

CONDENSED BIOGRAPHIES (continued)

Name	Born	Family Background	Education	Joined CP	Full Member of CC	Politburo	CC Secretariat	Other Present Position(s)
Lukasiewicz, Jerzy	1931	Intelligentsia	Studied history & sociology at CC Higher School of Social Sciences	1951	Nov. 1968 to date		Dec. 1971 to date	
Olszowski, Stefan	1931	Intelligentsia	M.A. (linguistics & literature), Lodz Univ.	Unknown	June 1964 to date	Dec. 1970 to date	Nov. 1968- Dec. 1971	Minister of Foreign Affairs
Szlachcic, Franciszek	1920	Working class	M.Sc., Cracow Mining & Metallurgical Academy	1943	Nov. 1968 to date	Dec. 1971 to date	Dec. 1971 to date	
Szydlak, Jan	1925	Working class	2-year party school	1945	June 1964 to date	Candidate Nov. 1968- Dec. 1970; full Dec. 1970 to date	Nov. 1968 to date	
Tejchma, Jozef	1927	Peasant	Studied at Warsaw Academy of Political Sciences; M.A. (history), CC Higher School of Social Sciences	1952	June 1964 to date	Nov. 1968 to date	June 1964- March 1972	Deputy Prime Minister
Werblan, Andrzej	1924	Intelligentsia	Studied at CC Inst. of Social Sciences; M.A. (history) & Ph.D. (political science), Warsaw University	1948	July 1956 to date		Member, Dec. 1971 to date	Deputy speaker of the Sejm
Zendarowski, Zdzislaw	1929	Working class	Law degree, Warsaw University; studied at Warsaw Univ. Institute of Marxist Philosophy	1948	Nov. 1968 to date		Member, Mar. 1972 to date	Chairman, CC Organization Department

EDWARD GIEREK

Present Positions:

Party: Member of the Politburo; First Secretary of the Central Committee (party leader)

Other: Sejm Deputy

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Edward Gierek was born on 6 January 1913 in the village of Porabka in the Bedzin district, which at the time was under Tsarist Russia. His father was a miner of Polish ethnic stock and almost certainly a Roman Catholic.

Gierek's official biography states that his father was killed in a mining disaster in 1917 and that, forced by poverty, the family emigrated to France in 1923. At the age of 12 Gierek went to work as a farm hand, and a year later began work in a coal mine. He soon became a member of the Confédération Générale du Travail, and in April 1931 joined the French Communist Party and was active on its behalf in the Pas-de-Calais region, helping to organize miners' strikes between 1931 and 1934. According to this biography, he was also active in the Polish Association for the Propagation of Culture and Education (Towarzystwo Kulturalno-Oswiatowe).

In 1934 Gierek got into serious trouble with the French police for helping to organize the first sit-down strike in French history. He was deported in August of that year and returned to Poland, where he was called up for two years' military service. In June 1937 he again emigrated, this time to Belgium (Limburg), where he worked in the mines and joined the Belgian Communist Party. During the German occupation of Belgium, he is reported (by Polish biographers) to have been active in the underground resistance movement, in which he organized Polish groups and participated in acts of sabotage in the mines and the communication network. (This was contested by Colonel Henri Bernard, an organizer of resistance groups in Belgium and

a professor of military history at the Belgian Military Academy, who stated that Gierek "remained discreet and inactive" and was "not recognized as a member of the Belgian resistance.")

In January 1946 Gierek became chairman of the Polish Section of the Belgian Communist Party, and in the same year became chairman of the National Council of Poles in Belgium and was elected a delegate to the Congress of the Polish Emigration. He was a cofounder of the Polish Workers' Party (Communist) in Belgium and of the Union of Polish Patriots in Belgium.

In 1948, after again being selected as a delegate to that year's Congress of the Polish Emigration, Gierek finally returned to Poland, where he joined the Polish Workers' Party Central Committee staff as an instructor in the Organization Department. (According to Colonel Bernard "he was expelled from Belgium for engaging, as a non-Belgian, in illegal political activity.") After the congress in December 1948 at which the PWP merged with the Polish Socialist Party into the new Polish United Workers' Party (PUWP) he went to Silesia, where he was reported in May of the following year to be the deputy head of the Organization Department of the Voivodship Party Committee in Katowice. After completing a course of study in the Central Party School (1949-1951), he became the economic secretary of that committee.

Throughout this period Gierek studied in his spare time, and according to official sources received a diploma from the Cracow Academy of Mining and Metallurgy in 1954. (A number of other sources claim that this diploma was a "courtesy" one, like most of those given to top-level members of the party committee in Katowice at that time.)

At the second party congress in March 1954 Gierek was elected to the Central Committee, of which he has been a member ever since. In May of that year he went to Warsaw, where he became head of the Central Committee's Industrial

Department. At the sixth plenum of the PUWP CC in March 1956 he was elected to the Central Committee Secretariat, and at the seventh plenum in July 1956 he was elected to the Politburo, but failed to retain this position at the eighth plenum, four months later. On 10 March 1957 he was elected First Secretary of the voivodship committee in Katowice, at the same time retaining his position as Central Committee Secretary. At the third party congress in March 1959 he was again elected to the Politburo, and has been a member of that body ever since. In June 1964, at the fourth party congress, he was dropped from the Secretariat of the CC. He returned to that body more than six years later when, at the seventh CC plenum on 20 December 1970, he was elected its First Secretary. At the sixth congress in December 1971 he was re-elected to this post, as well as to full membership in the Politburo.

Gierek has been a Sejm deputy since 1952. In the 1952-1957 Sejm he was Chairman of the Committee on Industry, and when the new Sejm convened in 1957 he was made Chairman of the Committee on National Defense. Toward the end of May 1957 he was elected chairman of the Polish-French parliamentary group.

In July 1956 Gierek was appointed chairman of the Commission to Investigate the Poznan Uprising. (The final report of this commission was never published.) In the critical months of August and December 1956 he was particularly active, and made a number of speeches to voivodship committees in Katowice, Poznan, and Opole. In January 1957 he was appointed a member of the Economic Council of the Council of Ministers, a move in line with the party's evaluation of him as one of its experts on industrial problems.

Both this expertise and considerable administrative and organizational talent were manifest throughout Gierek's 14-year reign in Katowice. During this period he developed a reputation not as a reformer but as an efficient manager, whose orthodoxy in political and ideological matters was offset by a pragmatic approach to socioeconomic issues and a sure touch in human relations. Although Gierek appeared

to avoid taking sides in internal party disputes, he and his associates clashed repeatedly with the central leadership, over economic policy, particularly in so far as it affected Silesia, Poland's industrial heartland. In view of the region's importance for the national economy, Silesia was often jokingly referred to as the "Polish Katanga," and Gierek was dubbed the "Polish Tshombe." His rise to national prominence was closely linked with the successful economic performance of Silesian industry. Moreover, given the fact that his base of operations was Katowice rather than Warsaw, he was identified more strongly with the region than with the central leadership, and hence was not held responsible for the latter's errors in socioeconomic policy.

During the party in-fighting of 1968 Gierek supported Gomulka, but his personal political fortunes seemed to decline in the wake of the latter's effort to bolster his shaky position by sanctioning the emergence in the leadership of a young, dynamic group of "technocrats" and apparatchiks. Gierek and his Silesian colleagues indirectly but unmistakably opposed various elements of the economic reform scheme being worked out by Politburo member and CC Secretary Boleslaw Jaszczuk, and in 1969 and 1970, when Jaszczuk's authority in the party was at its height, Gierek's influence was considerably reduced. In retrospect, however, his opposition to Jaszczuk's economic policies and reform plans (which many Poles, particularly the workers, feared would further depress an already low living standard) made Gierek a logical choice for the party leader.

Since his return to Poland in 1948 Gierek has traveled abroad on a number of occasions. His experience in France and Belgium -- he speaks both French and Flemish -- made him a logical choice for delegations to these two countries; in July 1956 he was a member of the PUWP delegation to the French party's 14th congress, in April 1957 he was a delegate to the Belgian party's 12th congress, and in April 1958 he headed a parliamentary delegation to France. In October 1958 he went to Moscow as a member of a party-government delegation, and subsequently maintained close contact with a number of provincial party officials in the USSR. Since assuming the post



of First Secretary, he has been in the USSR on a number of occasions and has visited every Warsaw Pact country except Rumania.

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### Political Career

1931 (April)	Joined French Communist Party.
1934 (August)	Deported from France, returned to Poland.
1937 (June)	Emigrated to Belgium, joined Belgian CP.
1946 (January)	Became Chairman of Polish Section of Belgian CP; named Chairman of National Council of Poles in Belgium; elected delegate to Congress of Polish Emigration.
1948 (Spring)	Again elected delegate to Congress of Polish Emigration.
1948 (June)	Returned to Poland, became instructor in Organization Department of Polish Workers' Party CC in Warsaw.
1948 (December)	Went to work for Katowice Voivodship Party Committee (Silesia).
1949 (May)	Became deputy head of Organization Department of Katowice Voivodship Party Committee.
1949-1951	Studied at Central Party School.
1951 (April)	Became economic secretary of Katowice Voivodship Party Committee.
1952 (October)	Elected deputy to <u>Sejm</u> , became Chairman of Committee on Industry.
1954 (March)	Elected full member of CC.
1954 (May)	Returned to Warsaw, became head of CC Industrial Department.