

REDS UPBRAIDED AT POZNAN TRIAL

Defendant Says They Caused Insanity, Suicide in Family

By **SYDNEY GRUSON**

Special to The New York Times.

POZNAN, Poland, Sept. 29—
A dramatic indictment of communism was made in open court today by a young defendant in the Poznan riot trials.

Twenty-two-year-old Janusz Suwart, one of nine young men accused of having attacked public buildings during the uprising last June, poured out a harrowing tale when the state prosecutor brought out that he had previously served two years in prison for theft.

"I'll tell why I did it!" the slim youth shouted. As the packed courtroom listened spellbound, the silence broken only by the sobbing of relatives of the defendants, this is what he said:

"My father was a pre-war Communist. He spent many years in prison before the war. In 1945 he rejoined the party and worked in the U. B. [Poland's secret police].

"In January, 1952, he was arrested and accused of having worked with the pre-war police. I have known my father twenty-two years. He brought me up as a Socialist.

"He fought for this Govern-

Continued on Page 34, Column 1

The New York Times

Published: September 30, 1956

Copyright © The New York Times

REDS UPBRAIDED AT POZNAN TRIAL

Continued From Page 1

ment, and he was falsely accused.

"Why did I steal in 1953? When my father was arrested, it drove my mother insane. We had no way of living. My brother, who also worked for the U. B., was discharged because of my father, so he committed suicide.

"Until my father was freed under the amnesty in 1954, we had no word from him.

"I was sick. I had chronic skin disease when my father was arrested. My mother could not do anything for herself, and I have two young sisters who could not work. So I had to look for a job. But I could not get work anywhere because I was ill.

"The Communist party turned against us. Our neighbors never liked us because they knew my father was a Communist and was in the U. B. They would not help us.

"My mother went to church to ask for soup. Can you imagine how I felt? Did my family deserve this?

"It was poverty that made me steal. I had no other way out."

The defendant stopped suddenly, took out a handkerchief and wiped his face. His counsel asked only one question: "Are you still a Socialist?"

Suwart, again under control after nearly breaking down, replied firmly:

"Yes. My father brought me up in this spirit. I am a Socialist."

Suwart's father, Adam, a small grizzled man of 67, sat hunched up on a spectators' bench, staring intensely at his son while the boy gave evidence for more than an hour. Young Suwart repudiated his pre-trial confession.

The father, talking to reporters in the corridor during a recess later, told why the boy had confessed in the first place.

"I know how they treat people," the father said. "When I heard that my son was in

trouble, I told him to admit to everything."

The father said he had been tried secretly before a Warsaw military court and had been convicted on false evidence. But he would not talk about his police work before his arrest, saying only that he had been a minor employe and that the rest was "a secret."

He was asked whether he had his party card back again.

"I have not bothered to apply," he replied. "What for?"

The judge read to the son several parts of his pre-trial statement and asked if they were true.

"No," he replied each time.

"Then why did you say it," the judge asked.

"All Poznan was talking about the inhumane treatment of the people who had already been arrested," young Suwart replied.

"Whether you were guilty or not, they made you admit things. I just waited to see what they wanted to accuse me of and then I admitted it."

The tale of confessions forced by police brutality in the early stages of the investigations was continued by 20-year-old Jan Bieganski, a friend of Suwart.

He denied all charges against him except one—that he had passed six bullets to another man.

Bieganski said an interrogating officer had told him he was free to lie as much as he liked as long as he involved others at the suggestion of the police. Of another part of his statement, he said, "a policeman wrote it himself, but it was not true."

Bieganski was the last of the nine accused in this trial to testify.

Leon Olejniczak, 35, the oldest of the defendants, was the first to take the stand today. He pleaded innocent to charges of participating in an attack on the secret police headquarters.

Olejniczak said he had taken cover in a house near the police building when the firing broke out as he was on his way home from work. Ammunition found in his pocket must have been put there by someone else or possibly, he implied, by the soldier who searched him.

Olejniczak told of having heard demonstrators shout: "We want freedom! We want bread!" and at another point that the

"Government in Warsaw has been changed and relations with Russia have been broken."

Meanwhile, in another room of the Poznan courthouse, the trial of three men accused of having murdered a security police corporal during the riots neared its end.

The judge in the murder trial ruled today that statements given by the accused under duress were to be dismissed from the record and could not be used by the prosecution.

Prof. Tadeusz Szczurkiewicz of Poznan, psychologist, testified at the request of the defense counsel on mob psychology. The defense's purpose was to show that the accused had been swept up in an atmosphere of terror and revenge provoked by rumors that the murdered policeman had killed a woman and two children.

The professor introduced a new element. At a meeting of students called early in July to discuss the riots, he said, a university lecturer told of having heard as early as 10 A. M. on June 28 that a secret policeman had murdered a woman and children.

2 Polish Officials Suspended

Special to The New York Times

WARSAW, Sept. 29—Two high Government officials have been suspended pending investigation into their responsibility for the strike of Stalin factory workers in Poznan last June.

It was this strike that led to the riots June 28 when at least fifty-three persons were killed and several hundreds injured.

The officials are Roman Fidelski, former Minister of Machine Industry, and former Vice Minister Dobryniewicz. It was with M. Fidelski that a delegation of Stalin factory workers negotiated unsuccessfully in the week before the strike. According to reports, it was to him that the delegation gave its warning that the workers would take to the streets unless the Government met their demands for tax relief and better economic conditions. The warning went ignored.

After the riots M. Fidelski's ministry was merged with another. He and M. Dobryniewicz received vice-ministers' posts in the new departments, from which they now have been suspended.