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POLAND: Jaruzelski's Speech

*Prime Minister Jaruzelski in his speech yesterday to the party plenum leveled the most sweeping criticism of the US by Poland in recent years, stating that Washington bears the main responsibility for endangering world peace and that the US is heading away from a policy of negotiation and toward confrontation.*

In excerpts available from the speech, Jaruzelski criticized the West for having sold Poland outdated equipment at a good profit and said that Poland should give more attention to developing its "natural markets" in the East.

On domestic issues the Prime Minister again justified the need for martial law and pledged that "counter-revolution" would not win. He said that current tensions only prolong martial law but promised that the Interior Ministry will soon ease more restrictions and release additional detainees.

Jaruzelski tempered his tough language by calling repeatedly for a "national accord" and "genuine political solutions." He restated his commitment to reforming the bureaucracy, introducing economic reforms, and winning the cooperation of students, intellectuals, and the Church.

Jaruzelski said he supported the reforms approved at the party's Ninth Congress last summer, including the free election process that brought about major changes in the party apparatus. He also proposed a new policy, based on the system used in the military, that would put greater emphasis on competence in selecting officials.

The Prime Minister has calculated that there is little hope in the short term for improving relations with the US and that he has little to lose with his harsh rhetoric. His comments will sit well with conservatives and in Moscow, where he will visit, probably next week.

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Jaruzelski has laid out the regime's domestic priorities of first reestablishing order and central control and then proceeding to seek accommodation, if possible. Poles probably will be skeptical about his conciliatory words, which they have heard before. Even party moderates, heartened by his support of party reforms, realize that Jaruzelski will have considerable difficulty translating his intentions into specific policies and steering them through bureaucracies that have long resisted change. [REDACTED]