

NID 81

January 03, 1981

SITUATION REPORTS

POLAND

*Despite reduced activity, we still believe that the Soviets have sufficient ground forces prepared to conduct a limited intervention within about 24 to 48 hours. They do not have adequate forces mobilized to conduct a major intervention, but with about three to five days of additional preparation, a major intervention force could be readied for use in Poland.*

[REDACTED]

Soviet forces in Eastern Europe and the western USSR appear to be involved largely in routine, seasonal training. Nonetheless, Moscow is continuing to maintain its forces in a state of preparedness that would permit their use with considerable speed and flexibility in reaction to events in Poland.

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[REDACTED]

--continued

Approved for Release  
Date AUG 1999

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Soviet Preparedness

The semiannual Soviet training cycle is progressing normally throughout Eastern Europe and the western USSR,

[REDACTED] The training reflects the integration of recently inducted recruits and specialists into tactical units and probably will result in a gradual increase in the proficiency of Soviet forces in and around Poland. The Soviets also have gained valuable experience over the past several months in conducting partial mobilization and field training exercises

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Political Developments

Commentary in two Polish newspapers yesterday pointed to a lack of unity within the Polish party, concern about a possible conservative backlash, and fear of a Soviet intervention. The semiofficial party daily *Zycie Warszawy* criticized attempts to "torpedo" the party's programs of "inner renewal" and accommodation with the trade union. Apparently aiming its comments at conservative local party members, the paper stated that many party activists do not want to account for their errors, and it warned that others hope the party will retreat from its policy of making political and economic reforms. [REDACTED]

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The weekly paper *Polityka*, which is edited by a Central Committee member and usually espouses relatively liberal views, also warned that any attempt to crush the current reform movement would lead to intense popular reaction and resistance.

*Zycie Warszawy* also seemed to be admonishing the party leadership not to end the process of reform or make empty promises. It pointed to several earlier periods when a Polish regime made promises that it later broke--a reference to the Gomulka and Gierek regimes--and commented that when these promises were not kept, "another tragic stage for Poland" resulted.

*Polityka*, continuing the series of warnings made by various Poles, said that the USSR is "vigilantly" watching developments in Poland and reserves the "right" to protect its interests "by all means at its disposal."

The government, meanwhile, has attempted to prevent a controversy over the number of work-free Saturdays from becoming a major problem by offering a compromise. The main party daily announced yesterday that three instead of two Saturdays this month will be work-free and that a schedule for additional free Saturdays will be announced later.

An announcement by the government in late December that there would be only 25 free Saturdays aroused considerable public opposition, mainly because many Poles believe that the regime had promised a five-day workweek. The government agreed at Gdansk in August only to provide a "larger number" of paid work-free Saturdays "as early as 1981," but Premier Pinkowski in early September told the parliament that his government "suggested" that all Saturdays be work-free beginning this year.

By emphasizing that the economy will suffer if there is a five-day workweek, but leaving the door open to further changes in the work schedule this year, the regime presumably is hoping that the populace and Solidarity in particular will not press for immediate implementation of a five-day workweek.