



Santa Claus (Joe Harris) visits businessmen Haberdashery and Val Lindsay. Wendell Coxen Thomas Carter, Marvy James, (owner of Narvee's gets a candy cane. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

## Santa Claus visits Union Avenue

Grassroot News, N.W.—Santa Claus came to town in the form of local Black businessman Joe Harris. "Every year for the past couple of years this is my present to businesses in the area. I don't go into their stores and pass out candy canes. I stand outside their stores and attract attention to them." Harris says his intention is to get community residents to focus their time and money

on stores and shops in the area. "Some people feel if they can save a dime with a white man they would rather spend with him than with us. Not only do I want Blacks in this area to patronize our businesses but whites as well. We have businesses in Albina and N.E. Portland. Let's support them this Christmas." Harris concedes that people have

their own preference for stores and shops but it still doesn't alter the fact that businesses in our community need community support. "I'm not just a show," says the Black man in the Santa Claus suit. "I wish we had five or six Santa Clauses stretched out in the community. Maybe, the people would pay more attention to what we have around us."

## Keeping Warsaw in the Pact

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was more appalled by these intemperate proposals—Gen. Jaruzelski or Lech Walesa. In the end, however, it was Jaruzelski who faced the choice. He could let Poland's internal revolution—which he seems to support more than he opposes—expand into an attempt to revolutionize the entire strategic balance of power in Europe. Or, he could impose martial law before the Russians were given the kind of provocation Moscow could not ignore.

While the reasons for pessimism are great, the greatest cause for optimism is that the outlines of a Polish solution are clear—and have been clear for a long time.

American and Russian diplomats in Warsaw, Polish Communist Party officials and officials of Solidarity alike all use the same phrase to describe the solution. They speak of a "national consensus" uniting the unions, the Polish army, and the Catholic Church in a common program for Poland's future.

The essential elements of such a consensus are also clear. Internally, Poland must be free to adopt whatever course of internal economic and social reform is necessary to revive the economy and assure social stability. That the Soviet Union, however doctrinaire it may seem in the West, is willing to permit such an internal liberalization is already evident.

But the second, equally important element in any "national consensus" is that externally, Poland must remain strategically a part of the Warsaw Pact. The strategic balance of power in Europe must not be upset by the Poles' effort to reform their domestic life.

In a sense, "Finlandization"—so often derided in the West—is not only the ideal, but the only possible solution, though with one difference. Poland, like the other Eastern European countries, cannot really be Finlandized because they cannot be strategically neutral—until the day finally comes when the U.S. and

the Soviet Union resolve their differences.

What really is needed, therefore is Polandization, that is, the kind of national consensus, both internal and external, that Jaruzelski, Walesa and the Catholic Church all favor.

The key question now is whether by imposing martial law Jaruzelski has forced his country to take a step forward toward achieving national consensus, or whether martial law will only make Poland's internal crisis worse, and the external complications of that crisis even more serious.

Most Poles agree that Gen. Jaruzelski and Lech Walesa are not just Polish patriots, but realistic Polish patriots. But will their compatriots be as realistic in the next few days and weeks—including the entrenched Communist Party headliners, who wish to use martial law to turn back the clock, and the Solidarity radicals, who are tempted to see in martial law a justification for overt revolution?

Will not just Jaruzelski and Walesa, but 36 million Poles, forsake the momentary satisfactions of a romantic gesture for the really terrifying task of finding some basis for rebuilding their country according to both its internal and external realities? Or will they opt for cavalry charges against tanks?

As in 1914 in Sarajevo, and in 1939 in Poland, there is the tendency to imagine the future depends on what the great powers will do. In truth, the future now depends on whether or not a volatile Eastern European nationalism can both channel itself to some constructive purpose, and avoid dragging the larger world into its internal conflicts.

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### Christmas hazzards

The Oregon Poison Control and Drug Information Center warns that holiday season brings new sources of poison exposures. Alcoholic beverages, perfume, cologne and aftershave, Christmas plants, ornaments, all contain poisons.

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## Street Beat

With the mass media's attention concentrated on events in Poland we went into the streets with, "How do you feel about what has occurred in Poland?"



Phyllis Mahony: "The Soviets are going to make slaves of all the Polish people. That's just the way it is. They are going to kill them if they resist."



Grace Walker, employee of Children's Services: "It's sad but I feel that we Americans don't really have the right to throw stones. The Poles that have already defected, it would be O.K. to stand by them. But as far as going all the way over there to help them, I don't agree. Who helped us when they were sic-ing the dogs on Black people when Martin Luther King was marching. What did the police do for us?"



Howard Cole, Unemployed: "I was a union business agent until 6 months ago so I have to support the Solidarity movement. Freedom in Poland is important to us and I see the domino theory happening over and over. We should be harder in our response. There is some need for aggression."



Jesse Rogers, Barber: "I don't care much about what's happening in Poland. They raise all this hell about what's going on in Poland but they don't over anything about what's going on in South Africa. So forget Poland."



Irma Gene Reed, Homemaker: "The young people won't be around too long with the way, not only Poland, but the way the whole world is going. I do believe that there will be a war."



Kay Kirkman, Unemployed: "I feel that they are fighting for the right thing. I can't blame them for wanting to be free. I think the people of Poland are right. They should be free."



Rose Marie Williams, Housewife: "I don't like it and I feel sorry for the people over there. I wish Russia would go home and stay home. I don't think we should hide our heads in a hole every time something like that happens. I don't want to go to war but I don't want people suppressed under communism."

by Lanita Duke and Richard Brown

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