

No. 14668. INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS. ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS ON 16 DECEMBER 1966¹

NOTIFICATION under article 4 (3)

Received on:

1 February 1982

POLAND

The notification reads as follows:

“Pursuant to Article 4 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, I have the honour to communicate that in connection with the proclamation of martial law by the Council of State of the Polish People’s Republic, as based on Article 33 para. 2 of Poland’s Constitution, there has been a temporary derogation from or limitation of application of provisions of Articles 9, 12 paras. 1 and 2, 14 para. 5, 19 para. 2, 21 and 22 of the Covenant, to the extent strictly required by the exigencies of the situation. The decree of the Council of State on martial law and other decrees thereto of 12 December 1981, which had given rise to the foregoing derogation from or limitation of the provisions of the Covenant, were approved by the Diet (Sejm) of the Polish People’s Republic, on 25 January 1982, in its law on special legal regulation at the time of martial law.

Temporary limitation of certain rights of citizens has been prompted by the supreme national interest. It was caused by the exigencies of averting a civil war, economic anarchy as well as destabilization of state and social structures. The purpose of the measures thus introduced has been to reverse an exceptionally serious public emergency threatening the life of the nation and to create conditions for an effective protection of Poland’s sovereignty and independence.

It should be noted that the said limitations are being accompanied by efforts at creating conditions for stabilization, with a view to promoting national accord and the continuation of a process of national and social renewal and economic reconstruction. The same purposes are served by parallelly adopted decree on pardoning and consigning to oblivion certain crimes and offenses committed in social conflicts out of political motivations, prior to 13 December 1981.

The restrictive measures in question are of a temporary nature. They have already been considerably cut back and along with the stabilizing of the situation, will be successively terminated.”

Registered ex officio on 1 February 1982.

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 999, p. 171, and annex A in volumes 1007, 1008, 1022, 1026, 1031, 1035, 1037, 1038, 1039, 1057, 1059, 1065, 1066, 1075, 1088, 1092, 1103, 1106, 1120, 1130, 1131, 1132, 1136, 1138, 1141, 1144, 1147, 1150, 1151, 1161, 1181, 1195, 1197, 1199, 1202, 1205, 1207, 1211, 1213, 1214, 1216, 1218, 1222, 1225, 1249, 1256 and 1259.