

~~Top Secret~~

SITUATION REPORTS

POLAND

Cardinal Wyszynski has appealed for calm and honest work in an apparent effort to help ease the tense situation.

Wyszynski's sermon--delivered on Sunday and first publicized yesterday by a Polish-language Vatican radio-broadcast--in effect supports the regime's call for a return to work. The Primate also chided the government, however, to borrow less, export less, and better satisfy the people's needs and rights. He also made his usual demand for freedom of speech, echoing one of the demands of the Gdansk strikers. The regime, eager for any help from the Church, aired his statements on prime time television last evening in the form of an interview with a Catholic deputy to the Polish parliament.

In Gdansk, the regime has made its refusal to negotiate with the Unified Strike Committee a matter of political principle. Jan Szydlak, party Politburo member and trade union boss, said that "the authorities do not intend to give up their power, nor to share it with anyone else." Pursuing its efforts to split the strikers, the government negotiating team reportedly has concluded agreements with 47 individual strike committees. Leaders of the joint strike committee, however, who now claim to represent workers from 270 enterprises, assert that only two strike committees have even held talks with the government.

The arrest in Warsaw of 14 leading members of the dissident Committee for Social Self Defense is clearly intended to limit the spread of information on strike developments. During the seven weeks of labor unrest, members of the committee have provided information to Western journalists. Some committee members in Gdansk, who presumably remain free, have also helped provide leadership and encouragement to the Baltic coast strikers.

--continued

~~Top Secret~~

21 August 1980

1

Approved for Release

Date AUG 1999
AUG 1955

28
41

~~Top Secret~~

The government has often detained dissidents for 48 hours, but may decide to keep this group in custody longer. Regime leaders probably hope the arrests will not add significant impetus to the Baltic strikes and apparently are willing to absorb the foreign criticism that this action is certain to generate.

Strike activity in the Western port city of Szczecin has spread to 37 enterprises and has been accompanied by the issuance of political demands similar to those made in Gdansk. It remains unclear whether steel workers in the southern town of Nowa Huta have returned to work after a short strike on Tuesday.

Security Activity

[REDACTED]. Press reports indicate that a large number of police are in tent camps on the edge of the city and claim that some strikers have gone out to argue their cause with the policemen.

In western Poland, major elements of a Polish mechanized infantry division [REDACTED] on Tuesday in convoy activity at their garrisons near Szczecin. The division recently returned to garrison from field training. Although there are strikes in Szczecin, we believe that regular military forces would be employed in a police role only as a last resort.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] since 11 August [REDACTED] Soviet military installations in Poland has shown no increase in activity.
[REDACTED]

--continued

~~Top Secret~~

21 August 1980

~~Top Secret~~

Soviet Jamming

Moscow yesterday began jamming major Western radio-broadcasts to the USSR in an effort to limit the effect news on the Polish strikes might have on the Soviet population. Soviet sensitivity on this score probably stems from the labor unrest at major factories in Gorkiy and Togliatti in June. The Poles apparently have not followed the Soviet lead by jamming Western radiobroadcasts into Poland.

The USSR's move--directed against Voice of America, the British Broadcasting Corporation, and Deutsche Welle--is its first such action since 1973. Moscow took the same step in August 1968 during its invasion of Czechoslovakia.

The renewed jamming is certain to complicate the USSR's defense of its record of adherence to the Helsinki Final Act at the upcoming CSCE review meeting in Madrid. The British Foreign Office has already condemned the jamming as a violation of the Helsinki accords.

Meanwhile, a Soviet Foreign Ministry official responsible for Poland and Czechoslovakia told [redacted] that he strongly endorsed the course party leader Gierk has taken. Emphasizing that the situation was under control, he echoed a Soviet academician's comment a day earlier that the USSR would render Poland whatever economic aid it could to weather the crisis.

[redacted] he added that it was also Moscow's view that the Poles should solve their problems themselves.

~~Top Secret~~

21 August 1980