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BRIEFS AND COMMENTS

POLAND: More Work Stoppages

Work stoppages reportedly have resumed in several Polish factories, apparently in response to statements by party leader Gierek and other top officials that the regime does not intend to roll back recent price increases or offer higher wages as compensation.

The current disturbances could prove to be even more difficult for Gierek to bring under control than the strikes and slowdowns of last week. According to earlier reports, the regime had given in to the demands of some workers for higher wages to compensate for the price increases. The status of these concessions is unclear.

Workers may now feel that the regime has gone back on its earlier promises, and they will not let themselves be bought off so easily a second time. With frustrations at a higher level, workers might be less inclined to confine their protests to factory grounds.

By ruling out wage increases or price rollbacks, the regime has also narrowed its room for maneuver. The situation might now be more volatile because neither side may be willing to compromise. The workers may now decide to raise other longstanding grievances, thereby complicating the process of finding compromise solutions.

DIA Dissent

DIA perceives that the latest work stoppages will lead to heightened regime concern over further unrest, but based on available information it does not anticipate widespread political disturbances at this time.

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