

= Mieczysław Jagielski =

Mieczysław Jagielski (12 January 1924 ? 27 February 1997) was a Polish politician and economist . During the times of the People 's Republic of Poland he was the last leading politician from the former eastern regions of pre @-@ Second World War Poland .

Jagielski became a communist deputy to the legislative body of Poland , the Sejm , in 1957 , and he would continue to serve in that capacity for seven consecutive terms until 1985 . In 1959 , he was posted to be a member of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers ' Party and appointed to be the Minister of Agriculture . After he left his position as Minister of Agriculture in 1970 , Jagielski became a Deputy Prime Minister , and the next year , a member of the Politburo of the Polish United Workers ' Party . In August 1980 , Jagielski represented the government during talks with strikers in the city of Gdańsk . He negotiated the agreement which recognized Solidarity , a Polish trade union , as the first officially recognized independent trade union within the Eastern Bloc . Between August 1980 and August 1981 , Jagielski continued to interact with representatives of Polish workers , though his health was declining during this period . In late July 1981 , Jagielski was fired from the Deputy Premiership , reportedly because he failed to produce a recovery program for the economic crisis Poland was experiencing at that time . The same year , he left his membership of the Political Bureau of the Polish United Workers Party and the Central Committee . He died in Warsaw , Poland from a heart attack at the age of 73 .

= = Early political career = =

Jagielski was born to a peasant family on 12 January 1924 , in Kołomyja , Poland (Second Polish Republic) (now Kolomyia , Ukraine) . He spent the Second World War as an agricultural laborer on the farm of his parents . After the war he finished studies at the Main School of Planning and Statistics as well as in the Instytut Kształcenia Kadr Naukowych (Institute of Preparing Science Cadres) , the latter being a graduate school preparing people for prominent positions in the Polish communist party structures .

Jagielski signed up to the Polish Workers ' Party (PPR) in 1944 , or in 1946 (sources vary) . When the Polish Worker 's Party transformed into the Polish United Workers Party (PZPR) in 1948 , he became a member of the new party . From 1946 to 1949 , Jagielski served on the Central Board of the Związek Samopomocy Chłopskiej (Association of Peasant Self @-@ Help) , a communist organization designed to take control of the countryside . From 1950 to 1952 he was on the Central Board of the State Agricultural Farms and from December 1952 to December 1953 he was a deputy director of that institution . In December 1953 , he became the Director of the Agricultural Department of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers Party , a position he would hold until December 1956 .

In March 1954 , he became a deputy to a member of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers Party and would retain this position until March 1959 . As a result of the January 1957 Polish legislative elections , Jagielski was appointed as a deputy to the Sejm , the Polish legislative body . In January of that year , he also became the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and was appointed as the Minister of Agriculture in October 1959 , a position he would hold until June 1970 . In March 1959 , he was appointed a full member of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers Party (he was previously a deputy to a full member) . In June 1964 , he became a deputy to a member of the Politburo of the Polish United Workers ' Party and would hold that position until December 1971 .

Jagielski was also an economist , specializing in issues of agricultural economics . Beginning in 1975 , he held a professorship in the Main School of Planning and Statistics in Warsaw .

= = Deputy Prime Minister = =

In June 1970 , Jagielski was appointed as a Deputy Prime Minister (thus ending his tenure as the Minister of Agriculture and becoming the Deputy of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of

Poland) , and in December 1971 he became a full member of the Politburo of the Polish United Workers ' Party (he was previously a deputy to an existing member) . On 26 October 1971 , he became the Chairman of the Planning Committee of the Council of Ministers . On 23 October 1975 , he was relieved of his post as Chairman of the Planning Committee after he suffered a severe heart attack . From 1971 to 1981 he was the Polish representative in the Comecon . In February 1981 he became the president of the Economy Committee at the Council of Ministers .

He is described as having a " profound influence " on Poland 's economic policies between 1971 and 1975 , when he lost his position as Chairman of the Planning Committee . On 1 July 1980 , the Polish government announced price increases , which led to many workers striking in several Polish cities , including Lublin . As a result of the strike in Lublin , the city was " virtually shut down " , and Jagielski led a delegation to the city which was able to ease tension there .

= = = Gda?sk negotiations = = =

Gda?sk became the focal point of the strike movement . On 21 August 1980 , Mieczys?aw Jagielski replaced Tadeusz Pyka to lead a Polish government commission which was negotiating with strikers there . The strikers were represented by the Inter @@ Enterprise Strike Committee , which was demanding that the workers it represented be given better rights , including better rights to strike . On 26 August meeting with representatives of the strikers at the Lenin Shipyard in Gda?sk , Jagielski promised that the right to strike would be added to a new law on the official trade unions of Poland . After 5 more days of difficult negotiations , a settlement was reached between the strikers and the government , known as the Gda?sk agreement . Norman Davies contends that Jagielski " in the end realised that only two alternatives remained [to a general government victory in the negotiations] -either agreement on the strikers ' terms or an immediate resort to force for which the government was not prepared . " The agreement , as well as giving the workers of the Lenin Shipyard the right to strike , also allowed them to form their own independent trade union . Jagielski said of the negotiations that led to the agreement , " We have spoken as Poles to Poles ... There are no winners and losers . The important thing here is that we have understood each other and the best guarantee for what we have done is hard work . " He was reported to have spoken eloquently .

= = = After the Gda?sk negotiations = = =

In October 1980 , he interacted with a delegation of Solidarity members that included Lech Wa??sa , future President of the Third Republic of Poland . When Wa??sa complained that the Polish government was not keeping to its promise of allowing the independent labour movement enough of an opportunity to publicize itself , Jagielski indicated that he would try to give the movement better access to the Polish press , and to the Polish radio network . Jagielski led a delegation that went to a meeting in Moscow of Comecon , the Eastern Bloc economic community , during January 1981 . That month , the government declared that the poor economy was forcing it to cut back on its promise of ensuring that Polish workers did not have to work on Saturdays , and that it would offer a number of Saturdays as work @@ free instead .

Unrest grew among Polish workers over the government 's decision , and Jagielski negotiated with Wa??sa for six hours in the building of the Council of Ministers regarding the Saturday issue . Other talking points included Solidarity 's exemptions from standard state censorship . The negotiations did not end the unrest , and Jagielski offered a compromise in an appearance on the Polish national television network , stating that the government would grant workers every other Saturday off , or give them all Saturdays free but add half an hour to each working day . He warned that Poland 's economic troubles would increase should all Polish workers gain all Saturdays off from work , and he appealed to " the patriotism of the people " . Many Polish workers , though , stayed off work the following Saturday . In April Jagielski , described as a " veteran negotiator " , met with France 's President Valéry Giscard d 'Estaing , and he was able to gain a pledge of \$ 800 million in aid from France . That month , he was received by the United States 's Secretary of State Alexander Haig and Vice President George H.W. Bush , and they promised Jagielski that the US would sell Poland

50 @, @ 000 tons of surplus butter and dried milk and would consider cooperating on rescheduling Poland 's \$ 3 billion debt to the US .

On 10 June as a member of the Politburo of the Polish United Workers ' Party , Jagielski offered to other members of that group to terminate his position within the Politburo , and his position as Deputy Prime Minister , stating " I submit my resignation as a member of the PB (Politburo) , especially since I had a certain incident in my life . I also submit my resignation as vice premier (Deputy Prime Minister) . " It seems his offer was rebuffed , and the incident in his life that he spoke of may have been a heart attack he had recently suffered . On 31 July 1981 , Jagielski was fired from his position as Deputy Prime Minister , reportedly because he failed to produce a recovery program for the economic crisis Poland was experiencing at the time .

= = Later life and death = =

In July 1981 , Jagielski lost his memberships in the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers Party , the Politburo of the Polish United Workers and the Economic Committee . He remained a deputy to the Sejm until 1985 . He died on the night of 27 February 1997 , from a heart attack in his home , in Warsaw , Poland , at the age of 73 . After Jagielski 's death , Lech Wa??sa described him as a " sensitive man who always listened to arguments " , and said that Jagielski differed in that respect from other Polish politicians in 1980 .

= = Awards = =

He received the Order of the Builders of People 's Poland (Order Budowniczych Polski Ludowej) , the highest civil decoration of the People 's Republic of Poland .