

~~Top Secret~~

POLAND

Rumors that a large portion of the Soviet-Polish border has been closed and that Polish First Secretary Kania has gone to Moscow cannot be confirmed.

[redacted] reported on Friday that, according to an eyewitness who traveled half the length of the Polish-Soviet border from Brest to Braniewo on 24-25 September, all crossing points except the one at Brest were closed to general traffic. Militia were present in large numbers at these closed border crossing points. [redacted] similar rumors were heard on Friday from Soviet sources in Vilnius, approximately 75 miles from the Polish border.

There is no information to confirm these reports.

[redacted] information indicates that the level of Soviet military activity in and near Poland has not changed since the middle of last week.

[redacted] also reported that Kania was on his way to Moscow on Friday, and various Western correspondents have heard rumors that he is there. [redacted] reported similar information, with one source claiming that the Polish party plenum was postponed from Friday until today because of the trip.

Rumors of a Kania visit to Moscow first surfaced in Warsaw two weeks ago. Such a trip normally would be customary. New party leaders in Eastern Europe traditionally have traveled to the Kremlin to pay their respects within a month of assuming power. A secret trip by Kania prior to the party plenum, however, would indicate either that he is having some difficulty implementing personnel and policy changes or that the Soviets are dissatisfied with the new Polish leadership's progress in repairing the party's shaken authority.

Approved for Release
Date AUG 1999

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29 September 1980

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