POLISH PUBLIC OPINION OCTOBER 2000

ISSN 1233 - 7250

IN THIS ISSUE:

- ATTITUDES OF THE CZECHS, HUNGARIANS, LITHUANIANS AND POLES TO OTHER NATIONS
- POLITICAL SITUATION AFTER THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION
- SHOULD WE WORK SHORTER?
- EATING HABITS AND CULINARY PREFERENCES OF POLES

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ATTITUDES OF THE CZECHS, HUNGARIANS, LITHUANIANS AND POLES TO OTHER NATIONS

In co-operation with public opinion research centers from the Czech Republic, Hungary and Lithuania (IVVM, TARKI, VILMORUS), we have investigated the attitudes to other nations.

In each of these four countries, a different distribution of feelings towards other nations has emerged. These feelings reflect national stereotypes shaped by historical experience. In all four countries, the representatives of the so-called "Western world" are usually liked more than other nations. The Japanese, as a developed democratic nation, also enjoy a similar level of positive feelings. Hungarians, Poles and Czechs quite like one another on the scale from the most to the least liked these nations immediately follow the Western nations. Slovenes and Croats enjoy a similar level of positive feelings. On the other hand, Hungarians, Poles and Czechs like their Eastern neighbours clearly less. The likes and dislikes of the residents of Lithuania differ from the abovedescribed pattern quite significantly (It must be noted that, unlike the other three countries, which are characterised by rather homogeneous population, Lithuania has a significant percentage of national minorities, mainly Russians). Although, as the respondents from the other three countries, they like the "Western" nations the most, contrary to the Hungarians, Poles and Czechs they also have quite positive feelings for Russians, Ukrainians and Belorussians.

There are some other historically shaped differences. Poles like the Americans the most. Hungarians and Lithuanians like them a little less. Czechs are significantly colder in their feelings



LIKES AND DISLIKES AVERAGE VALUES ON THE

for Americans and like the Slovaks the most. Hungarians and Lithuanians prefer the Swedes.

The Gypsies (Romanis) are disliked the most in all four countries that participated in the survey, particularly in the Czech Republic (79%). Hungarians and Lithuanians dislike them slightly less (68% and 69%). Poles dislike them less than other nations participating in the survey, but still over half of respondents (55%) declare their antipathy to Gypsies.

Germans are liked very much by Lithuanians and Hungarians; in both these countries they are among the most liked nations. Two-thirds of Lithuanians and half of Hungarians declare that they like Germans and only 11% and 20%, respectively, dislike them. The attitude towards Germans is much worse in Poland and the Czech Republic, although in Poland positive feelings are declared more frequently than negative ones (44% and 30%). In the Czech Republic this proportion is reversed positive feelings towards Germans are declared by 30% of respondents, antipathy by 43%.

What are the feelings of the nations participating in the survey towards each other? Approximately twofifths of respondents from Hungary, the Czech Republic and Lithuania declare that they like the Poles (40% in the Czech Republic, 44% in Hungary, 43% in Lithuania). Dislike towards Poles is declared by one-fifth of the Hungarians (22%) and almost one-third of Czechs and Lithuanians (30%). Poles are liked relatively the most in Hungary, less in Lithuania and relatively the least in the Czech Republic. These feelings are mutual Poles like the Hungarians the most, Czechs come next and Lithuanians are less liked. In the Czech Republic, the level of liking the Poles and Hungarians is almost the same. Lithuanians are liked a little less. As far as the feelings of Lithuanians are concerned, they like the Hungarians the most. The Czechs are rated a little lower, but still preferred to Poles.

POLITICAL SITUATION AFTER THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

The re-election of Aleksander Kwaśniewski in the first round confirmed the fact that practically none of his opponents could challenge his position. The number of votes obtained by other serious candidates to the office, Andrzej Olechowski and Marian Krzaklewski, was by over one-third smaller than that obtained by the current President. The Poles' reaction to the re-election of Aleksander Kwaśniewski was a little different than their reaction to his first election five years ago. When the former communist party activist was elected as President of Poland in 1995 (after beating Lech Wałęsa in the second round by a narrow margin), Poles reacted with mixed feelings. Apart from satisfaction, such feelings as anxiety, uncertainty and disappointment were also declared quite frequently. After five years of President Kwaśniewski's term, including three years during which the AWS (Solidarity Election Action) - UW (Freedom Union) coalition, ill-disposed towards the President's political background and base, was in power, the reactions to the re-election of the current President are different. Positive reactions of respondents clearly outnumber negative ones.



Despite generally positive attitude, the respondents prefer Aleksander Kwaśniewski to maintain more equal distance to the left and the right than in the past.



A good result of Andrzej Olechowski, a politician who presented himself as an independent candidate, leads to the question what he should do with the relatively high social support that he has won. A greatest group of respondents think that he should remain an independent politician. A smaller percentage would like him to join a political party (the Freedom Union is mentioned the most frequently) or form his own group.



More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report "The attitude to other nations in Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Lithuania", October 2000.

3

The third place of the Solidarity leader Marian Krzaklewski, who was supposed to be the closest competitor of the current President, is treated as a political failure in spite of his 15% of the vote. In the opinion of nearly two-thirds of respondents, Marian Krzaklewski should bear the political consequences of his election result and resign from his position as the AWS leader.



The opinions of Poles as to whether the failure of the candidate of the ruling right-wing parties should result in an early parliamentary election are divided. Two-fifths of respondents (40%) believe that such a decision could only be justified by extraordinary circumstances, which have not taken place. In the opinion of 38%, the change in the political sympathies of Poles should be reflected in the composition of the Parliament. These respondents believe that a new election should be held before the end of the present term of the Parliament.

More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS reports: "After the Presidential election", "The attitude of Poles to Presidential election", October 2000.

SHOULD WE WORK SHORTER?

Not all Polish employees enjoy all free Saturdays currently; for many only one Saturday a month is free. In the draft amendment to the Labour Code, the government proposed to introduce all Saturdays off, at the same time maintaining the 42-hour working week. The Parliamentary commission for social policy has proposed the reduction to 40 hours and added the provision that the shorter work time cannot result in a pay reduction. Those who opt for a shorter work week argue that it will reduce unemployment. The opponents point out (the 5% to 7%) increase of the labour costs.



Most working Poles believe that the current length of working week is adequate and should not be reduced if it would entail a pay reduction.

WOULD YOU SUPPORT A REDUCTION OF WORKING TIME TO 40 HOURS A WEEK IF IT ENTAILED A PAY REDUCTION?:



In the respondents' opinion, the proposed changes are detrimental to employers and the whole economy, but beneficial to employees.



More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report "The 40-hour working week", October 2000.

EATING HABITS AND CULINARY PREFERENCES OF POLES

Only 14% of Poles strictly follow the principles of healthy diet, such as the recommended number of meals during a day (including breakfast) and the recommendation to eat fruit. One-fifth of respondents (21%) eat less than three meals a day. Almost the same percentage (20%) eat breakfast not more frequently than a few times a week. Less than half of Poles (45%) eat fruit between meals every day. Over two-fifths of respondents (43%) declare that sometimes they are hungry because they have no time to eat. 8% eat their main meal at different times of day. Nevertheless, most Poles (76%) believe that they eat healthily.



The eating habits of Poles have changed a great deal over the last ten years. A lot of goods that used to be unavailable or scarce have become readily available. New consumption patterns appeared: imported products became available and Asian dishes (particularly Vietnamese) became the "daily bread" of many city dwellers. However, most respondents still clearly prefer traditional Polish cuisine, which they find tasty. Most women (78%) and over two-fifths of men (44%) like cooking, especially Polish dishes (66%). The Poles eat their meals at home. Only 6% eat out on weekdays and 3% on Sundays and other days off. Fruit and vegetable products appear on our menu (68%) more frequently than meat products (68%), but only 1% of Poles declare that they are vegetarians. Others eat meat at least from time to time.



Low-calorie diets are not very popular. 15% of respondents declare that they have followed some diet aimed at improving their appearance, weight or general condition during the last year. Poles do admit wasting some food. In our kitchens bread (51%), vegetables and fruit preserves (46%) are wasted the most frequently.



More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report "Eating habits and culinary preferences of Poles" October 2000.



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