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OPINIONS ON PRIVATISATION AND THE PRESENCE OF FOREIGN CAPITAL IN POLAND

It has been eleven years since the ownership changes in the Polish economy began. The latest evaluations of the privatisation process are less positive than those recorded previously. The opinions on the effects of privatisation on the national economy, citizens and employees of privatised enterprises, are more and more critical.

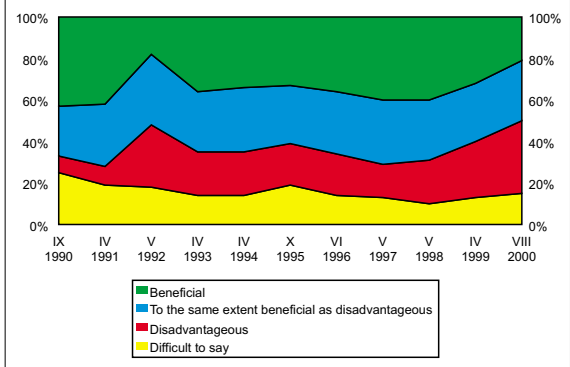
The perception of the effects of privatisation in the context of both personal gains and benefits for the Polish economy is strongly related to the general evaluation of the situation in the country and the condition of the national economy.

The attitude of Poles to the presence of foreign capital in our economy has also changed for worse. Two years ago, almost a third of Poles believed that the participation of foreign investors in the Polish economy was too small. At present only 14% of respondents express this opinion and the group of those who believe the opposite is almost three times bigger. The percentage of Poles who describe the participation of foreign capital in our economy as neither too big nor too small is more or less stable, while the frequency of critical opinions has varied over the last years.

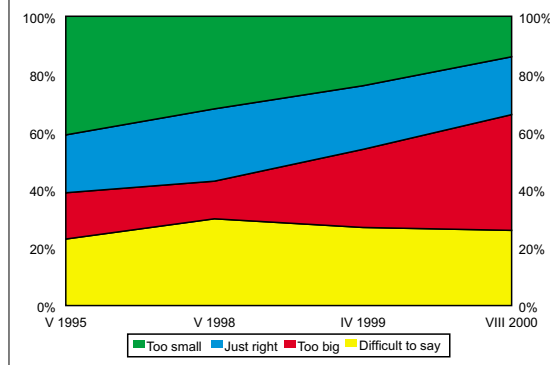
The opinion that the participation of foreign capital in Polish enterprises should be limited, so that foreign investors do not have the majority interest, prevails in the Polish society. Opposition against foreign investment is the strongest in the case of the mining and steel industries and the power sector. Almost a third of respondents believe that foreign capital should not have access to those industries at all. Only 6% of respondents

opt for free access of foreign capital to power plants and 9% are against any barriers in the case of mines and steelworks. 8% of respondents opt for unlimited participation of foreign capital in the banking sector, but only 20% are against any access for foreign investors. Opposition to access of foreign investors is the weakest in the case of the motor, electronic and textile industries and breweries. Only 10%-13% of respondents opt for complete exclusion of foreign capital from these industries. Consequently, in the case of these sectors the number of those who are against any barriers to foreign investment is the biggest (21%-24%).

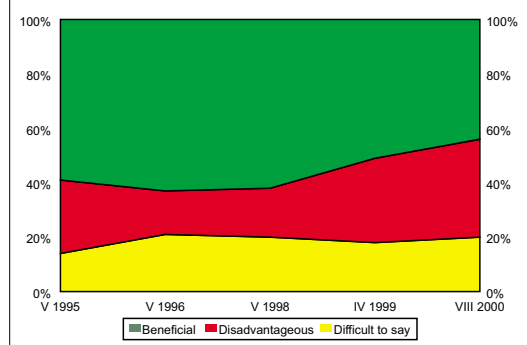
IN YOUR OPINION, IS PRIVATISATION BENEFICIAL OR NOT FOR THE POLISH ECONOMY?



IN YOUR OPINION, IS THE PRESENT LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION OF FOREIGN CAPITAL IN THE POLISH ECONOMY:



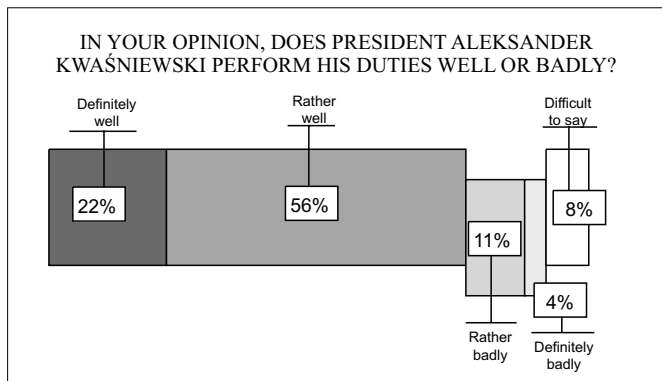
FOR THE POLISH ECONOMY, IS THE PRESENCE OF FOREIGN CAPITAL:



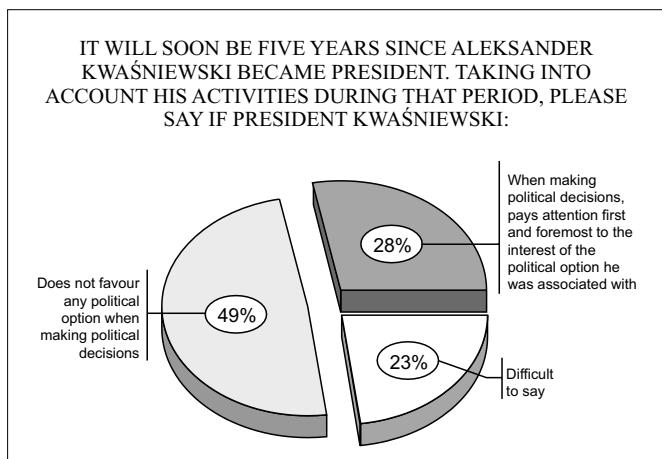
More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report: "Opinions on ownership changes and the presence of foreign capital in the Polish economy" December 2000.

HIGH SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT ALEKSANDER KWAŚNIEWSKI BEFORE THE NEXT TERM

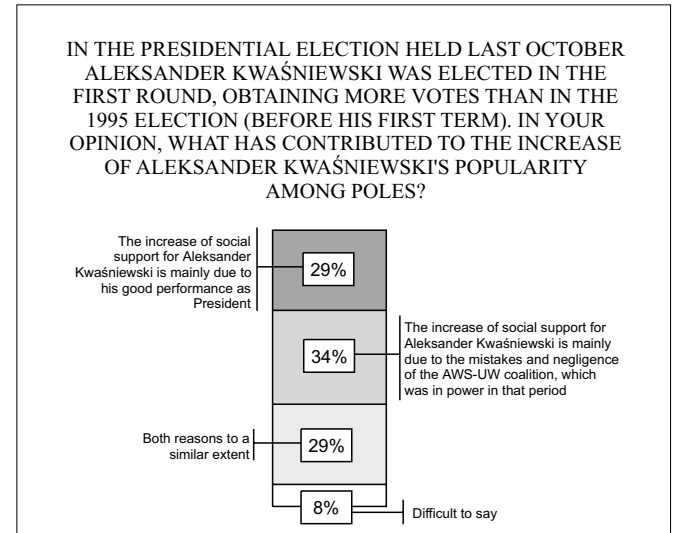
Aleksander Kwaśniewski is a real phenomenon among Polish politicians. Despite his communist past, despite several accusations that have been brought against him publicly (whether justified or not), despite political imputations and mass attacks of his opponents during successive election campaigns, Aleksander Kwaśniewski remains highly regarded by Poles. The last election strengthened his position and confirmed the high social support for him. In the opinion of 78% of respondents, the President performs his duties well. Only 14% expressed the opposite opinion. Almost three-quarters of respondents (73%) believe that he usually makes good decisions (10% think the opposite).



The President's activity on the international scene is always highly appreciated. 85% of respondents believe that he represents Poland abroad well (only 5% think that he does it badly). In the opinion of a definite majority of respondents, the position of Poland in the world will improve (47%) or remain the same (42%) after his re-election. Only 3% believe that it may deteriorate. Over two-fifths of respondents (43%) suppose that Mr Kwaśniewski's second term as President will improve the chances of Poland for membership in the European Union, 40% believe that it will not have any impact and a very small percentage (3%) believe that it may decrease them.



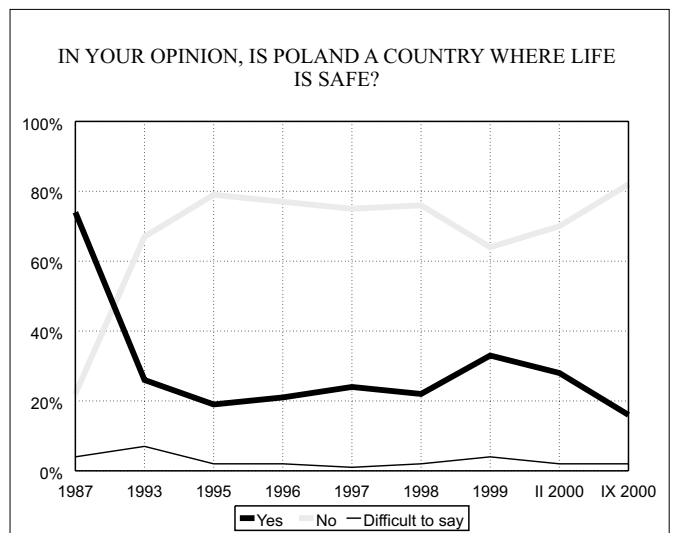
In the opinion of 63% of respondents, Aleksander Kwaśniewski may be called the President of all Poles, while 29% disagree with it. However, a large proportion of Poles think that the increasing popularity of Aleksander Kwaśniewski should not be attributed solely to his personal qualities, but also to the favourable political situation and particularly to the mistakes of his political opponents.



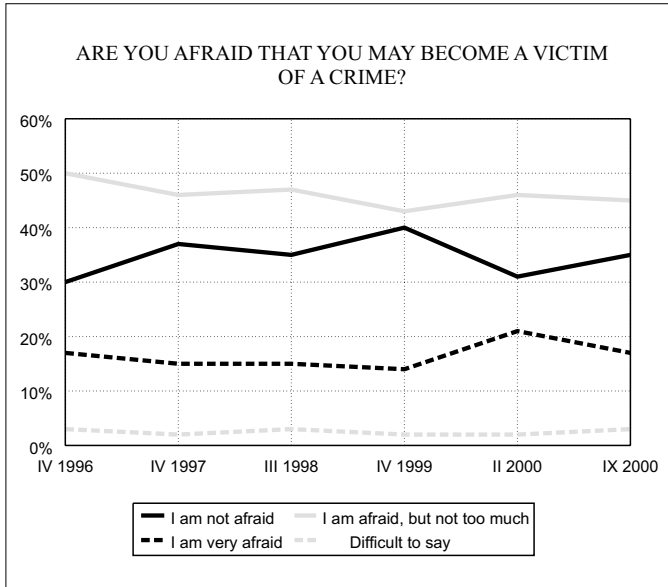
More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report "President Aleksander Kwaśniewski before the next term" December 2000.

IS LIFE IN POLAND SAFE?

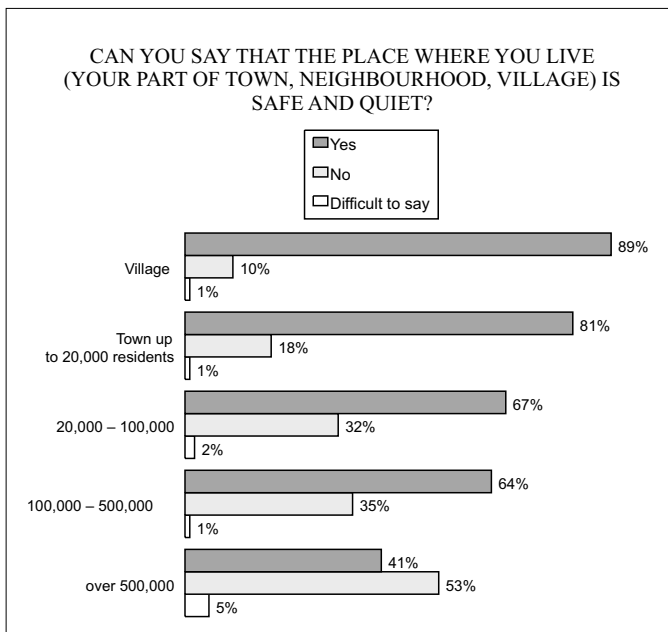
Since the beginning of the 1990s, a definite majority of respondents have seen Poland as a dangerous country to live. At the beginning of the year 2000 the belief that crime is a serious problem in Poland increased significantly. At the end of that year the feeling of threat was stronger than ever before during the last ten years.



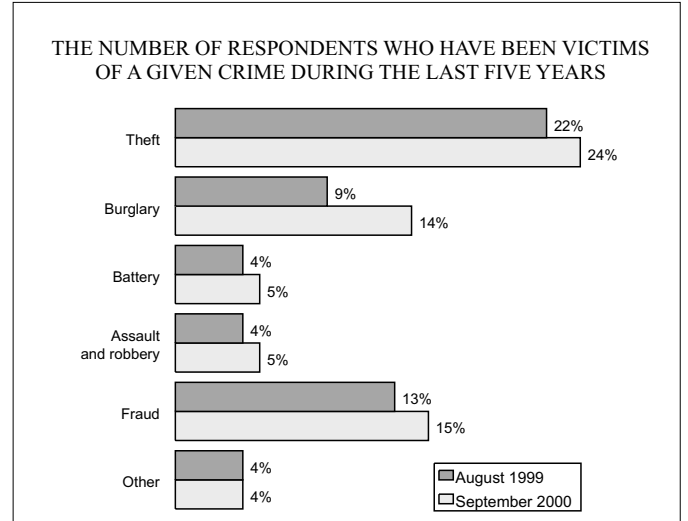
However, the belief that crime rates are growing is usually not accompanied by an increased feeling of threat to personal safety.



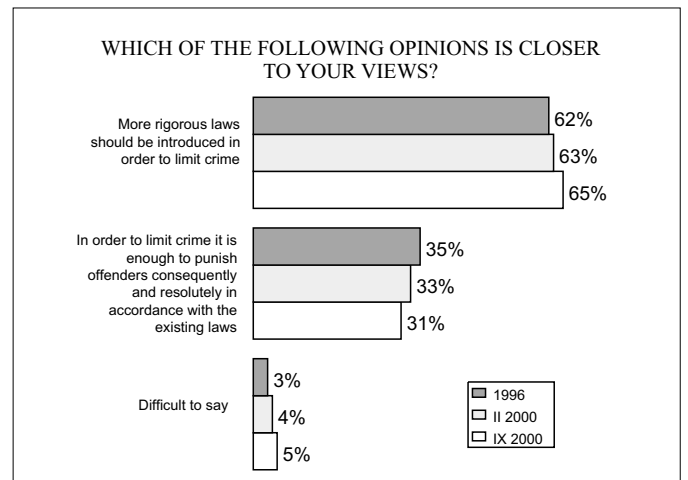
A feeling of threat to personal safety is twice as frequent among women than among men. Every fifth woman (22%) said that she was very afraid of becoming a victim of a crime. Only one in ten men (10%) gave that answer. The strong feeling of threat is much less frequent among young people (up to 25 years of age) than in the oldest age group. Fear of crime is particularly strong in big cities. In cities with a population of over 100,000, over one-fifth of residents declare that they are very afraid of becoming victims of a crime, while in the countryside the number of respondents expressing such fears is only half as large.



The percentage of respondents who have been victims of burglary has increased significantly during the last year. The number of victims of other crimes has little changed, but it should be noted that the frequency of all crimes mentioned in the question increased, however slightly.



A definite majority of respondents share the view that it is impossible to fight crime without introducing stricter laws. At present the Sejm is working on draft amendments to the penal code, which are aimed at making the penal policy more rigorous. Opponents of stricter laws claim that crime rates could be reduced effectively if only the existing laws were applied more consistently and quicker than nowadays. We have asked our respondents which opinion was closer to their views. Apparently, the opinions on this issue have not changed since 1996. Almost two-thirds of respondents constantly opt for more rigorous criminal law.



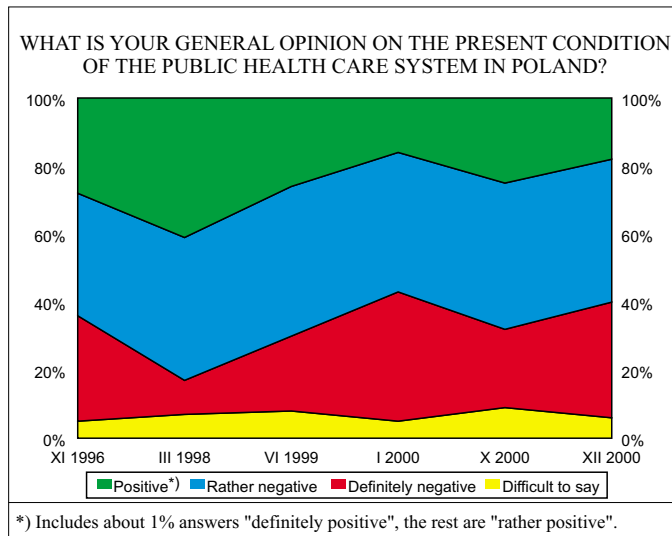
Most respondents have similar opinions in this respect, regardless of their social class, political views or demographic features. Managers and the intelligentsia are the only exception in this group the proportions of supporters and opponents of stricter laws are almost exactly reverse as compared to other social groups.

Those who think that Poland is not a safe country and who feel at threat to their personal safety share the opinion that stricter laws must be introduced. However, even among persons who do not feel personally threatened by crime, a notable majority think that stricter laws are necessary to reduce crime rates.

More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report "Opinions on the penal policy and safety of citizens", December 2000.

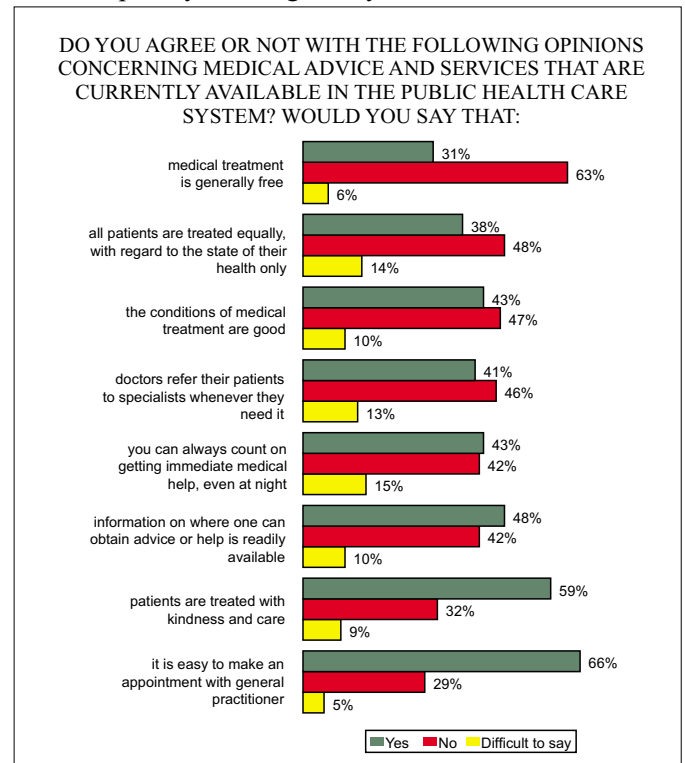
CRITICAL OPINIONS ON THE EFFECTS OF THE HEALTH CARE REFORM

The health care reform has been criticised by a significant proportion of Poles almost since it was first implemented. At present, three-quarters of respondents (76%) believe that the public health service in Poland functions badly. Less than a fifth (18%) think the opposite. As compared with October 2000, the opinions changed for worse; the proportion of negative evaluations grew by 10%. Currently the opinions on this issue are almost the same as in January 2000, when the new system had been in force for a year.



Opinions on different aspects of the functioning of the new health care system are diverse. A particularly high percentage of respondents have serious doubts as to whether medical treatment is in fact free. The way patients are treated in the public health care system is also criticised quite frequently - almost half of respondents believe that patients with different social and material status are not treated equally. Negative opinions also prevail with regard to easy access to specialists and the conditions of medical

treatment. On the other hand, such aspects as the access to general practitioner, kindness and care towards patients and availability of information were evaluated positively more frequently than negatively.



As compared with the results of our survey conducted in October 2000, the opinions on such aspects of the functioning of the health service as: access to general practitioner, free medical treatment, the conditions of treatment and immediate availability of medical help in emergency situations have deteriorated. On the other hand, the opinions on the availability of information and kind and equal treatment of all patients have improved.

More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report "Opinions on the health care at the end of the second year of the reform" December 2000.

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

- ◆ Political parties, their representativeness, political background and profiles of supporters
- ◆ The Poles' attitudes towards old people and their own old age
- ◆ Mad cow disease and beef consumption
- ◆ Opinions on the protests of nurses
- ◆ Social perception of the political left and right
- ◆ Social moods in December
- ◆ Opinions on the work of the government, President and Parliament
- ◆ Polish Christmas Eve in 2000
- ◆ Trust in politicians at the end of the year
- ◆ The politician of the year 2000
- ◆ New Year's Eve 2000
- ◆ The event of the year

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