

Not Another Polish Joke!

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Warsaw

THE SEIZURE of a Polish fishing vessel off San Francisco by American authorities created a week-long crisis here.

Premier Piotr Jaroszewicz immediately called an emergency meeting of the Polish National Security Council.

"The first thing you must do, Mr. Premier," said the Polish Foreign Minister, "is to declare this to be an act of piracy."

"Piracy?" said the Premier. "But they claim our ship was just inside their 12-mile limit. And we claim it was just outside. This sounds more like a nit-picking legal point to me. Why should I call it piracy?"

"So we can bomb and sink a couple of their patrol craft," said the Polish Chief of Staff, "and maybe a Harbor Tour sightseeing boat for good measure."

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"WHY DO WE want to sink three of their boats?" inquired the Premier.

"In case they are transporting our captured seamen aboard them," explained the Chief of Staff. "We must take every measure to save them."

"By sinking them?" asked the Premier.

"Don't worry," said the Commandant of the Polish Marine Corps. "If that fails, we'll land 200 Marines on the Farallon Islands 26 miles west of San Francisco to rescue the crew."

"That's where the crew is?" said the Premier.

"Who knows?" said the Chief of Polish Intelligence. "It's as good a place as any."

"Besides," said the Chief of the Polish Air Force, "those islands are big enough so we won't miss them with our new 13,000-pound bomb we've been wanting to try out."

"And think what it will do for my men's morale," said the Marine Commandant, rubbing his hands. "We haven't invaded any one for a month of Sundays."

"But what if, after all that, the Americans release the ship?" asked the Premier.

"Oh, we're fully prepared for that contingency," said the Air Force Chief confidently. "If they surrender the ship, we'll bomb their oil refineries in Long Beach."

"Whatever for?" said the Premier.

"To prevent them from preventing our Marines from leaving the Farallons," explained the Chief of Intelligence. "You see, their Navy will then run out of gas."

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"THESE ARE great plans we've drawn up, Mr. Premier," said the Chief of Staff, handing them over. "Once we have sunk three of their boats to save our crewmen who might be on them, invaded the wrong island, and bombed their oil refineries to make them release our ship they've already released, the whole world will be talking about nothing but Poland."

"Your (Polish expletive deleted) right," said the Premier, indignantly tearing up the plans. "And if there's one thing I'm sick and tired of, it's Polish jokes."