

Poland leaders to circumvent constitution

by UPI

WARSAW, Poland - Poland's prime minister and his twin brother president propose amending the constitution to make it easier to identify former communist agents.

Prime Minister Jaroslaw Kaczynski said his brother President Lech Kaczynski is to work out a way to skirt a court's decision that stopped a law forcing more Poles to declare whether they collaborated with the communist-era secret police, Polish Radio reported Tuesday.

Apparently determined to get rid of all communist informants, the prime minister said all the communist police files should be opened, the report said.

To make it legal he suggested a "small amendment" to the constitution to exclude the court's jurisdiction in the case.

The Polish constitutional court Friday ruled the new vetting law cannot be applied collectively to some 700,000 people and instead should be applied only on a case-to-case basis.

Years ago, Poles holding senior public posts went through a vetting process and a new law that went into effect March 15 called for vetting another 700,000 people, many of whom had already been scrutinized for their communist-era activities.

Copyright © 2007, by United Press International. All Rights Reserved.

Poland leaders to circumvent constitution by UPI