

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

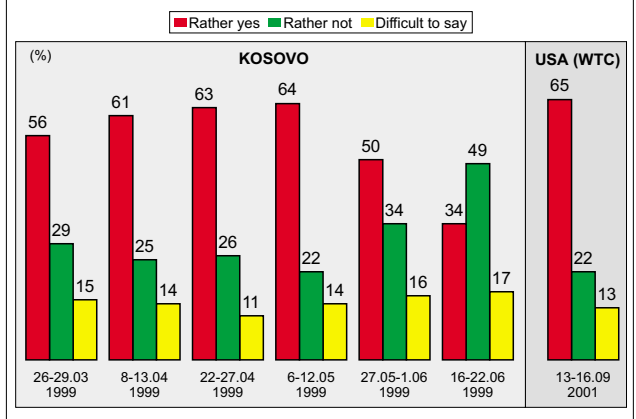
- REACTIONS TO THE TERRORIST ATTACK ON USA AND THE ATTITUDE TO MILITARY INTERVENTION IN AFGHANISTAN
- FOR YEARS OF THE SOLIDARITY ELECTION ACTION (AWS) RULE IN THE SOCIAL OPINION
- THE SOCIAL CLIMATE BEFORE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS, SEPTEMBER 2001
- PROSTITUTION AND TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN

## REACTIONS TO THE TERRORIST ATTACK ON USA AND THE ATTITUDE TO MILITARY INTERVENTION IN AFGHANISTAN

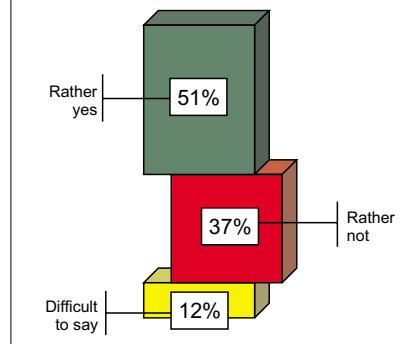
The terrorist attack on the United States caused a feeling of serious threat in the Polish society. Half of the Poles are afraid that Poland can also be attacked by terrorists. Two-thirds do not exclude the possibility that the events in the United States may lead to a global conflict. The fear of global conflict is similar to that observed in April and May 1999 during the NATO intervention in Yugoslavia.

Almost all Poles believe that the whole civilised world will unite to fight terrorism (89%). At the same time the concern that international tension may increase

IN YOUR OPINION, CAN THE EVENTS IN KOSOVO/ USA LEAD TO A GLOBAL CONFLICT OR NOT?



AFTER THE RECENT TERRORIST ATTACKS IN USA, DO YOU BELIEVE THAT POLAND MAY ALSO BECOME A TARGET OF SIMILAR ATTACKS?



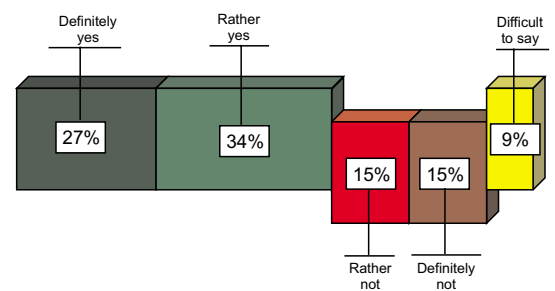
is equally common (89%). As many as three-fifths of the respondents (62%) believe also that terrorism may in fact escalate now in all parts of the world.

In the respondents' opinion, the events of 11 September may also have other long-term negative implications. Over three quarters expect some negative political effects, such as an increase of the tension between Israel and Palestine (79%). Almost the same percentage of the respondents are afraid of growing hatred between the followers of different religions (78%). Slightly more than half of all respondents (56%) believe that the terrorist attacks in the United States will cause an economic crisis.

Most Poles (61%) support the military action of the Americans and British in Afghanistan. In this case, the support is stronger than during the military intervention of NATO in Kosovo (51%).

During the conflict in Kosovo (Poland already was a NATO member then), one-third of the respondents supported possible participation of the Polish soldiers in the NATO action. At present, the support for the participation of Polish troops in the war in Afghanistan is much higher. Shortly after the attack on WTC and Pentagon, over three quarters of the respondents agreed that Poland, as a NATO member, was obliged to participate in the retaliatory campaign. The support decreased after the attack on Afghanistan, but still over half of the respondents approve of the campaign.

ON SUNDAY 7 OCTOBER THE AMERICANS AND BRITISH STARTED A MILITARY ACTION AGAINST TERRORISTS IN AFGHANISTAN. DO YOU SUPPORT THIS ACTION OR NOT?



PUBLIC OPINION RESEARCH CENTER - CBOS -

4a Żurawia  
00-503 Warszawa  
POLAND

Ph: (48 22) 629 35 69  
(48 22) 628 37 04  
(48 22) 693 58 94

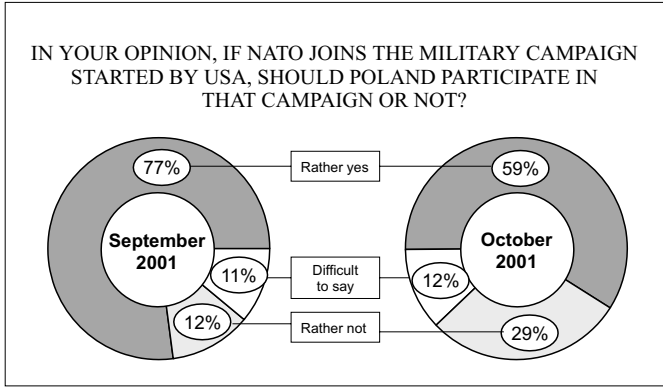
Fax: (48 22) 629 40 89

E-mail: sekretariat@cbos.pl

<http://www.cbos.pl>

© COPYRIGHT BY CBOS 2001

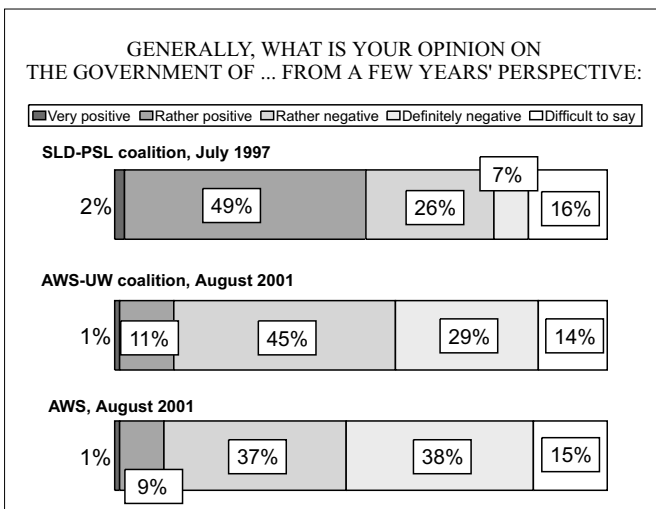
ALL SOURCES MUST BE CREDITED WHEN ANY PART OF THIS PUBLICATION IS REPRODUCED



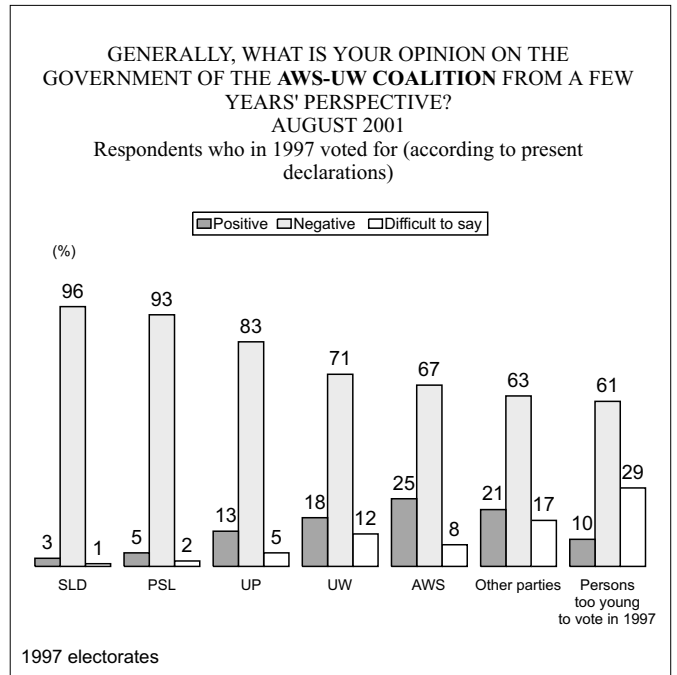
More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS reports "The expected implications of the terrorist attack on USA", "Is Poland threatened by terrorism?", "Support for the intervention in Afghanistan", September, October 2001.

## FOR YEARS OF THE SOLIDARITY ELECTION ACTION (AWS) RULE IN THE SOCIAL OPINION

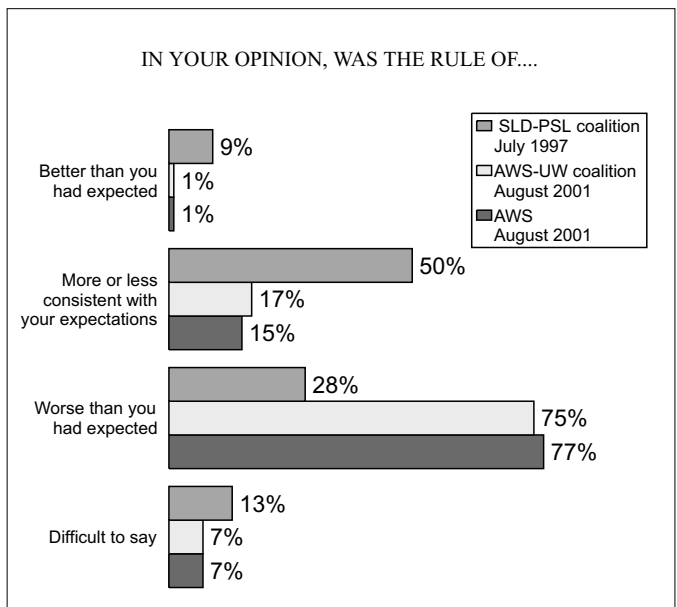
A definite majority of the respondents are greatly disappointed with the four years of the AWS-UW (Solidarity Election Action Freedom Union) coalition government and then the minority AWS cabinet. Three quarters of the respondents criticised both the period when the AWS-UW coalition was in power and the period of the AWS rule (75%). Positive opinions were much less common (12% in the case of the AWS-UW coalition, 10% in the case of AWS). In contrast, eight years ago (before the parliamentary elections of 1997) half of the respondents (51%) had a positive opinion about the outgoing SLD-PSL coalition and only one-third (33%) criticised it.



A majority of the respondents who voted for AWS or UW four years ago now have a negative opinion on the period when the AWS-UW coalition and then AWS alone was in power.

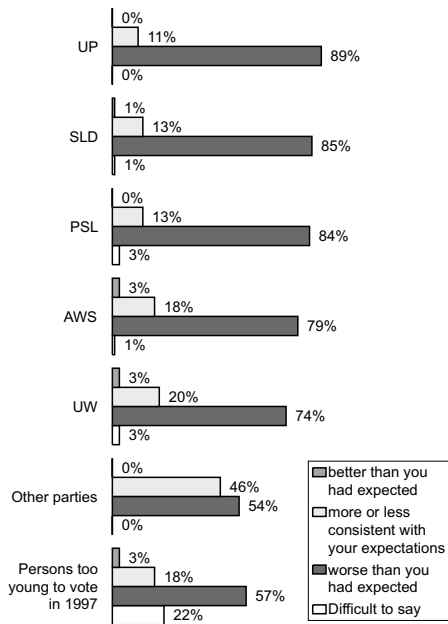


A definite majority of the Poles feel disappointed with the government of the AWS-UW coalition and the minority cabinet of AWS. Four years ago half of the respondents admitted that the SLD-PSL coalition ruled according to their expectations and only slightly more than a quarter were disappointed.



Those who voted for the parties that were in power during the last four years are only a little less disappointed with them than the supporters of the opposition. The supporters of AWS are disappointed slightly more frequently than the supporters of UW. Less than one-fifth of those who voted for AWS in 1997 say that the AWS-UW coalition ruled more or less as they had expected. Almost four-fifths evaluate the government of that coalition as worse than they expected.

IN YOUR OPINION, WAS THE RULE OF THE AWS-UW COALITION... Respondents who in 1997 voted for (according to present declarations)

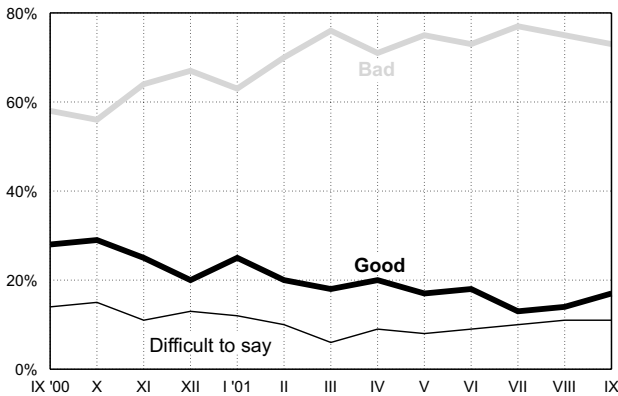


More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report "Opinions on the parties that were in power during the last eight years at the end of their term", September 2001.

### THE SOCIAL CLIMATE BEFORE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS, SEPTEMBER 2001

This year's parliamentary elections were held in a particularly bad social atmosphere. In the months preceding the elections, the social opinions on the development of the situation in Poland were exceptionally negative. The economic situation of the country and the material situation of households were also criticised very strongly.

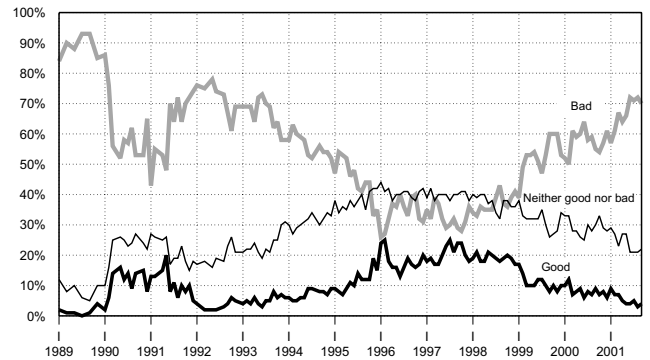
GENERALLY SPEAKING, IS THE SITUATION IN POLAND HEADING IN A GOOD OR BAD DIRECTION?



A week before the elections, almost three-quarters of the Poles (73%) believed that the situation in Poland was heading in a bad direction and only one-sixth (17%) believed the opposite.

The economic situation of Poland has been criticised very strongly since June 2001 (70% of critical opinions, only 4% of positive ones). 40% of the employees are afraid of losing their jobs. Nearly one-third of the working respondents (31%) described the situation at their workplace as good. The same proportion (31%) described it as bad.

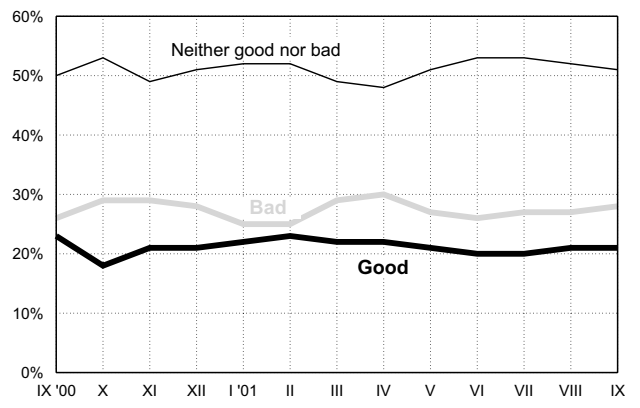
HOW DO YOU GENERALLY EVALUATE THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION IN POLAND? IS IT:



"Difficult to say" answers were disregarded

The opinions about the standard of living of households have deteriorated. In September, almost two-fifths of the respondents (38%) evaluated it as bad, almost half (47%) as average and more than one-seventh (15%) described it as good. The number of respondents satisfied with their conditions of living was the lowest in six years.

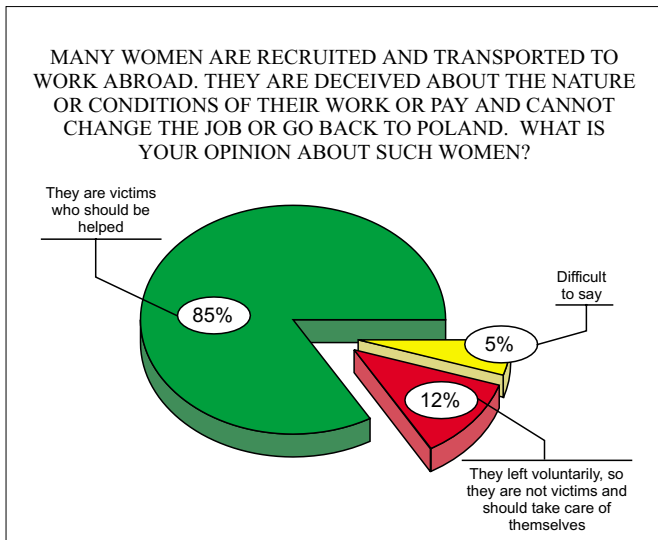
ARE THE PRESENT LIVING CONDITIONS OF YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY:



More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report: "Social moods before the elections", "Political party preferences a week before the elections", "Opinions of the electorates of political parties", September-October 2001.

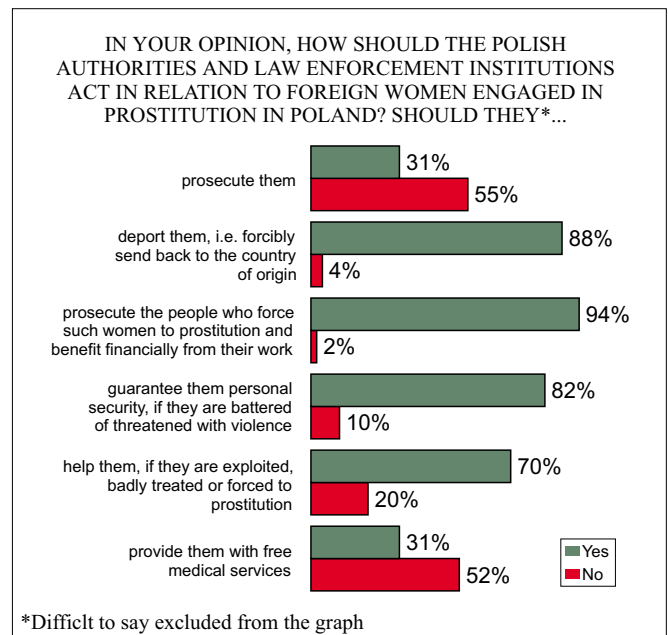
## PROSTITUTION AND TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN

Trafficking of women is not a new phenomenon in Poland, but it has increased considerably since the early 1990s. The most common form of trafficking is the recruitment of women by press advertisements offering well-paid jobs abroad and then forcing them to prostitution by threats, blackmail or physical force.



Most respondents believe that the victims of trafficking in women should be helped. The most frequently mentioned institution that could be asked for such help is a Polish diplomatic mission. The foreign police is mentioned rarely, maybe in connection with a common belief that illegal workers abroad are liable to a heavy fine or even imprisonment. As far as foreign women engaged in prostitution in Poland are concerned, most respondents also believe that they should be helped.

Almost all respondents believe that people forcing foreign women to prostitution in Poland and benefiting from their work should be prosecuted. However, almost one-third of the respondents believe that the women should also be prosecuted. Most respondents say that such women should be deported. At the same time, most respondents believe that the Polish authorities and law enforcement institutions should guarantee personal safety for foreign prostitutes working in Poland who are battered or threatened with violence and help them if they are forced to prostitution. However, over half of the respondents are against free medical services for such women.



More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report "Knowledge and opinions on trafficking of women", September 2001.

### In addition to the reports referred to above, the following have been published recently (in Polish):

- ◆ About the ban on drinking alcohol outdoors
- ◆ Interest in the elections, certainty of voting, preferences of the undecided
- ◆ The Poles' attitudes to the crime in Jedwabne changes in the social awareness
- ◆ Vulgarisms in the everyday language of Poles
- ◆ Do we lack culture in everyday life?

For more information on CBOS services and publications please contact:

CBOS POLAND  
4a, Żurawia, 00-503 Warsaw  
Phones: (48 22) 629 35 69, 628 37 04  
Fax: (48 22) 629 40 89

E-mail: sekretariat@cbos.pl

Http://www.cbos.pl

Yearly subscription rate for "Polish Public Opinion" is 80 USD

CBOS expertise in providing professional, accurate and timely research studies has made us the leading authority in political, social and consumer research in Poland.