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POLAND

The regime is continuing to emphasize that the government is living up to the strike settlements it signed in August and to brand the free trade union's one-hour strike today as irresponsible.

the strike will be conducted in such a way that production can be resumed immediately after it is over and that no new demands will be advanced in connection with the event.

Trade union leaders continue to maintain that factory managements are dealing with official unions that have declared themselves independent but are, in fact, still controlled by the regime. They also charge that the regime has not consulted them before issuing decrees on wages and is preventing them from having access to the media.

Soviet Press Tactics

The Soviets are apparently organizing a domestic and international press campaign to discredit and isolate Polish labor leader Lech Walesa.

the primary objective of Soviet press coverage of Poland at the moment is the denigration of Walesa.

Walesa as uneducated, immoral, antisocialist, in the pay of capitalism, and totally incapable of leading a mass labor organization. Articles along these lines, although less explicit, have been appearing more frequently in the Soviet and Czechoslovak press.

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[REDACTED] the situation in Poland is returning to normal and that the labor unrest is a minor, transient problem that the Polish Government will eventually resolve. This theme has appeared in most Soviet commentary on Poland since the Baltic strike settlements. Moscow is apparently trying to decrease international interest in the situation and deny the Free Trade Unions international support. [REDACTED]

Polish-Soviet Border

Recent reports [REDACTED] support earlier evidence that Polish authorities have closed major crossing points along the border with the Soviet Union in the last 10 days. Several of the closed crossing points are opposite areas in the western military districts where Soviet units are believed to be engaged in military exercises. We do not know if Soviet forces have closed their side of the border. [REDACTED]

An individual who traveled along the northern half of the Polish border on 24-25 September reported that all major highway crossing points except Brest were closed and that Polish militia were present at all border crossing locations. According to the latest reports, approaches to five important highway crossing points are posted with "No Entry" signs, and one of three major rail crossing points is also closed. The only crossing point normally open to Western travelers--the rail and highway crossing leading to Brest--remains open. [REDACTED]

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