

with technology transfers — primarily in the fields of oil drilling and well completion. Canadian equipment not normally available would also be provided for increased performance in well "servicing, completion and stimulation."

POLAND

Hunger Strikers

Throughout June, three Polish hunger strikers were stationed before the Polish consulate in Toronto, Ontario, in an attempt to secure for their families exit visas from the Polish government. The three men — Wladyslaw Sliwa, Zigmunt Augustyniak and Grazyna Trzesicka — received the support of MP David Crombie (PC, Rosedale) in the House of Commons June 14. Mr. Crombie requested that the Canadian government, in order to bring more pressure to bear on Polish authorities, contact other signatories to the Helsinki Accord and have them urge Poland to grant exit visas. He was answered by then-External Affairs Minister Allan MacEachen, who stated that official Canadian "representations" had been made with respect to the situation. He added that although the Canadian government had indicated its "readiness to receive the members of the strikers' families," the Polish authorities had "declined to reverse the decisions they have already made." However, Mr. MacEachen expressed the hope that Poland, which had in the past been "cooperative in responding to family reunification cases," would reinforce such an "open attitude" with positive "action" in this particular case. He concluded by saying that he would give consideration to Mr. Crombie's suggestion for joint action by Helsinki Accord signatories, but doubted that such a step "would be effective."

In the House on June 18, Mr. MacEachen was requested by Aideen Nicholson (Lib., Trinity) that the Government press Poland for an extension of visa approval to include all three hunger strikers' families. The External Affairs Minister responded that while Mr. Augustyniak's family had been granted approval for passports, they would not receive them until the strike had ended. He assured Ms. Nicholson that the Government would continue to press for active attention to family reunification issues.

On June 26, Jesse P. Flis (Lib., Parkdale-High Park) indicated in the House that he and a group of fellow parliamentarians had met with the Polish Ambassador in an attempt to assist in the resolution of the visa difficulties. Mr. Flis asked the External Affairs Minister whether he would meet with the Polish Ambassador in order to establish "guidelines for speeding up the reunification of these divided families." Mr. MacEachen stated that a meeting was imminent. He would, at that time, endeavor to "reinforce the concerns" expressed by the parliamentarians and would also seek a means to avoid a "repetition" in future.

Mr. MacEachen again stressed his support for a bilateral approach to the problem when asked that same day by John Bosley (PC, Don Valley West) to reconsider an application to Helsinki Accord signatories. He stressed that among Eastern European countries, Poland's record in

family reunification cases had, in the past, proved "quite sensitive to Canadian representations." The Minister added that he would press for a "sympathetic approach to the humanitarian aspects of these cases." He portrayed Poland's hesitation to issue the visas as an attempt to refrain from "rewarding strikes which are undertaken . . . while cases are being examined by their authorities."

Spokesman for the protestors, Les Prusinski, told reporters that "quiet diplomacy" had not proved effective. He stated that coverage of the case had been noted within Poland, indicating that the Polish authorities would attempt to use the strike as an example to forestall further confrontations. Poland wants "to make it a showcase, to show that they won't give in to them," he added (*The Citizen*, June 28).

The physician attending and monitoring the strikers, Zygmunt Jancelewicz, stated that their condition by the end of June was serious and rapidly deteriorating. Irreparable damage to liver, kidneys and heart were possible in view of the length of the hunger strike, then nearing its fortieth day. Dr. Jancelewicz noted that all three strikers had been living off their muscles after the first week of the hunger strike because of their already slim condition (*The Citizen*, June 29).

The strike ended June 29, without the strikers achieving a commitment from Polish authorities to issue visas. (Poland had previously announced its refusal to consider applications until the strike had ended.) However, the Polish Embassy in Ottawa issued a news release July 2 which stated that the decision to end the strike had been "sensible." Jacques Beaulne, deputy director of the Department of External Affairs Soviet and East European division, was reported as stating that the department would "pursue . . . very firmly" a resolution to the issue (*Globe and Mail*, July 3).

Despite some early reports that an agreement with the Polish authorities had been reached before the end of the strike, later sources, including the Polish Embassy in Ottawa, indicated that no such agreement was in effect. The Embassy reiterated that consideration of the visa applications would commence with the strike's end. However, the strikers expressed optimism that a positive decision was imminent. They mentioned the possibility of continuing the hunger strike should negotiations prove unsuccessful (*Globe and Mail*, July 4).

By mid-July, Polish authorities had notified the federal government through the Polish Ambassador Andrzej Kacala that two members of the hunger strike team (Augustyniak and Sliwa) would be reunited with their families by the end of August. The family of the third striker (Trzesicka) would be considered for emigration and would be "exempted from certain provisions of Polish law applied in their cases and will have their situations reviewed in the near future" (*The Citizen*, July 12).

PORTUGAL

Diplomatic Appointment

The appointment of former Liberal MP Bryce Mackasey as Ambassador to Portugal, an appointment made