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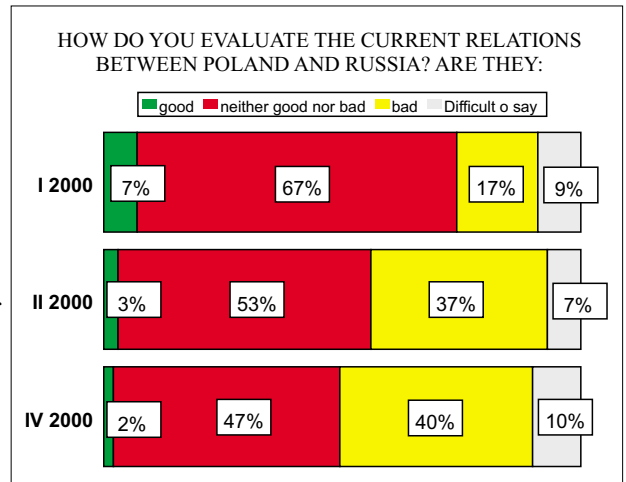
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EVALUATION OF THE RELATIONS BETWEEN POLAND AND RUSSIA

The expulsion of Russian diplomats suspected of espionage from Poland in January 2000 caused a visible deterioration of the social opinion on the relations between Poland and Russia. The political climate of previous months - demonstrations against the war in Chechnya taking place in Poland and anti-Polish demonstrations in Russia - has not encouraged an improvement of these opinions. Currently as many as two-fifths of respondents believe that Polish-Russian relations are bad.

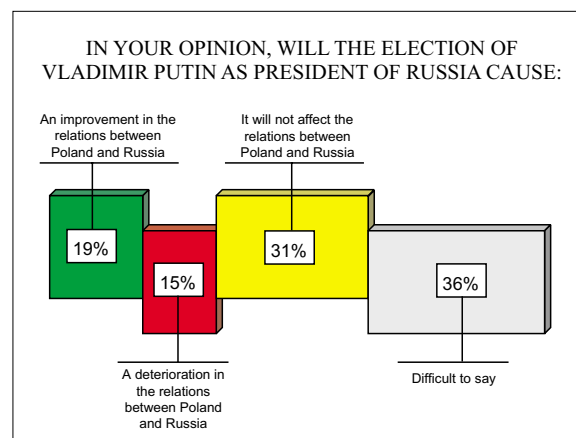
The election of Vladimir Putin as President of Russia has contributed to a certain improvement in the projections concerning the relations between Poland and Russia.

Although both before and after the Russian elections, which were held in March, the largest proportion of respondents believed that the election of a new



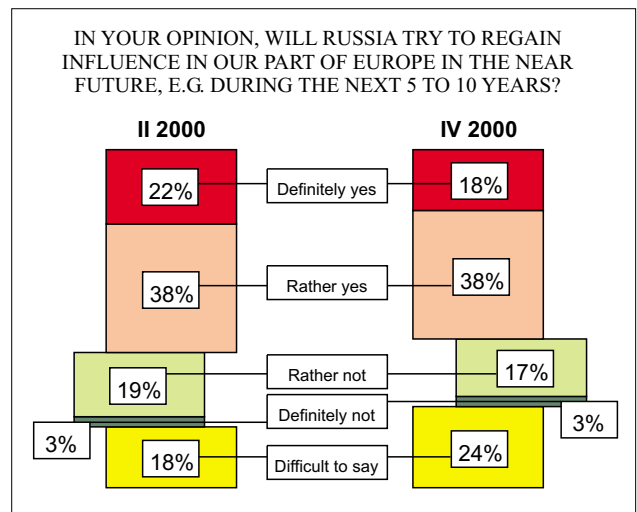
President would not affect the relations between Poland and Russia, the percentage of respondents who expect an improvement in these relations has grown (by 11 percentage points).

The expectations concerning development of the situation in Russia have also improved since January. As compared with the beginning of this year, the number of persons who are afraid of a dictatorship in that country has decreased (by 14 percentage points) and the percentage of those who notice a potential for the development of democracy has grown (by 7 points). However, as far as the evolution of the political situation in Russia is concerned, pessimism still



prevails - at present over two-fifths of respondents (43%) believe that the situation there will head towards a dictatorship, compared to less than one-fifth (18%) of those who predict the stabilisation of democracy. On the other hand, the number of respondents who do not feel competent to make any projections as to the nearest future of Russia is growing.

In spite of a slight decline in the fears of possible imperial tendencies in Russia, most respondents still share the belief that Russia will try to regain influence in our part of Europe. The more frequently people expect that the political situation in Russia will head towards a dictatorship, the stronger their fears that Russia will try to strengthen its position in Europe. However, even among respondents

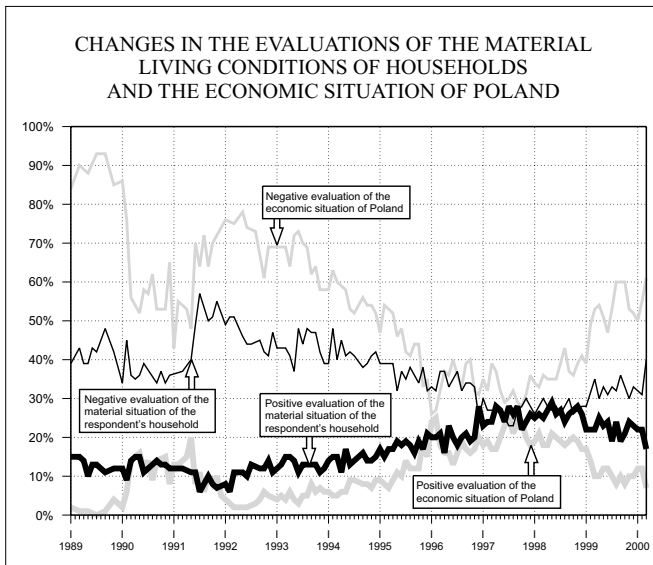


who believe in the stabilisation of democracy in Russia every other person is afraid of a revival of imperial tendencies.

More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report "Poles on the relations between Poland and Russia and the political situation in Russia", April 2000.

SUBJECTIVE MATERIAL LIVING CONDITIONS OF POLES

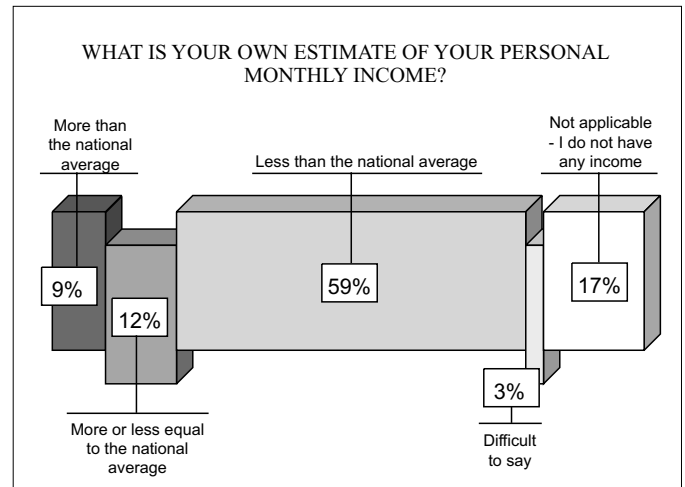
During ten years of radical political and economic changes the evaluations of the material situation of households were the highest at the end of 1996. During the following two years the opinions remained rather stable and, taking into account the whole decade, quite positive. However, since late 1998 the evaluations of the material situation of families and the condition of our economy have been deteriorating. In March 2000 these evaluations were particularly low, lower than ever since the mid nineties. One can say that there was a certain breakdown in the material self-evaluation of Poles on the eve of the introduction of three difficult social reforms. The anxieties and the inevitable mess associated with the introduction of the reforms (particularly the health care reform, which concerns all Poles) have enhanced these pessimistic moods.



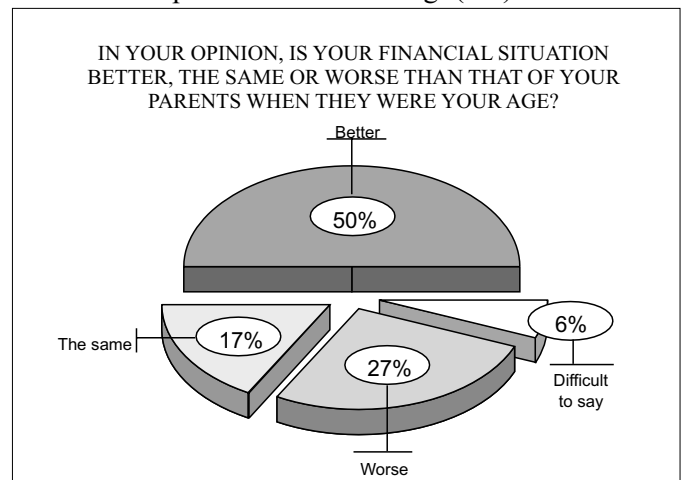
One of the basic indications of the material situation of families is the average monthly income per household member. It should be remembered that our information regarding income is based solely on the respondents' declarations, which usually differ from the reality *in minus*, but nevertheless reflect the financial self-evaluation of respondents.

The respondents who took part in our March survey declared particularly low monthly income - on average PLN 517 per person in the family (approximately USD 130). This decline of the declared income followed a six-month period of improvement in the material situation of families. It may

be an explanation of the reasons behind a dramatic deterioration in the respondents' opinions on the material situation of their households, as well as the economic situation of Poland.



Almost three quarters of Poles who declare that they have some income feel financially disadvantaged and believe that their income is lower than the average for the whole country. Roughly the same percentage of this group of respondents (74%) say that their families are unable to save any part of their income. More than one in seven (15%) are able to save up to ten percent of their income every month. Only half of this number are able to save more than ten percent of their earnings (8%).

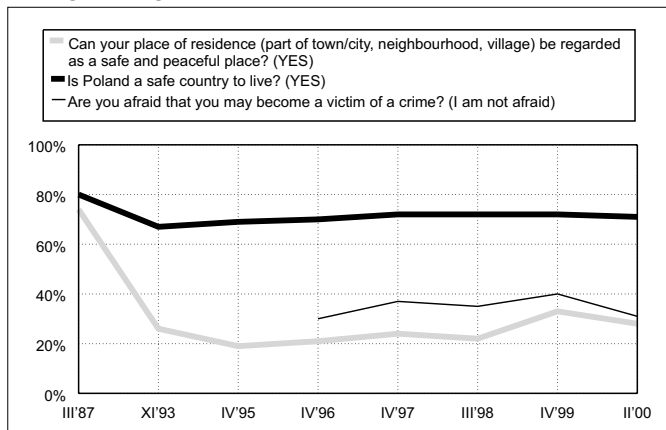


Over half of Poles (55%) believe that their financial situation is the same as that of their neighbours. A quarter of respondents (24%) have a feeling that they are at a disadvantage as compared to their immediate social environment, while 12% feel financially privileged as compared to their neighbours. The self-evaluation of living conditions is better when different generations are compared - half of respondents believe that their standard of living is better than that of the generation of their parents, while only slightly more than a quarter evaluate their material situation as worse than that of their parents when they were the same age.

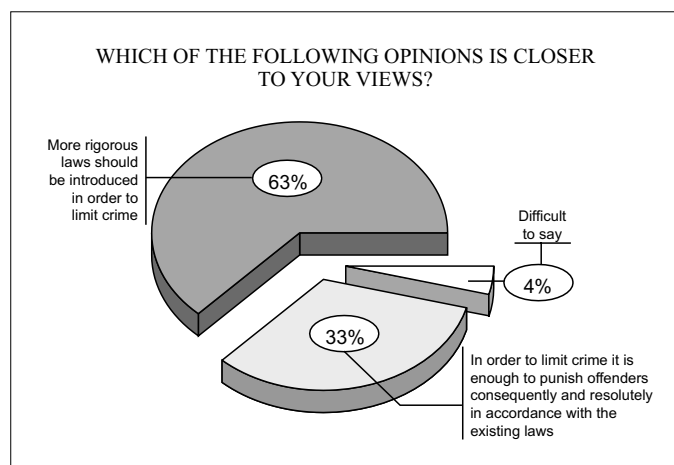
More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report "Financial situation of Poles", April 2000.

THE FEELING OF SAFETY / AND OPINIONS ON SOME ASPECTS OF PENAL POLICY

A definite majority of Poles believe that their place of residence is safe and quiet. On the other hand, only one in four respondents shares the opinion that Poland is generally a country where life is safe. Less than one-third of respondents are not afraid at all that they may become victims of a crime. Over two-thirds of the society have such fears (67%). One in five Poles declares a very strong feeling of threat.



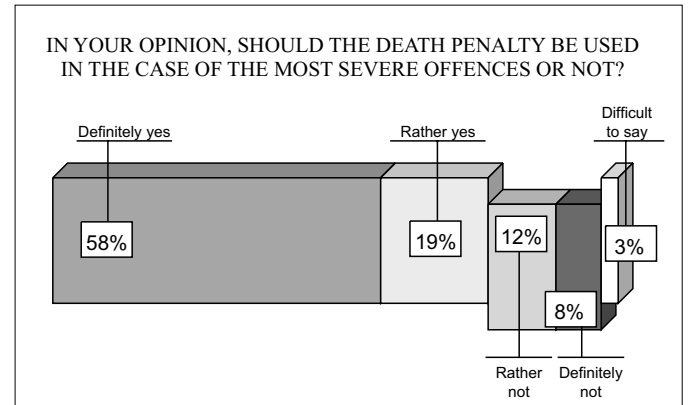
The feeling of threat to personal safety has increased quite significantly this year.



The new penal code, which has been in force for two years only, has been criticised since the very beginning. The objections are first and foremost associated with a too liberal character of some regulations, which, according to the critics, are inadequate to the current situation when crime rates are growing. Social views have not changed in this respect - a definite majority of respondents opt for stricter laws, just as they did four years ago, when the previous penal code was in force (it was stricter in some respects).

Discussion on the ratification of the protocol banning the death penalty has attracted attention to this issue again. During the last thirteen years the supporters of the death penalty have always outnumbered the opponents. The percentage of those who believe that capital punishment should be in force in Poland was the lowest in 1989 (52% of supporters, 27% of opponents). In

the first half of the nineties the number of supporters of the death penalty was growing in line with the increase in crime rates. In 1996 they constituted almost three quarters of the Polish society (77% of supporters, 19% of opponents). It should be noted that a clear majority of those who opt for the death penalty are convinced that capital punishment should definitely be maintained.



Irrespective of the belief that the law should be stricter, a definite majority of respondents think that the judicial practice in Poland is very far from perfect. As many as 91% of respondents believe that Polish courts usually treat offenders too liberally and pass too low sentences, although the law allows them to sentence criminals to more severe punishment. Only 5% of respondents believe that Polish courts usually pass fair judgements. Approximately three quarters of respondents criticise other aspects of the judicial practice in our country - in their opinion Polish courts pass suspended sentences too often, offenders are released before term too often and granted leave during the prison term too easily. Respondents generally believe that the conditions in Polish prisons are too good.

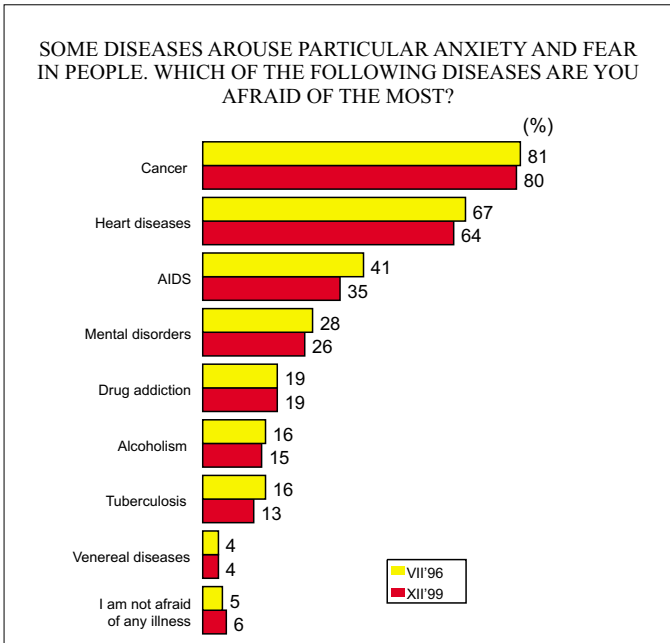
More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report "Is life in Poland safe?", April 2000.

MENTAL DISORDERS - THE SOCIAL STEREOTYPE AND DISTANCE

For most Poles mental disorders are something that they have to imagine rather than a part of their real social experience. Only one-third of respondents confirm that they know a mentally ill person, although in most cases such contacts are outside the closest circle; these persons are mainly the respondents' acquaintances or neighbours. As compared with the survey conducted three years ago, there has been a noticeable decrease in the percentage of persons declaring that they know a mentally handicapped person. As a decrease in the number of cases of mental disorders has not been recorded, this fact should probably be interpreted as a result of caution in attaching the stigma of mental illness to one's acquaintances and families.

The social stereotype of mental illness is dominated by negative image of people affected by it. However, during the last few years we have observed a slight improvement in this respect. As compared to the

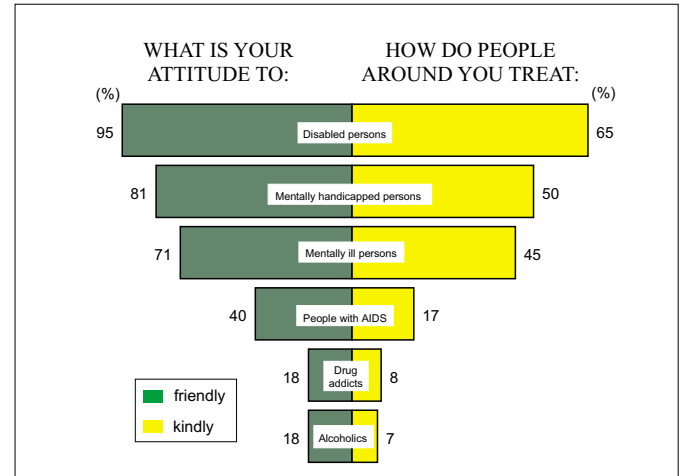
year 1996, pejorative expressions are a little less frequent in everyday language, while neutral ones are used a little more frequently.



According to the common stereotype, a mentally handicapped person is laughed at and hurt more frequently than other people (90%), is more vulnerable and has more suicidal tendencies (87%). At the same time, public opinion says that such people are annoying and difficult to live with (84%). The extremely negative opinion, according to which mentally handicapped people are more aggressive and dangerous than other persons, is less common than three years ago, but still shared by a definite majority of respondents (67%). The overtly positive opinion on mentally handicapped, according to which they are more sensitive and understand more, has relatively the fewest supporters (58%).

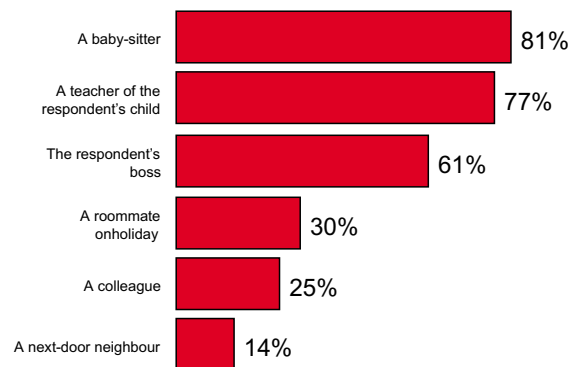
In contrast to the stereotypes, the declared attitude to mentally handicapped people is dominated by positive feelings. Only one in twenty respondents admits that he/she dislikes people with mental disorders. The social distance from people affected by such disorders is, however, far greater than the distance from people whose

misfortunes are perceived as not resulting from their fault, such as physical or mental disability, although not as big as in the case of people with AIDS, drug addicts or alcoholics.



There have been no significant changes in declared attitudes of Poles to mentally ill persons since 1996.

OBJECTION TO THE ASSIGNMENT OF THE FOLLOWING ROLES BY PERSONS WHO HAVE BEEN MENTALLY HANDICAPPED:



More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report "Mental disorders - the social stereotype and distance", January 2000. Survey ordered by the Institute of Psychiatry and Neurology. Sample size: 1003

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

- The Poles, Czechs and Lithuanians on corruption.
- Political authoritarianism. The attitude to social protests.
- About the popularity of the actual and potential presidential candidates.
- Opinions on the possible primary presidential election in the AWS.
- Opinions on the government, the Sejm, Senate and President.
- The Lent and Easter in families.
- Opinions on the work, powers and qualifications of the Polish police.
- Opinions on the strength and significance of social conflicts.
- Savings and purchases.

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