

Polish-Canadian Women's Federation

La Fédération des Femmes Polonaises
du Canada

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ZARZĄD GŁÓWNY

September 10, 1982

Norwegian Nobel Committee
c/o Director Jacob Sverdrup, Esq.
Oslo, Norway

Gentlemen:

We have the honour to propose the candidacy of Mr. Lech Waleśa /Polish spelling: Wałęsa/ for the Nobel Peace Prize.

His was a unique achievement in a communist state: he was instrumental in peacefully establishing the independent trade union Solidarity /Solidarność/.

In Poland, as in all states governed by the communists, there has existed a trade-unionism totally subservient to the communist party /the Polish United Labour Party/. As is well known, any autonomous association of workers is anathema to a totalitarian system.

The ground-swell of labour's unrest in Poland in the year 1980 threatened to unleash a bloody confrontation with the government. Nevertheless, on August 31, 1980, due to Mr. Waleśa's charismatic leadership, the Polish workers managed to wrest from the government an agreement in which it yielded to many of their demands, in particular allowing an independent trade union to be organized. Under a communist regime this truly was an extraordinary achievement, the more so as it came about without bloodshed.

Only when Mr. Waleśa was deprived of his freedom on December 13, 1981 because the government interned him, a confrontation with labour ensued and blood was spilt.

His peaceful role as an inspired leader has been acknowledged throughout the whole non-communist world. It is our considered opinion that he merits to be granted the Nobel Peace Prize.

Yours truly

L. Sas-Korczynski

Mrs. Ludwika Sas-Korczynski
President