

The 13th of December I remember vividly, because a day before I visited Barbara on her name day. I came back home late and at 7am or even at 6.30am my neighbour came in, he was a vice-president of Supreme Administrative Court. He appeared and said: "the war". I asked: "What are you talking about?" and he replied only: "switch on TV". And then, of course on the TV screen I saw General Jaruzelski, who once again was repeating again and again. At that time I was thinking that, because of my role in the Union's structures, I should disappear and indeed we moved in another place of the city. In the evening of that day I met another professor of my department, who was the leader of the Institute of National Remembrance, professor Witold Kulesza. We were together the members of strike activities at our department. We knew that the next day we were going to be at our department.

When I was leaving my house, my son was 9 months old, and I had the feeling that I am going to war. We arrived and the one question started to be asked: "What to do next?", "What to do next?". And then, at the law department took place the only one Solidarity strike. We started at 8pm. I don't remember how many of us left there but there were also students. All night long there wasn't any negative events and at 7am the general balance took place and, I have to admit, the result was dramatic. The 'Solidarność' Union at University joined 2000 people. Do you know how many of us stayed until morning? 16 but 11 from the Law Department. The question 'what to do?' turned up and the strike was dissolved. We were talking to students leaders and they were saying: 'until 10am we'll be gone'. We left the Law Department at 7.30- 8.00 and then the sun came out and...do you know, students for the war!

And then it happened what happened which was the students' strike. And the intervention took place.

I always underline that the important role performed the dean of Law Department, Mrs Petrykowska, who led out students and other university workers, including members of university committee of the Polish United Workers' Party, through the back door and nothing happened to them. ZOMO were coming in: one drunk, other huffy, but nobody was harmed.

I'll tell you something about my party membership. Before the martial law started I had abandoned the Polish United Workers' Party, in September 1981. And after the martial law period started...the martial law has been continuing...

It's great, isn't? The underground activity had started, in the sense that meetings of workers committee was taking place, for example, in my house- there we were deciding what to do. The colportage information issues, printed press issues were brought up. The strategic actions were that, for example, we decided who we will supported in the next dean election. However, if you have had asked me whether there was a hope for a Poland which we have nowadays, after all those critical observations from 1989 and 1990, I have to say no. And I'll tell you another story.

It is 1986 and Jurek Kropiwnicki is coming out of the prison. Our former mayor of the city. Jurek Kropiwnicki was involved in 'Solidarność' activity at provincial level in cooperation with Słowik. Kropiwnicki wanted to continue his job career at the University and therefore he visited dean Wojtczak. He agreed to his academic activity but had to change his decision as a result of intervention of the security police workers. But the dean's public promise for employment gave him the legal opportunity to demand following the lead of promise. I'm saying this story not to tell about Kropiwnicki but to tell about my conversation with him before his first case. And I remember asking him: "Jerzy, will we be able to see free Poland?" and his answer: "Piotr, forget about it. Our generation won't see

Poland as free country, maybe the generation of our children. But more likely our grandchildren". Looking at his experience and political activity this conversation was my own reflection regarding the situation of that time. When you ask me if we had some hope for independence I'm answering- both of them didn't and I think that the rest of population didn't have sufficient imaginary to hope.