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POLAND: Test of Government's Measures

The Polish Government moved quickly and decisively yesterday to create the legal structure for martial law, but the first real test of these procedures will come today as workers return to the factories. ■■■

The detention of about 1,000 union activists, including most of Solidarity's national leadership, may cow some factory workers, but union members are not likely to passively accept defeat. ■■■

Solidarity presumably is attempting to institute contingency plans, including provisions for automatic changes in the leadership as senior members are detained. Union leaders in Gdansk who escaped arrest have indicated that they are forming a national strike committee and that a general strike would be the appropriate response to the government's action. The strongest response to the government's measures may come from local chapters along the Baltic coast. ■■■

The government, according to its press spokesman, is conducting talks with union leader Walesa in the Warsaw area. The regime, hoping that announcement of such talks will prompt workers to take a wait-and-see attitude, would like Walesa to make some kind of statement calling on workers to avoid strikes. Walesa would be reluctant to do so, however, because he realizes that such an action could damage his credibility. Archbishop Glemp publicly criticized the government for abandoning the process of dialogue but urged the populace not to resort to violence. ■■■

The regime is aware that sit-in strikes may take place today and seems prepared to use force, a move that carries with it the danger of bloodshed and civil war. ■■■

Polish military activity has included the deployment of two mechanized regiments--from divisions at Gubin and Elbag--to the Warsaw area. Battalions from the air-borne division at Krakow also were scheduled to be sent

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to airfields near Okecie, Bydgoszcz, and Gdansk. [REDACTED]

Soviet and East European Reactions

Soviet forces are not actively involved, but Soviet authorities in Poland, headed by Marshal Kulikov--the Commander in Chief of Warsaw Pact Forces--were aware of the Polish plans and are continuing to monitor the situation. [REDACTED]

At least some Czechoslovak and East German units and some Soviet units in East Germany have [REDACTED]

While this signals heightened watchfulness, there is no evidence yet that a formal alert has been declared in any of these forces. [REDACTED]

Soviet media continue to report selectively but without comment on Prime Minister Jaruzelski's speech and the measures being undertaken. TASS reports that the situation is generally calm in most areas of Poland. [REDACTED]