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INTERVIEW WITH LECH WALESZA

WITH IRANIANS IN SEARCH OF A NON-
VIOLENT TRANSITION TO A SECULAR
DEMOCRACY

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INTERVIEW WITH LECH WALESZA

WITH IRANIAN'S IN SEARCH OF NON-VIOLENT TRANSITION TO A
SECULAR DEMOCRACY

SYNOPSIS

In August 1980, workers occupied the Lenin Shipyard in Gdansk and won from their communist overlords the right to form independent trades unions – a concession unprecedented in the history of the communist world.

Why did the revolution happen in Poland? What was the relationship between Solidarity and the Communist regime? How did the West react to Solidarity? And how did Lech Walesa become the hero / leader during the tumultuous events of the next sixteen months, culminating in the declaration of martial law.

Poland is on the radar screen of the Iranian intellectual community, both inside and outside the country, as a society that succeeded in shedding its totalitarian system and successfully replacing it with a democratic one. However, much of the details of Poland's story are not known. The focus of Iranians in the Diaspora has been on the more recent examples of national liberation: South Africa under the leadership of Nelson Mandela, the Former Yugoslavia, and extensive attention is given to Gandhi and India. A people and nation culturally the closest to Iran and Iranian "Erfan" (classical Iranian theology).

The similarities of the situation in Iran today, and Poland under Communist rule just a couple of decades ago are remarkable. So much so that the Producer of this production took an interest in the history of Poland and the Polish experience.

You will be surprised to see how similar the Iranian situation is today to that of Poland under Communism, despite the distance of time, culture and apparently philosophy of life.

DIRECTORS BIOGRAPHY

JOANNA ELIZA PARTYKA

- Joanna was born in 1976. Prior to a career in film, she studied Literature at Jagiellonian University of Krakow, obtaining her MA in 2002.
- Her first feature film was "La derniere soufflé" under the direction of Alexander Adela, working at the Goldcrest facilities in Soho as a trainee assistant editor. She is currently working at Pinewood Studio's on "Nanny McPhee" by Emma Thompson.
- She will be directing the interview with President Lech Walesa, and acting as a translator also.
- Joanna has a keen interest in anything to do with Poland and to the average Westerner she can make Zubrowka look like cool water.

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SECULAR DEMOCRACY

PRODUCERS BIOGRAPHY

AMIR KHOSROW SHEIBANY

- Amir is a child of industry, having spent his early years surrounded by the enchanting aroma of blast furnaces & coking plants, and the banging sounds of casting billets & rolling mills.
- Involuntarily exiled in 1978 to London, England, just before his 10th birthday by the 'students of the line of Imam Khomeini', he spent his youth at a British boarding school, where he became better acquainted with the Christian religion, Western Philosophy and (as a Non-Commission Officer in the Royal Air Force) military protocol.
- With a Bachelor in Computer Engineering he was the founding partner of Lexus Consulting, an IBM Premier Business Partner, and Amiran Corporation (BVI). With projects completed in Zurich-Switzerland, Wall Street-USA, Nice/Monaco-France, Whitehall-London and sun drenched Miami; he has become an avid world traveler and mountain hiker as a result.
- In between projects he supports the Iranian people's aims of achieving a secular & democratic government based on several thousand years of national cultural continuity.

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CINEMATOGRAPHERS BIOGRAPHY

MALGORZATA ZABKOWSKA

- Born in 1977, Gosia hails from Poznan where she studied photography. She attained a master's degree in audiovisual studies in 2002 from Jagiellonian University and is currently studying "Directing Photography" at the famous Lodz film school. She has completed 3 short films in super 35mm and several digital productions and will be responsible for all filming and lighting in this interview. In the weekends Gosia enjoys riding horseback - without a saddle like a Tatarian.

AGATA BABAROWSKA.

- Also a graduate of audiovisual studies at Jagiellonian in 2003, Agata will act as the assistant to Gosia in this interview. Having recently moved from the radio station RMF in Krakow, to radio ESKA as a film journalist and assistant editor, she has interviewed some famous filmmakers and stars. The 'extremist' in our film crew, Agata is involved in almost every kind of extreme sport – but she still has not got round to learning how to swim!

INTERVIEW WITH LECH WALESZA

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PRODUCERS NOTES

It is the heartfelt desire of those involved in this production that the opposition in the Diaspora unites under the national banner for the single objective of replacing Khomeini's Islamic Republic, with a secular and democratic government based upon a "National Referendum with International Observation". With this in mind, the questions being presented to President Lech Walesa will be sent via e-mail for review by all opposition groups: left and right of the political spectrum, Monarchist as well as Republican's, Communist as well as Capitalist.

In the next section, below, are some initial suggestions for interview questions. They have been categorized under four sections:

- (1.) introduction to President Walesa,
- (2.) organizational issue's pertaining to first strikes in Poland and challenges that were overcome,
- (3.) memories of some of the darkest days in the struggle,
- (4.) questions from the younger Iranians in search of a popular sovereignty, direct response to individuals, who will be named.

The final list of questions will be submitted to the office of President Lech Walesa a week before the interview. Those selected and approved will appear at the end of this document.

Please note that we are allocated only one hour of time for this interview, and hence the area to be covered will inevitably be limited.

Stages	Expected time (hrs)	Percentage complete.
Pre-production	120	100%
Interview	4	100%
Post-production	240	60%

■ *Table: Where is the effort going? Where are we now?*

No revenue is expected to be generated from this project. No one involved has been paid for their time & efforts and all travel costs have been covered by each individual participating. Professional camera & lighting equipment were kindly lent by a local community school. Film will be shot on a Sony DVCAM for 16x9 wide-screen TV's (for future proofing), in the NTSC system. Lighting system needs 240v power source near-by.

After the 'Final Cut' and 'Final Transcript' is accepted and approved by the office of President Lech Walesa, it will be distributed far and wide, to all four exiled satellite stations, political web sites and the two famous Iranian Newspapers in the Diaspora, Kayhan and NimRooz. Interview should be ready just before August 2004.

The interview is FREE from copyright or royalty and dedicated to the struggle for freedom by Iranian patriots. Long Live Iran!

INTERVIEW WITH LECH WALESA

WITH IRANIAN'S IN SEARCH OF NON-VIOLENT TRANSITION TO A
SECULAR DEMOCRACY

OUTLINE OF INTERVIEW

After a video introduction based on previously collected material of the History of Poland, Solidarity, Lech Walesa and the role of various entities involved in Poland (few sentences, around 3 – 4 min), we start the interview with a greeting.

Interview (duration 30-40 min): We cover the first activities of Lech Walesa from the age of 27. And expand upon the LW statement: *"We are the heirs of those national aspirations thanks to which our people could never be made into an inert mass with no will of their own. We want to live with the belief that law means law and justice means justice, that our toil has a meaning and is not wasted, that our culture grows and develops in freedom."* We ask what role the international community played and the responsibility they showed in not abandoning human rights and humane values.

Next we discuss the stressful aspects of resistance to brutal force, and discuss the moral principles and the courage needed to succeed. We visit some of the sad and tearful scenes of the struggle. And end it on a positive and motivating note accentuated with some film or photo footage. And expand upon the LW statement: *"It is hardly possible to build anything if frustration, bitterness and a mood of helplessness prevail."* We also ask about the importance of the role of the Diaspora and the need for unity and reconciliation.

Depending on help we get from Solidarity museum, we may have a documentary about Solidarity paced into interview (it will help in the editing also). Covering materials from Dec. 1970, Aug. 1980, 'war state' (martial law) in 1981, The Round Table. (duration 15 min)

Finally the government crackdown and aggression is described, followed by the stalemate, accentuated with film and photo footage including music and cultural scenes of the uneasy situation. And then briefly the final movement and the aftermath of victory are covered.

We would like to leave as much space as possible for President Walesa to speak directly to the Iranian youth about why he risked his life for his fellow citizens, why he chose a democratic system, why he pursued a non-violent path and what common values he believes all persons around the world share.

The program ends with: "Poland is beautiful" (3 min). – pretty pictures from Gdansk, Krakow, flowers (Chopin as background music). We want to show that the struggle was worth it. That people live normal lives now and Poland is not much different from Western Europe

NB**off the record the interviewer would like to ask, if in hindsight, Poland should have followed a different path. Whether it is believed allowing the leading members of the Communist party to go unpunished was wise, and comparisons between Poland's experience in dealing with the ancient regime and that of the other Eastern European states and Russia itself.

INTERVIEW WITH LECH WALESZA

WITH IRANIAN'S IN SEARCH OF NON-VIOLENT TRANSITION TO A
SECULAR DEMOCRACY

INTRODUCING LECH WALESZA (WORKING TITLE)

LW: President Lech Walesa. **JP:** Joanna Partyka, translator. **AK:** Amir K. Sheibany, Interviewer.

Information in square boxes is based on material that the video introduction will cover or subjects covered in LW Biography. We start with Wide Shots of all the crew, camera and lighting positions.

Below are suggested interview Questions for JP. Due to lack of time AK will not ask questions that will then have to be translated (Actual questions asked by JP are in Final Transcript):

AK: Mr. President thank you for taking the time to meet with us today.

JP: Panie Prezydencie, dziękujemy Panu za poświęcenie nam swojego czasu.

AK: At the age of 27 you were involved in one of your first political acts. During the street riots an attempt was made to attack a militia building and liberate arrested people. You tried to find a peaceful solution without harming anyone. Despite your good intentions the crowd called you a traitor. (from *Droga nadziei*, Krakow 1990, page 58). Please briefly explain those moments to us please

JP: W wieku 27 lat zaangażowałeś się Pan w pierwsze polityczne wydarzenia. W czasie zamieszek i ataku na budynek milicji próbowałeś Pan załagodzić sytuację i zakończyć drogę pokojową. Pomimo dobrej woli zostałeś Pan nazwany przez tłum zdrajcą (z *Droga nadziei*, Kraków 1990, s.58). Czy mógłby nam Pan opowiedzieć o tamtych wydarzeniach?

AK: Where there any other examples of misplaced trust?

JP: Czy znalazłby Pan kilka podobnych przykładów, kiedy niesprawiedliwie oskarżono Pana o złe intencje?

There are nominal elections, but only members of a single political party are allowed to participate. The nation has become lethargic. There is an atmosphere of fear, and even terror in the air. The regime talks as if it is legitimate and has some sort of support amongst the population, and ignores any of the issues that concern the majority of the population.

Communist party spokesman: "We need the correction of grave mistakes in the implementation of fundamentally correct policies." "We must cleanse our Party of dishonest, immoral and degenerate people..." The often-used code-phrase for the threat of Soviet invasion was "Geopolitical reality".

The comments of people in the street in those days was, "Their game of musical chairs means nothing to us." The commodity in shortest supply in Poland during the Communist era was trust.

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Opposition groups would say: Nothing is more difficult for ham actors than quitting the stage. They sought a "self-limiting revolution" an "evolutionary revolution".

AK: There seems to be a remarkable similarity between the situation in Poland during the communist tyranny and the situation in other countries experiencing ideological wars. Similarity in the way the regime deals with its citizens and similarity in the way it justifies its legitimacy to its own supporters. How would you explain this?

JP: Wydaje mi się, że istnieje pewne podobieństwo między sytuacją w Polsce w czasach komunizmu a sytuacją w innych krajach, które doświadczyły wojen ideologicznych. Władza zdobywana jest w nieuczciwy sposób i w taki sam sposób utrzymywana. Czy mógłby to Pan skomentować?

THE PERSON, PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE

Questions emphasizing that LW worked for the greater good. The moral principles involved. The dignity, courage and desire of the betterment of all.

AK: What made you decide that you should fight the Communist regime?

JP: Co zdecydowało o tym, że postanowił Pan walczyć z komunistycznym reżimem?

AK: What do you think made you a candidate for leadership?

JP: Co zdecydowało o tym, że stał się Pan kandydatem na lidera?

AK: Were you leading a non-violent movement?

JP: Czy nazwał Pan swój dział i działano innych opozycjonistów – „walk bez użycia siły”?

AK: What was the reason that you came to the conclusion that you should conduct a non-violent movement?

JP: Co spowodowało, że zdecydował się Pan na walkę bez użycia siły?

AK: Some politicians are suggesting that under certain circumstances some force may become advisable. What is your opinion of this?

JP: Niektórzy politycy sugerują, że w pewnych okolicznościach użycie przemocy może być decyzją właściwą. Jaka jest Pana opinia na ten temat?

INTERVIEW WITH LECH WALESA

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AK: The communist regime would say one thing, and yet the reality was something quite different. When did you realize that the regime and the regimes broadcasting services were lying to you?

JP: Rzeczywistość nieustannie zaprzecza a temu co mówi y komunistyczne media. Kiedy zorientowa się Pan, że reżim i media były zakłamane?

AK: How did you make sure everyone else realized that the regime was lying and betraying the same people it claimed to protect?

JP: W jaki sposób przekonał Pan innych o zakłamaniu reżimu i o tym, że system, który powinien bronić klasy robotniczej tak naprawdę zdradził ją?

ORGANISATIONAL ISSUES, STEP BY STEP DETAILS

The Solidarity trade union and movement shattered the myth that the working class cannot see beyond its immediate economic wants, and is therefore doomed to founder. Instead the Communist party clung to economic issues, while the workers raised their own sights to the higher plane of human rights and political participation. The massive General strikes demonstrate Polish societies unity and self-discipline.

AK: Trade Unions were permitted in a Communist System. Was it obvious from the beginning that you could use your workers rights to facilitate organizing Polish society?

JP: Czy od początku było dla Pana oczywiste, że można użyć prawa robotników do tworzenia związków zawodowych jako narzędzia, które zorganizowałyby całe społeczeństwo polskie, a nie tylko tę jedną klasę?

AK: How did you manage to bring your perception of national motives to the rest of the country? Could this not have been done earlier than 1980?

JP: W jaki sposób udało się Panu przekazać Pańskie własne idee całemu społeczeństwu? Czy było to możliwe przed 1980?

The famous 1980 agreement leads to the creation of Solidarity. This resulted in a massive social movement – a civil crusade for a national regeneration.

AK: In what circumstances was the name “Solidarity” created?

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JP: W jakich okolicznościach została stworzona nazwa „Solidarność”?

Poland in Dec. 1980 was like Russia in 1917. Then the Soviets grew alongside the Kerensky Provisional Government in what Trotsky described as “Dual Power”. Now Solidarity grew alongside Kania’s Soviet backed Government.

AK: Can you recollect for us the specific tasks involved in organizing the very first strike.

JP: Czy mógłby Pan opisać nam w jaki sposób udało się zorganizować pierwszy strajk?

AK: How did you manage to organize the first opposition groups in the shipyards and later in the whole of Poland

JP: W jaki sposób udało się Panu oraz innym zaangażowanym zorganizować pierwsze grupy opozycyjne na terenie Stoczni, a później w całej Polsce?

AK: How did opposition members exchange ideas between each other?

JP: W jaki sposób porozumiewaliście się między sobą i wymienialiście idee?

AK: What did the Solidarity structure look like, was it hierarchical or dispersed regionally.

JP: Jak wyglądała struktura Solidarności, czy była hierarchiczna z jednym centrum, czy regionalna?

AK: How did you choose your leaders?

JP: W jaki sposób wybieraliście waszych liderów?

AK: How did you decide that you should start a strike?

JP: W jaki sposób zdecydowaliście, że należy rozpocząć strajk?

AK: And how did you attract people to join in the strike and later how did you manage them so that they do not break the strike.

JP: W jaki sposób werbowaliście ludzi do strajku a później kontrolowaliście aby nikt się z niego nie wycofał?

AK: How did the authorities try to break your spirit and how did you defend yourselves?

JP: W jaki sposób władza próbowała was rozbić i zamaść jak się przed tym broniliście?

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{Expand upon this for several minutes}

AK: Was there any obvious interaction between the role of the workers, the Pope, and the Diaspora?

JP: Jak opisa by Pan rol i wspó prac robotników, Papie a i zagranicznej opozycji?

AK: Did foreign help assist your struggle. If yes could you elaborate?

JP: Czy pa stwa zagraniczne pomagaly i wspieraly was w walce przeciwko re imowi komunistycznemu. Je eli tak, to w jaki sposób?

AK: You have said that biggest danger is the hatred towards the authority, because hatred does not permit one to think objectively. How could you control your hatred for the regime such that it did not hinder your objectives?

JP: Powiedzia Pan, e wielkim niebezpiecze stwem jest nienawi do w adzy re imu, poniewa nienawi nie pozwala my le obiektywnie. W jaki sposób kontrolowa Pan t nienawi i unikn Pan pu apki nieobiektywnego my lenia?

DARKEST DAYS IN THE STRUGGLE

Soviets trusted Jaruzelski, whom they knew extremely well, backed by an officer corps that were intensively indoctrinated and skillfully purged back in 1960's.

AK: Can you provide some examples of Communist party dirty tricks and attempts at dividing and ruling the Solidarity movement..

JP: Czy móg by nam Pan przedstawi par zagra nie fair, którymi komuni ci pos u yli si aby podzieli Solidarno i przez nad ni wladz ?

{Expand upon this for several minutes}

AK: Dec 1970 was one of the darkest periods for the workers in the shipyard and for the opposition movement in general, and yet despite your suffering no one outside of Poland echoed your pain. Please re-live for us those days.

JP: Grudzie 1970 by dla robotników Stoczni jednym z najczarniejszych okresów. Ich ofiara i cierpienie nie znalaz y odd wi ku za granic . Czy móg by Pan przywo a tamte wspomnienia?

AK: What do you consider your biggest failure during the opposition years and how did you manage to control it?

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JP: Co by o dla Pana najwi ksze pora k w czasach opozycyjnych i w jaki sposób sobie Pan z ni poradzi , czy uda o si Panu opanowa sytuacj ?

AK: How did the government crackdown & aggression begin when martial law was declared in 1981, and how did you resist against it.

JP: Jak zacz si stan wojenny? Jakie by y pierwsze agresywne posuni cia rz du i w jaki sposób walczyli cie z nimi?

AK: How do you compare the magnificent success of the Polish struggle for liberty with the struggle of eastern European Communistic countries?

JP: Jak porówna by Pan niesamowity sukces Polaków w walce o wolno z walk innych krajów bloku komunistycznego?

ADVICE TO YOUNG IRANIANS IN SEARCH OF DEMOCRACY

Victory and the aftermath. This section will be based on the questions being asked by the majority of Iranians today. The first name and initial of the family name and city of those asking the questions will be read out.

AK: As you may know many Iranian's are looking to the historic example set by the Solidarity Union of Poland and your leadership in particular today. What do you know of the Iranian struggle for Freedom and Democracy?

JP: Pa ska posta , Solidarno oraz polska droga do wolno ci s wzorem, który wielu Ira czyków chcia oby na ladowa . Czy mógł by nam Pan powiedzie , co Pan wie na temat ira skiej walki o wolno i demokracj ?

TV VIEWER: After Shirin Ebadi won the Nobel Peace Prize, we heard that you had said this was not a correct decision by the Nobel Committee and the award should have gone to the Holy Father, Pope John-Paul II. Could you elaborate on this?

JP: Jeszcze w tym roku Shirin Ebadi otrzyma a Nagrod Nobla. S yszeli my pó niej Pa ski komentarz na ten temat. Powiedzia Pan, e Komitet Noblowski podj niewa ciw decyzj , poniewa nagroda powinna przypa Papie owi Janowi Paw owi II. Czy mógł by si Pan na ten temat wypowiedzie ?

TV VIEWER: How would President Walesa advise us to continue our struggle to free ourselves from this mullah regime?

JP: Czy mógł by nam Pan Prezydent doradzi w jaki sposób mogliby my kontynuowa walk przeciw re imowi mullah?

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5. We film Amir asking questions, nodding, etc...
6. We pack our equipment and we go for shot of vodka. At least will I have to drink something after all this!

Basically: interview is unpredictable, mostly if it is with such a personality like Lech Walesa. We have to be prepared for surprises.

Shots we should have that maybe useful in the interview editing

1. Panorama of Gdansk.
2. Shots of the river in Gdansk and old buildings.
3. Shots of ship.
4. Main Street in Gdansk with people passing by, with playing children etc...
5. Park – trees, flowers (lots of close-ups)
6. Shipyard: - the gate - monument of workers who were killed in December 1970 - workers from Shipyard going to work (very early morning 7 am?)
7. Museum of Solidarity. Probably we will spend a lot of time there. On the first day in Gdansk we will meet Mr Borowczak who is in charge of museum and we will talk about copyrights.
Of course everything depends on weather and the time we can spare.

MORE IDEAS FOR ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

There were 3 main post war revolts 1956, (1968), 1970, and 1980. Internally there were 3 powers Church, Solidarity, and Communist Party. Externally?? Pope, CIA, Diaspora??

Page 165: Government report on beatings: wounds were not self-inflicted. As if someone could beat themselves unconscious!

Page 170: LW: Decisions made in split seconds are best. Those that are weighed up, chewed over, compromised on – they are no good.

LW: was like one of the 16th Century elected kings. The National Commission like the 16th century nobility “Nothing about us without us”

One leaves Poland today with the impression that the most beautiful flowers sometimes bloom on the edge of the abyss.