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POLAND

Mieczyslaw Rakowski, the influential editor of the weekly magazine Polityka, told [redacted] on Monday that the seventh plenum of the Central Committee will be held soon.

The plenum may reveal some details of the planning for an extraordinary party congress. Party leader Kania has publicly supported such a conclave, but conservative forces within the party are opposed because they fear they would lose influence and positions at the congress.

Rakowski, who has advocated moderate reform within the current system, believes that during the plenum he and Mieczyslaw Moczar, who represents more nationalist and conservative views, would be appointed to the Politburo.

Both Rakowski and Moczar would support change of the system created by former party leader Gierak since 1970, although not necessarily along the same lines.

Some Strikes Continue

The strike begun on Friday by health service workers in Gdansk has been joined by approximately 1,500 medical students in Szczecin. The strikers are demanding pay increases and have occupied government buildings. Talks began last night between the government and strikers.

More Economic Decline

Polish industrial output was 5 percent lower in October than at the same time last year. This is the third consecutive month that industry turned out fewer goods than in the corresponding periods in 1979. Wages, on the other hand, continue to advance rapidly; they were 18 percent higher last month compared to October 1979.

To ease food shortages, Poland reportedly will import 10 million tons of grain in 1980, creating an agricultural trade deficit of \$1.4 billion--\$500 million greater than

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in 1979. The hard currency trade balance this year probably will exceed \$2 billion; in 1979, it was \$1.6 billion.

Food is likely to remain in short supply. A Polish economist recently reported that the regime is now enforcing price ceilings on food sold in legitimate private markets. This has resulted in a diversion of food into the black market.

Journalists More Assertive

The controversy between Solidarity and the regime has tended to obscure efforts of other social groups and associations which are seeking autonomy from the party and changes in domestic policies. Journalists have been the most outspoken to date.

At a special congress last month, the journalists changed their association's charter to ensure that only "genuine" journalists--and not party stooges--can belong. They also created a special "intervention board" to defend journalists when they come into conflict with the regime. Their chairman is a member of the party's liberal wing who has been an outspoken critic of the regime and who will be an active proponent of change.

East German Alarm

East German officials are alarmed at reports that the Poles are retaliating for East Germany's recent restriction of travel across their border. Sixty East German students in Szczecin reportedly were deported without explanation on Monday, and one claimed that East Germans had been beaten up and stoned in the streets by Poles.

News of the incidents caused an upsurge of anti-Polish sentiment at an East German factory near East Berlin. Party functionaries are trying to play down the incidents to avoid further inflaming public opinion.

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Lower level party officials [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] believe that the Polish party showed deplorable weakness in its handling of the statutes for Solidarity, and one official wondered if Kania was turning into a "second Dubcek." The East German media have reported factually on the decision of the Polish Supreme Court to register Solidarity, but the party leadership apparently is still unsure on what public position to adopt. [REDACTED]

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