

RURAL YOUTH UNION
Warszawa 43, Smolna 40

OUTLINE
OF IDEOLOGICAL SCOPE AND PROGRAMME OF WORK OF
THE RURAL YOUTH UNION

We are an organized ideological-educational and political movement of rural youth. We want to live better and finer. We want to participate in creating the society which will secure every individual the possibility most favourable conditions for an all-round development of creative forces and abilities. We want to build up the life in villages based — as in the whole country — on the principles of social justice, general welfare, and highly developed culture. We want to build up the world for ever free from wars, exploitation and injustice.

When owing to the victory of the international forces of progress and democracy over the obscure forces of the criminal fascism in the World War II, the Polish people that contributed to this victory with the greatest along with Soviet Union sacrifice of blood, regained its so highly paid freedom — we and our older brothers were convinced that there would be no more obstacles for building at last the country-side and the whole country just like it had been dreamt of by generations of the best sons of the Polish people.

The power in the country was taken by the representatives of the people, bringing thus the great owners land in the hands of the peasantry, factories and banks were taken away from capitalists, the industry began to develop rapidly, schools became more accessible to the children of peasants and workers, the education was spreading widely, the cultural level of masses was increasing.

Unfortunately this progress was not winning gains in all fields — our achievements were won at by far too great sacrifices, and accompanied by too many losses that could be avoided.

The past period had most painfully struck the country-side. The agriculture as a whole had been brought back in its development when compared with the pre-war situation. The confidence in the people's power had been shaken not only by the widely prevailing methods of illegality and arbitrary bureaucracy, but also by regulations and laws not complying with the Constitution.

An important part of the rural youth went to towns getting there their profession and more endurable living conditions. However, many young people simply fled to towns for fear of hopelessness and difficult conditions of life in the country-side. As a result of this chaotic exodus, shortage of labour can be felt in many villages, while in some regions the overpopulation continues to exist.

We do not intend to be a generation of tragically disappointed failures and exasperated people. We have sufficient forces, enthusiasm and chances enough to take up the struggle against the spreading evil and to win this struggle.

Immense material and moral losses of the Polish people in the past period were the result of application of Stalinist patterns and methods in the construction of Socialism.

The victorious struggle of all progressive forces of the Polish people, and especially of the democratic trend in the Polish United Workers Party that led this struggle, had in the memorable days of the Polish October brought about a consolidation of our sovereignty and a condemnation of erroneous methods of building Socialism. Owing to this victory the Polish people can now organize the life in accordance with the interests and aspirations, and the rural youth can fight for a better future for themselves, for the country-side and the people. We must not neglect taking advantage of this historical chance. We will stay on guard of our sovereignty and with all our forces strengthen the process of democratic changes started by the Polish October. We will fight for :

In the political field

— full granting of personal freedom of the individual by the State authority; this freedom can be limited only by the interests of the society;

- such a political system in which the citizen would have the possibility of exercising the possibly widest influence on the creation and the control of governing bodies;
- restoring the mutual confidence between the peasants and the people's power;
- application of such an internal and foreign policy as would be in accordance with the will of the majority of the people represented by the Sejm constituted in democratic elections;
- establishing the principle of the government's responsibility before the Sejm;
- increasing the rights and autonomy of National Councils;
- full independence of law-courts.

The Rural Youth Union is doing all in its power in order never to allow the restoration of conditions for reviving a new form of "Beria system" in our country.

In the economic field

- full application of the principle according to which the individual should have the right to claim this participation in the national income according to his personal contribution of work;
- recognition and higher appreciation of the position of the peasant who is giving bread to his nation;
- securing conditions of free development of individual farms as the main source of food products and agricultural raw materials;
- development of all productive forces in agriculture and abolishing of all forms of exploitation;
- granting free disposal of peasant land;
- rehabilitation of various forms of peasant's co-operation and peasants' co-operative movement destroyed in the past period, and especially rural circles, dairy co-operative movement, sale and supply co-operative activities, lending and saving co-operative organizations etc., so as to make them the foundation of further remodelling the agriculture and social relations in the country-side in accordance with the principles of the Polish model of Socialism;
- further modernization of agriculture;
- transformation of State Forest Estates into highly productive socialist units based on the principle of rentability. This should be done with the contribution of rural youth groups in the State Farms and State Forest Estates;
- State assistance in reconstruction of devastated farms, low-interest and convenient credit, material and organisatory assistance for rural building, with privileges for young couples in order to make their life easier and to improve conditions of farming work;
- harmonious and proportionate development of all branches of national economy; the development of industry cannot take place at the cost of the development of agriculture nor vice versa, but it should be kept in mind that there can be no modern agriculture without a strong and modern industry;
- economic relations between town and countryside should be based on the exchange with prices constituting due compensation for the peasants' labour, with the increasing participation of sales and supply co-operatives;
- development of agricultural products industry and handicraft in the countryside, especially in overpopulated areas, in order to pen up new employment chances for the rural youth;
- the Rural Youth Union will encourage — as the conditions in each region will admit — establishment of co-operative forms of cultivating the soil and the common farming, with respect of the principle that only the farmer's personal belief in the superiority of the common farming over the individual one can be stimulus for joining the co-operative farms; attempts to apply any forms of compulsory or prohibitive measures while organizing the co-operative farms should be considered as political crimes aimed against the constitutional freedoms of the people's State;
- the Rural Youth Union will defend the rural youth against exploitation;
- the Rural Youth Union will help to bring under cultivation all areas in the country that hitherto had not been fully cultivated.

In the educational and cultural field

The Rural Youth Union will fight for equal start for the peasant youth in getting to secondary and higher schools, for increasing the number of secondary schools in the countryside and improving the level of teaching in rural schools;

- for creating bonds linking the countryside schools with the needs of the environment;
- for development of network of student homes and scholarships for the peasant youth;
- for creating a system of general vocational schooling of rural youth in the farming profession for the quickest possible introduction of the principle : "not one farmer without farming education"; the Rural Youth Union will actively participate in the work of agricultural adaptation system and demand the development of agricultural schools network;
- for revival of popular universities and open universities which should become schools of social activities in the countryside;
- for development of radio service network, for increase of village cinema, clubs and sporting grounds;
- for abolition of hooliganism and drinking among youth;
- for adequate organization of health service in the countryside.

The Rural Youth Union will particularly encourage all co-operative initiatives in this field and also encourage young physicians to settle in the countryside;

- The Rural Youth Union will organize amateur cultural and sports movement in the countryside;
- The Rural Youth Union will aim at improving the cultural side of pastimes and recreation in the countryside.

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We consider fulfilment of the above demands as the precondition of building up the countryside that will be wealthy cultural and free from exploitation and contempt of man by man, where no young man will flee to town for fear of misery, of hard and non-remunerative work and primitive conditions of existence.

We want the countryside we are building to have plenty of bread, joy and gladness, with all people living in fraternal friendship.

In all our initiatives we will keep to the principle that man should be ultimate aim of all changes.

For the man, for his welfare and happiness we shall co-operate in creating system in which there will be no exploitation of man by man, nobody will fear his future, nobody will be afraid of expressing his views, and the broadest conception of democracy and tolerance will become the general principle in all lines of life. This will be the Socialist system that can be built only with democratic methods, and for such a system we will fight with all our enthusiasm and all forces of our young brains, hands and hearts. We will educate the man for his own happiness and future — he must have a strong and honest character broadminded horizons, he must not fear any difficulties.

This man must be at the same time brave, courageous and aiming through incessant self-work at improving his cultural qualities, increasing his vocational knowledge and acquiring scientific foundations of his world-outlook. Only such a man can be really be social-minded, devoted to the cause of his class and his people and capable of fighting for making true the finest ideals of mankind.

The fundamental unit of our activities is the rural youth group, the main educational method — the possibility broadest democratism, as our leading principle on all levels of organisation's life, in social activities and daily life. The supreme principle of our democratism is the subordination of the minority to the will of the majority with complete tolerance and respect for the opinion of the minority. Every member of the Rural Youth Union has the right and the duty to express in his group such views as he thinks to be right and true to his conscience. Discussion is the method of eliminating differences of opinions and coming to objective truth.

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Should anybody remain not convinced of his error — he must not be forced to abandon his views through compulsion, so that there can arise no conflict between his personal conscience and the

reasons as represented by the organization.

We shall fight for full tolerance for believers and, non-believing people, for respect of human dignity irrespective of his nationality or class origin or world-outlook. We shall cultivate the feelings of class pride and peasant dignity among rural youth. The rural youth of national minorities has full right to join the Rural Youth Union and organize groups of Rural Youth Union. We deny any chauvinism and fanaticism — every man doing a socially useful work is our bother.

Our practical activities will be based on the achievements of generation, we shall learn from the experience and errors of the past. These experiences teach us that progressive political peasant movements were gaining victories when they went to the struggle hand in hand with the revolutionary workers' movement.

As a rule there are in fact, no insoluble contradictions of interests between peasants and workers. Both of them belong to one world of working people and their common enemy was the capitalist and the great landowner. We will therefore strengthen the alliance of workers and peasants — the foundation stone of people's power in our country, at the same time recognizing the leading role of the working class in the Polish nation and the ideological leadership of its vanguard — the Polish United Workers Party. The Rural Youth Union retains, however, its full organizatory independence in relation to the Polish United Workers Party and the United Peasant Party. The ideological and political influence of these two parties in the Rural Youth Union can be based on the confidence that members of the Rural Youth Union will have towards the party and its Members.

We oppose all attempts at intervening in internal affairs of the Rural Youth Union both from the Polish United Workers' Party and the United Peasant Party.

Members of the Rural Youth Union may join political parties if they wish to do so.

We think that the main condition for favourable development of the countryside and the whole country in the direction of Socialism is the adequate and harmoniously developing co-operation between the Polish Unit Workers' Party and the United Peasant Party. We will therefore do all in our power to eliminate as much as we only can all obstacles in the way of the development of this co-operation.

Keeping in our minds the memories of the lessons and best traditions of the past — we shall strengthen the united front of action with other youth organizations organized on similar principles, especially with the organizations of the working youth, on the basis of full equality. We shall extend our willingness and care towards the Polish Pathfinders' Union in its rural activities.

In our fight and activities we stand for all people struggling for freedom and progress wherever they may be, against any oppression, exploitation and humiliation of man. We shall therefore develop and strengthen fraternal co-operation with all progressive organizations of youth working in all countries, irrespective of the social system there. We shall fight for abolition of war and hatred in international relations, for putting an end to the experiments with nuclear weapons. It is high time to put the best achievements of human mind at the service of man's happiness.

In all our actions we shall refer to the finest traditions of progressive movements of national liberation and progressive social movements of our nation. We refer to the radical trend of peasant youth struggling against the slavery of capitalists and great landowners, against obscurantism and backwardness. Particularly near to us are therefore the traditions of the Rural Youth Union "WICI", the Communist Union of Polish Youth and the Union of Fighting Youth and we are taking from them their spirit of uncompromising fight against the system of exploitation. We are taking from "WICI" their aspirations for independent way of thinking and deep democratism and rich achievements in methods of educational work. We refer also to the positive sides of the activities of the Union of Polish Youth whose members, despite the bureaucratization of the majority of its structure, could show in many areas and many fields of life an admirable perseverance and devotion in carrying out the programme of industrialization of our country and in the cultural-educational activities in the countryside.

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We include also in our traditions the courageous deeds of the Union of Polish Youth which was active before the war in the areas of the now Regained Territories, inflexibly defending the Polish life against the flood of Prussian chauvinism. Drawing from the same sources we declare our attachment to the traditions of Silesians Uprisings, the activities of the Union of Poles in Germany, Polish Choir Groups and various forms of Polish commercial co-operative activities developing in those areas.

We refer to the tradition of heroic struggles of the Peasant Battalions during occupation, with which the peasant youth has filled one of the finest pages of their patriotism, to the valiant deeds of soldiers of People's and Home Armies, and of the Polish forces fighting along with the allied armies. The Polish soldier — wherever he was shedding his blood — was always fighting for freedom and independence of his fatherland.

Inspired with the sublime traditions of the past, faithful to the will written with blood of those who died for the cause of our friends, boys and girls, — we are going ahead confident of the justness of our ideals, in victorious march towards a new, better future.

We call on everybody who is young, to whom our programme is near and dear, and who wants to carry it out by participating in the activities of a group of Rural Youth Union; join our ranks.

