojciak asserted. In Marxist terms, he added, the prosecution's contention is an absurdity because "Marxism demands a comprehensive, dynamic and dialectical explanation" of the events last June.

This was a new twist in the defense's repeated and, in the main, successful tactic of linking the social, political and economic circumstances directly to the riots.

At no time during the trials, now nearing the end of their second week, has the defense been as vigorous, telling and bold as it was in today's summing-up speeches.

Mr. Wojciak's Marxist reasoning on the connection between

the workers' demonstration and the riots was disputed by Wieslaw Klinczak, one of the prosecutors in the case. To link the two, he said, is "neither Marxist dialectics nor a comprehension of justice and truth."

This last was a reference to a defense appeal for justice and truth—"justice for the accused and truth for history." The final speaker for the defense urged the court to "let sense be the expression of reconciliation between the Government and the people."

For the prosecution, Mr. Klinczak said that the crimes of the accused men were not necessarily a consequence of the workers' demonstration. The defendants are on trial for their actions, not for their backgrounds, he said, continuing:

"They divorced themselves from the working class by their criminal activity. They dirtied the demonstration of the working class."

'Bureaucracy' Is Attacked

The prosecution demanded that judgment and sentences be given under the 1946 emergency criminal code, rather than under the more lenient prewar code also in existence, as the defense suggested.

The first major verdicts, announced yesterday in the trial of three young men accused of having murdered a member of the secret police, were within the framework of the prewar code. The three received relatively light sentences.

The prosecution, however, has tried to make the present case more specifically one of a crime against the state. If leniency is exercised toward the defendants in this trial, it can be expected in the other trials as well.

Defense counsel spoke of the defendants, eight youths and a man 35 years old, as "scapegoats" or "small fry" who were being made to pay for official blunderings.

"Those truly responsible are

to be found in the high bureaucracy and officialdom which have become almost hereditary," Mr. Wojciak said. He traced what he described as the three different versions of the causes of the riots given out by the authorities.

First, he said, even the demonstrations were described as an imperialist maneuver provoked from abroad. Next, reactionary elements were said to have used the economic difficulties of the workers. And now, he went on, there was the prosecution's thesis of isolated criminal activity.

Mr. Wojciak declared that the men on trial were "only a symbol of what occurred * * * they thought they were doing the right thing."

He continued:

"The crowd concentrated all its hatred on the U. B. [secret police] and its building. The U. B. was for them symbolic of

the crimes of the Stalin period." Another defense attorney, Wieslaw Trojanowski, said, "We have been conditioned for years to say certain things were good for the working class when it was not true at all. To act against such fictions was to act against the regime."

All the defendants made brief statements before the court recessed. Seven pleaded guilty to at least part of the charges. The other two maintained their complete innocence and asked to be acquitted.