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## POLES ON THE ADMISSION OF OUR COUNTRY IN TO NATO

For many years the considerable majority of Poles have considered our aspirations to join NATO as the best policy to ensure the safety of our country and supported the efforts of subsequent governments aimed at our entry into NATO. Poland's entry into this alliance has already been ratified by first member states. Therefore one may say that we are already "on the threshold" of membership in NATO. In the Poles' opinion, how important is the admission of Poland as a full member of NATO and what implications will it have for the safety and sovereignty of Poland?

Respondents assessing the implications of Poland's admission to NATO are divided into two almost equal groups. The first group consists of persons who believe that it will be a turning point of Polish history, while those belonging to the second group consider it an important event, but not crucial for our history. Only an insignificant part of those polled believe that the admission to NATO will be of no greater importance for Poland.

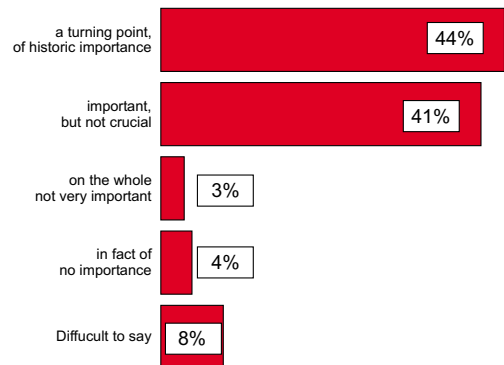
Over two thirds of respondents have no doubts that joining NATO will ensure peace and stability of our country, and almost the same percentage believe that it will strengthen Poland's position in the world. In both these aspects right-wing political views enhance the belief in positive implications of Poland's entry into NATO. However, most respondents declaring other political options or unable to define their political views also expect that this act will have a positive effect for Poland.

The question whether Poland's entry into NATO will strengthen Polish sovereignty or be a new form of subordinating it to a foreign power raises a little more controversy. Although over half of respondents share the view that our admission to NATO will be a guarantee of Poland's independence, at the same time one third are afraid that it will subordinate Poland to a foreign power. Left-wing views encourage greater scepticism in this matter as well, but persons identifying themselves with the right also express more fears in relation to this question as compared to other aspects of our entry into NATO discussed in the survey.

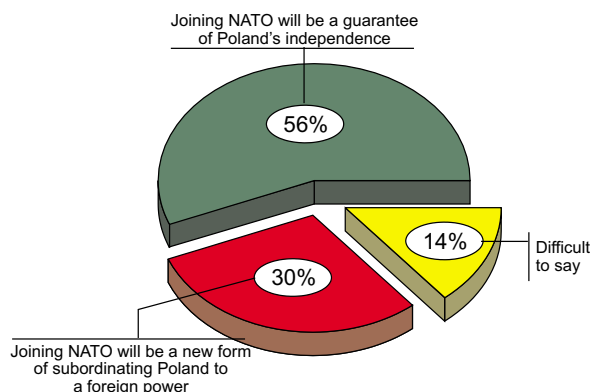
The considerable majority of respondents believe that NATO extension will contribute to the increase of peace and stability in Europe. In principle, such an opinion on the integration of Poland with the North Atlantic Treaty does not depend on the social status of respondents, but (as in the case of other opinions concerning the questions related to our membership in NATO) - left-wing views encourage greater scepticism.

More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report "Poles on the admission of our country to NATO", February '98.

THE INITIAL ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS CONCERNING THE ADMISSION OF POLAND INTO NATO HAS RECENTLY FINISHED. IT IS ALMOST CERTAIN THAT IN 1999 POLAND WILL BECOME A FULL MEMBER OF THIS ALLIANCE. IN YOUR OPINION, WILL THIS EVENT BE FOR POLAND:

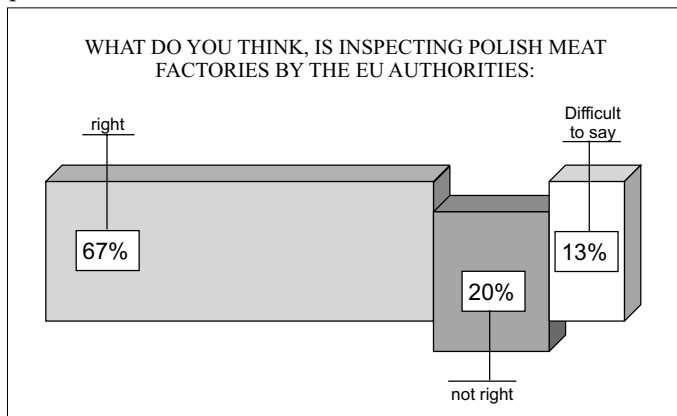


WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS IS THE CLOSEST TO YOUR OPINION ON POLAND JOINING NATO?



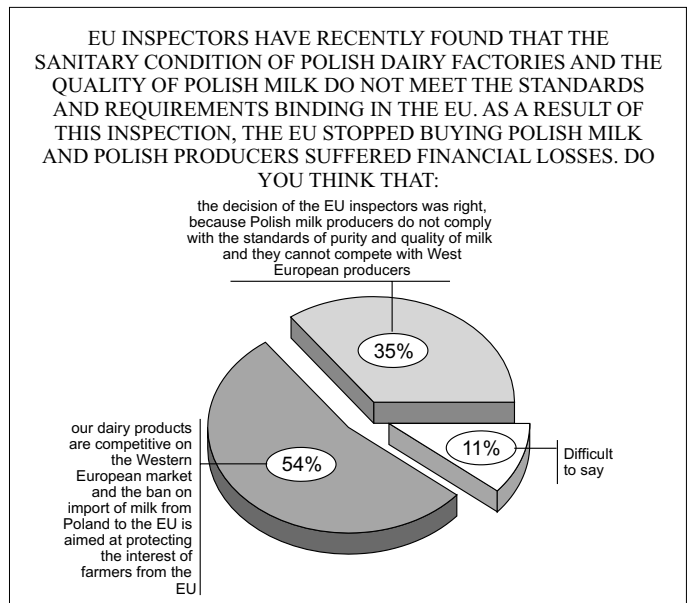
## ON THE INSPECTIONS OF POLISH PRODUCTS BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

Positive results of the process of integration of Poland with the European Union to a large extent depend on social support for this process. It follows from the research conducted by CBOS 6 months ago that if there were a referendum, the considerable majority of Polish citizens would vote for our country joining the EU. However, the response of Poles to the inspections of Polish meat and dairy factories carried out by the UE at the end of the previous year allows us to suspect that in the case of a conflict of interest between the two parties of the association treaty, the social support for integration is likely to drop. In our research conducted in January we wanted to find out to what extent Poles approve the inspections carried out by the EU and whether their approval depends on the results of such inspections and the related decisions of the EU concerning import of Polish products.



Most respondents (69%) consider the quality inspections of Polish products carried out by EU inspectors as right, admitting that if the products are to be exported to Western European countries, they should meet the European standards. Opinions on the right of the EU to inspect Polish meat factories are similar - over two thirds of respondents approve the inspections of the EU in this area. It seems that the positive attitude of our society towards this type of inspections is in a large part conditioned by the positive results of the inspection of Polish meat factories carried out at the end of the last year, especially as the respondents' attitude towards the inspection of dairy factories which resulted in a ban on import of Polish milk by the EU countries was completely different. This decision, unfavourable for Poland, was regarded by over half of respondents as unfair, aimed at protecting the interest of EU farmers. A much smaller number of respondents agreed with the opinion of the EU inspectors that Polish milk producers do not actually comply with the binding standards. The respondents's support for the requirements and decisions of the European Union clearly depends on whether they are perceived as favourable for Poland. An unfavourable decision meets with social disapproval, even if objectively it is the right decision. The conditional acceptance of inspections carried out by the EU

probably follows from the fact that our society is insufficiently informed about both detailed issues connected with the provisions of our association treaty with the EU and general issues related to the whole process of integration.



More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report "On the inspection of Polish products by the European Union", February '98.

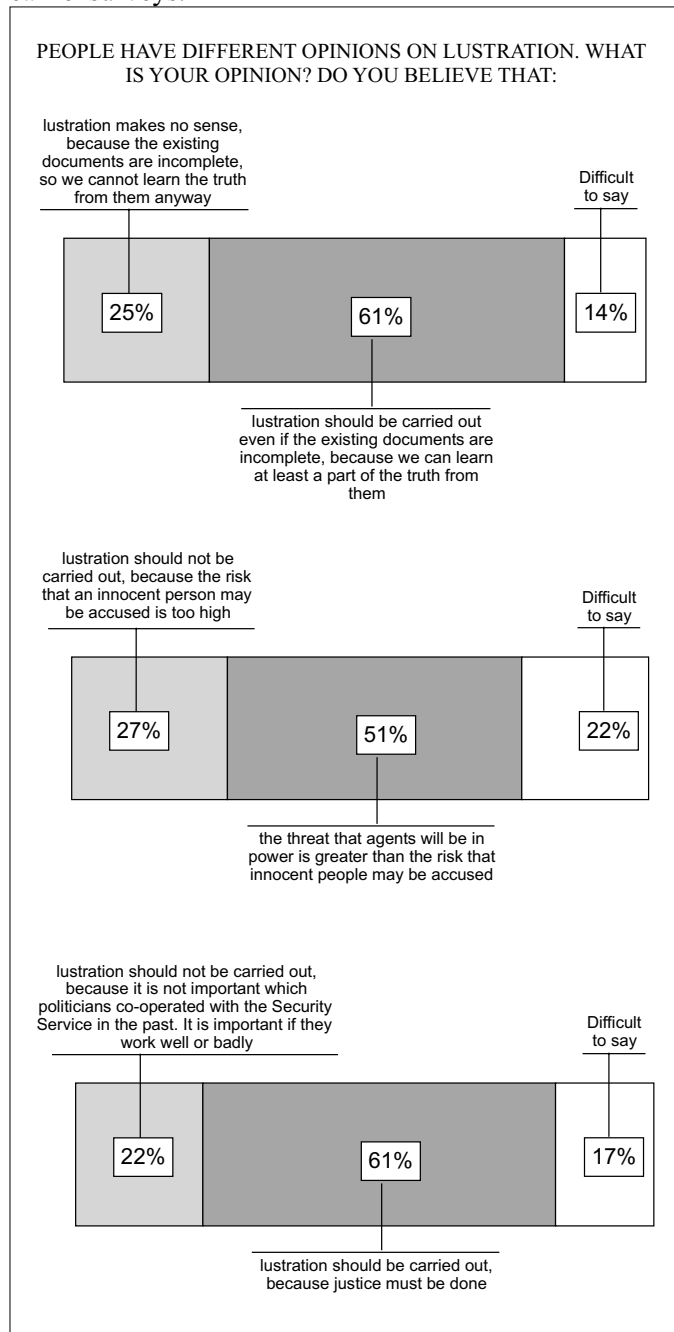
## WHAT DO WE THINK OF LUSTRATION?

In Poland, as opposed to other countries of the former communist bloc, the question of lustration is still an open issue. The execution of the Lustration Act, passed by the Sejm of the previous term, has been delayed due to the difficulties with completing the Lustration Court established in this Act. In one of our latest polls we asked respondents if in their opinion lustration should be carried out now and who should be subjected to it.

As compared to June '94, the percentage of respondents supporting the idea of checking whether the persons who perform important state functions did not cooperate in the past with the Security Service has increased considerably. Currently this view is shared by three quarters of respondents. Support for lustration is the highest among respondents with trade school or secondary education, while among persons with higher education it is a little lower. However, the attitude towards lustration depends first of all on political views. As many as 90% of respondents who identify themselves with the right opt for lustration, as compared to 65% of those with left-wing views.

According to the vast majority of respondents, members of the highest state authorities, both the executive branch (the government) and the legislative branch (the Parliament) should be subjected to lustration, as well as high state officials, representatives of the administration of justice, such as judges and prosecutors, and diplomats.

Respondents express more doubts as far as the rightness of lustrating members of local authorities is concerned, although according to the majority opinion they should also be subjected to this procedure. The opinions on lustrating journalists working for the public media are more varied. Half of respondents opt for lustration of this group, compared to one third who do not see such a need. In the case of teachers the proportion is opposite. These results are very similar to those obtained in earlier surveys.



Most respondents opt for checking if the persons who perform important state functions did not co-operate with the communist Security Service. Almost two thirds of respondents believe that persons whose co-operation with these services has been proved should be removed from office. The respondents whose adult life started after the collapse of the PRL (the communist

Poland) are against removing former collaborators of the Security Service from office more often than other persons.

The respondents' attitude towards former collaborators of the Security Service depends first of all on their political views. Those with left-wing orientation express varied opinions on this issue, while the opinion that such persons should be removed from office definitely prevails among the respondents with right-wing views.

The idea that all citizens' files kept by the communist Security Service should be available to the persons to whom they concern is supported by the majority of respondents.

More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report "What do we think of lustration?", January '98

## OPINIONS ON SOCIAL WELFARE

The number of people using social welfare in our country is decreasing, but the number of benefits granted, such as permanent or temporary allowances, is still growing. A considerable percentage of households used social welfare in the past or use it now. Almost as many as one in seven of respondents (15%) was or is on welfare, and the same number declare that some member of their family is on welfare. On the whole nearly one fourth of families benefited from social welfare or benefit from it now in one way or another, so the awareness of this phenomenon is quite common.

There are more women than men among those who were on welfare in the past or benefit from it now. Most of them are unemployed or unskilled workers belonging to the 35-44 age group. There is a close connection between using social welfare and education - almost one in four of respondents with primary school education was or is on welfare, compared to only one in fourteen of those with higher education.

According to the majority opinion, not enough persons in Poland receive benefits from social welfare (42% of indications). This belief is expressed first of all by inhabitants of big cities and respondents with high income. One in six respondents believes that the scope of social aid is adequate to the number of those in need, while one in five believes that too many persons receive aid.

The considerable majority of those polled share the view that only the poorest should benefit from social welfare organised by the state and local authorities. Therefore other forms and aims of social welfare, apart from material aid for the poorest, can meet with the lack of understanding or even prejudice. The opinions on the amount of social welfare allowances and the period of receiving them vary. Nearly half of those polled believe that they should be small and the time of receiving them should be short, so that the persons who receive them are not permanently dependent on social welfare. On the other hand, the same number of people opt for a

considerable amount of allowance and a long period of receiving it.

Generally speaking, the perception of social welfare seems to be dominated by solidarity with different groups of people in need and the feeling that anybody can face difficulties which are impossible to overcome. Receiving such aid is not shameful in the respondents' opinion and is commonly accepted.

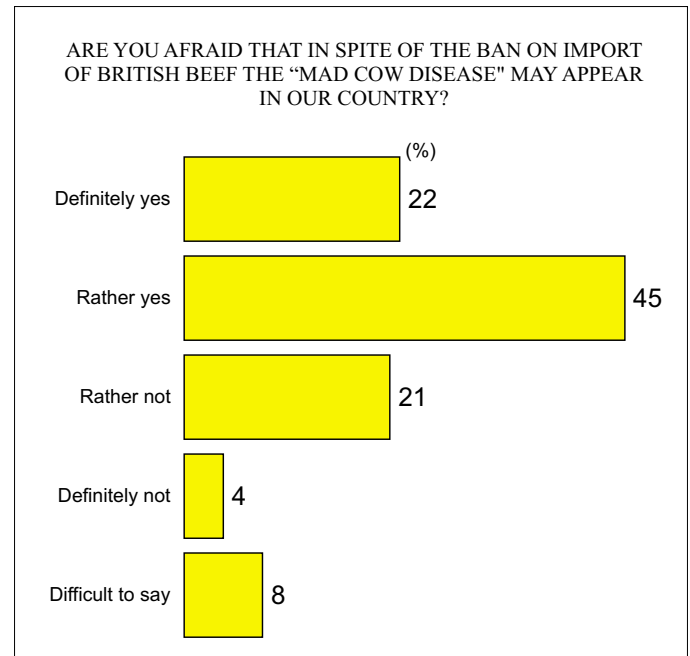
More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report "Opinions on social welfare", February '98.

## SOCIAL RESPONSE TO THE NEWS ABOUT THE "MAD COW DISEASE"

Newspapers have informed recently about two cases of Creutzfeld-Jacob disease in Poland. According to doctors' assurances, it was not the variant of the disease transmitted by food (infection as a result of eating contaminated beef). Are Poles afraid of the "mad cow disease" and what was their response to these news?

Although Poles are not free from fears connected with the spread of Creutzfeld-Jacob disease, the feeling of danger can be described as "moderate". Over two fifths of respondents believe that this disease may appear in Poland, but only one in five is convinced that it will appear in our country. The fears connected with the appearance of the "mad cow disease" differ only slightly with regard to social group. Business people and inhabitants of middle-sized towns express them relatively more frequently than others.

In spite of quite commonly declared fears of Creutzfeld-Jacob disease appearing in Poland (67%), the majority of respondents (61%) did not stop eating beef or cut down on it. Only one in five of Poles changed his/ her eating habits after hearing the news about the disease - 16% cut down on beef and 6% gave it up completely. They are first of all persons declaring that they are afraid of this disease spreading in Poland.



More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report "Social response to the news about the "mad cow disease", February '98.

### In addition to the bulletins referred to above, the following have been published recently:

- Home in the Poles' memory.
- Poles on the reform of the territorial administration of the country.
- Social moods at the beginning of the year.
- Attitude towards the government and the assessment of the most important areas of its work .
- Opinions on the Słupsk riots, the role of the police and the media.
- Party preferences in January '98.
- Attitude towards abortion after passing the stricter anti-abortion laws.
- Charity - the aims and scope of social welfare.
- Opinions on the usefulness of sexual education in schools.
- Confidence in politicians in January.
- What does home mean for Poles? Changes in daily life of the Polish family.
- Do we need counties (new units of local administration)?

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