

POLAND

*The lengthy negotiations on Friday between Solidarity and the regime did not resolve key differences and may have only postponed a confrontation.*

Although both sides reportedly approached the talks in a businesslike manner, the agreements reached were only verbal and tentative and lack detail. On the most sensitive issue--recognition by Solidarity in its charter of the leading role of the party--the regime seemed to agree only that the Supreme Court would resolve the issue on 10 November. Union leader Lech Walesa has said that the 12 November "strike alert" will remain in effect. (C)

The government may hope that it can work out some accommodation this week with the moderates in Solidarity who seem likely to accept some reference to the party's role. The regime also may hope it can turn public opinion against a strike and reportedly will undertake a publicity campaign emphasizing that Solidarity is now registered and that the new union should start acting responsibly. If the regime does not intend to compromise, it has nine days to prepare for a strike.

The apparent lack of specific agreements probably will not weaken the resolve of the more militant members of Solidarity. They will point to the government's behavior as just another effort to stall and as an indication that it cannot be trusted. The militants probably will not be able to precipitate any dramatic action by Solidarity before 12 November; the moderates will argue that the regime must be given another chance to show its willingness to cooperate. The Solidarity leadership will meet again this evening to discuss tactics.

Polish and Soviet media commentary on the Kania-Brezhnev meeting on Thursday has followed closely the language of the communique that indicated a measure of Soviet support for the Kania regime.

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East German party leader Honecker [REDACTED] that the East Germans were abrogating a treaty with Poland that provided for visa-free travel for Poles and East Germans in part because alleged antisocialist groups in Poland were misusing the treaty to disseminate anti-Communist and anti-Soviet slogans outside Poland. The party leader also justified the regime's action by saying that "imperialists"-- particularly the West Germans--have launched an intense propaganda campaign to denigrate the accomplishments of socialism in Poland and that this campaign is also directed against East Germany. Public reaction in East Germany to the government's responses to the events in Poland could cause the regime--already nervous and insecure--to continue to overreact. [REDACTED]

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