



## **Posłanie Ryszarda Siwca - Tłumaczenie angielskie**

The history of Poland teaches us that those<sup>[1]</sup> ideas were killed during the last two hundred years by various means: murder, terror, corruption, meanness and especially slander, lies and hatred spread by those who aspire to progress. It is true, however, that one cannot kill an idea. Millions of Poles were murdered, tormented and hounded, but the idea of progress, democracy, humanism and tolerance cannot be killed. A man can be killed. Ideas – never.

Today, when our children, brothers and sisters in the whole Poland shout out loud, “Constitution, democracy, socialism, freedom”, there is an enormous responsibility falling on you. You have to choose, and the choice is hard and difficult because you have to stop calling your own interest the common good, the good of People’s Poland or socialism. There are only two roads: the tough and difficult road of truth and the easy one of hypocrisy. If you choose the truth, you have to take sides with progress, with reforms in the fossilized and dogmatic system and with the democratization of true socialism. You will gain the support of at least 95 per cent of Poles. You have to speak in defence of those who have socialism hammered into their heads by the militia and those who are chased by police dogs set by their compatriots and convinced with the use of tear gas and water cannons. You have to rise to the defence of young people, who are like stones thrown on the barricades by God, on the barricades of ignorance, obscurantism, dogmatism, reaction and backwardness.

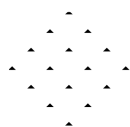
If you choose this road, you should be praised and honoured forever. And if you, journalists and columnists, continue to follow your current line, the one of meanness, wickedness, lies, kicking others when they are already down, crushing the wounded, witch-hunting, slandering and defiling everything that is noble, high and patriotic for your own convenience and in the name of your own lucrative positions and opportunism hidden with embarrassment behind social interest, the common good and dry speeches, you will face everlasting disgrace and contempt of the current and future generations. The price of this contempt, as it has turned out, is set to “merely” ten or twenty thousand zlotys per month or more, cars, trips abroad and holiday resorts, but who pays for this, at whose cost is all that?



A well-established principle says that the truth has to be eventually revealed. The truth – as an immortal idea – cannot be killed by neither empty speeches nor nuclear bombs. You can choose an easier and more convenient road, the one taken by Siciński, Radziejowski, Radzwiłł, the Targowica Confederation or other brawlers standing against progress and democracy. They also called their own egoistic interests the good of the state, the good of the society or the common good, the good of the nation and the only road for true patriots. They claimed that they act in the name of good and in defence of denied freedoms and their aggrieved brothers. History and their contemporaries pronounced a clear judgment on them. Shame on those traitors forever! Choose the road taken by Kościuszki, Kołłataj and Niemcewicz: a hard, difficult and rocky road. A great nation can fall, but only a despicable one can die. Prove that we are not a despicable nation and choose wisely! SOS! Save the most beautiful traditions of our nation: tolerance, respect for others, the freedom of conscience and the freedom of thought and opinion.

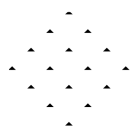
Writers, intellectuals, professors, students and the Polish youth! Praise be to all of you forever! You will be an example of patriotism, dedication, nobleness and faithfulness to the ideals of freedom and respect for others as long as the Polish language can be heard in the world. You, Polish youth and students, who are not romantics but clear-headed and realistic successors of your romantic predecessors, radiant Filaretas and Philomaths, you will always be an example to follow in the fight for freedom, socialism and democratization, for the most noble ideals of humankind! The memory of your uprising will last forever. You have succumbed to brutal, physical violence and terror, but you will always be winners in spirit. You have filled in another beautiful page in our history, and you will be followed by others. And you, journalists and columnists, served a very shameful and wicked role during demonstrations and March events and now, during the invasion of Czechoslovakia, free Poles – because freedom and the truth have to win – will mention you as traitors and renegades with embarrassment. You have chosen eternal disgrace.

To the rulers and owners of the Soviet Union, to the working masses, peasants and workers of the Soviet Union, to writers, intellectuals and the intelligentsia of the Soviet Union and to young people, the future of all nations! (...)



Your rulers justify your poverty on the grounds of the need to arm themselves for the fight against imperialism. Does granting freedom, independence and sovereignty to all dominions, almost all colonies in the world, especially the English, French, Belgian and Dutch ones mean imperialism? No! Who entered into a friendship pact with fascist Germany, starting the Second World War as a result? Stalin, the liberator and imperialist. Who led his army into the sovereign, free and independent territories of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia and – using provocation – deprived their governments of independence, freedom and sovereignty and finally incorporated them into his imperium? Stalin, the rescuer and imperialist! Who invaded the small, peaceful Finland and almost lost in this fight between David and Goliath? Who annexed a part of its territories and incorporated it into his imperium? Stalin, the liberator and imperialist! Who took Bessarabia, Bukovina and Moldavia from Romania and incorporated them into his imperium? Stalin, the liberator and the biggest imperialist!

Which countries or territories were annexed by western imperialists after the end of the Second World War, after Germany and Japan had been defeated? None! Who came to power in the countries liberated by western imperialists? The authorities chosen in free elections, in which one has truly a choice and does not just throw a printed sheet of paper into the ballot box. They are the representatives of the majority and sometimes even form national unity with the communists. You do not understand that! You cannot. Throughout your whole history, you have never been truly free, you do not understand freedom at all. The October Revolution replaced your despotic tsar with tyrant Stalin, who does not answer to anyone. It replaced your masters with cruel and ruthless rules of heartless bureaucracy. The revolution eventually gave you only a false freedom, the freedom of doing evil, the freedom of denunciation and the freedom of revenge. Just as before, you continue to be slaves even after the revolution. It is only your new owners that keep stubbornly convincing you that you are free now! You, the working class, have been deprived of all those rights that are normally granted to workers in the whole world. You have been deprived of the right to strike, to your own trade unions independent of the government, to form associations to your liking and to manifestations.

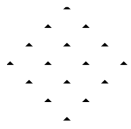


The exploitation of man by other men, against whom one could always defend, has been replaced by the exploitation of man by the state, capitalism and a monster one cannot even defend against. You have been made slaves. You, peasants, have been deprived of your own pieces of land and sent to kolkhozes. From five to six million people died of hunger in 1930–1933, during the obligatory collectivization in Ukraine, a true granary of Russia and Europe. You have been deprived of your land, which granted you some independence from the state. The exploitation by landowners, from which one could eventually escape, has been replaced with the exploitation by one landowner – the state, a monster and owner of all lands. You have been turned into drudges that will always be tied to the land and cannot even escape to the city without a special permission and evidence. You are defenceless against the state. You are being told that this is freedom, that freedom means a full stomach, a pair of shoes, untorn trousers, a sack for the night, a room to live in or even a watch on your wrist. They call hell on earth a paradise and freedom. Freedom is – according to your rulers – the freedom in praising the party, its current party line and all of its doings. This is the first freedom.

What about the second one?

It is freedom in condemning imperialists, counter-revolutionaries, the bourgeoisie and all those whom the party tells you to condemn. This is the second freedom. And finally there is the freedom of self-reproach for not praising the party enough and not condemning the imperialists enough – this is the third freedom!

And in the past? The freedom of the past was that of rape, plunder, murder (with the tsar's permission of course), putting whole cities to the sword (Nowogród), butchering Polish rebels (the Massacre of Praga) and lords (the lords' slaughter) and pogroms of Jews (an invention of the Russians, counter-revolutionaries), the bourgeoisie and people's enemies, that is everyone who thought otherwise than demanded by the ruling clique. What caused the deportation and murder of forty million people, their own innocent citizens, in 1918–1967? In the name of what and why was this done? For you, poor and lost peasants and workers, stupefied and terrorized by persistent propaganda, freedom means being able to do evil; you do not know or understand any other freedom because no one has ever told you about it. Because you have never experienced true freedom.



“The freedom of freedoms” has always been considered a crime by your subsequent rulers and owners. Your rulers are turning you into heartless, mindless machines for carrying out production plans and for joining spontaneous organisations and demonstrations prepared by your tyrants. You have no influence on anything. You are just despised and ignored. You never choose anyone. Your role in elections is limited to putting a sheet of paper with a list of people that have already been set and appointed as members of parliament, delegates and deputies to the ballot box. You cannot even protest against participation in this ballot-paper farce because even if you do, there will be a car coming for you to take you to the polling station so that you can in the end put the sheet of paper in the box. All noble feelings and habits have been suppressed in you for fifty years, including such concepts as the freedom of opinion, freedom of your own point of view, freedom of criticism, freedom from fear, freedom of going abroad, freedom of changing your place of residence and seeking the truth and something better, loftier. For you, these are all empty, incomprehensible concepts with no specific meaning. The only thing you have been taught is telling brazen lies. Your tsar and tsarist Russia have been called the gendarme of Europe, the gendarme of the nation, and you also follow this naming. Do you want those “human remains” that might survive the nuclear war your rulers could cause to call you the butchers of the nations and the murderers of the world? How could have everything that is good and noble be turned into evil by your rulers? What was the cause and the driving force behind replacing love with hatred and building such a terrible imperium of evil on its debris? There is just one answer. This evil is driven by addictive power, power as an aim in itself, absolute, ultimate, limitless and ruthless power that does not accept any criticism and shows no consideration for others. According to us, Christians, striving for such power caused the rebellion of angels against God. People! People! Wake up! Young people, the future of the nation, do not allow them to murder you every twenty years so that various schisms rule the world! Do not allow them to murder you so that this or that group of people can come to absolute power! People, you have not yet forgotten the most beautiful word in the world: “mother”! There might still be a trace of human feelings in you! Wake up! Listen to me! Listen to my voice, the voice of a regular man in the street, a son of a nation that has loved their own and others’ freedom more than anything in the world, more than their own life! Wake up! It is not too late yet!