

NID 81

January 10, 1981

SITUATION REPORT

POLAND

A senior Solidarity adviser told [redacted] yesterday that the union expects 70-80 percent of its members to stay away from work today. [redacted]

An unconfirmed report says that several factories may try to rearrange Saturday work schedules to avoid the appearance of a confrontation. Workers at these factories allegedly will use today as the free Saturday slated for 31 January. If true, this would allow additional time to negotiate the issue. It is unclear whether local factory or union leaders suggested this compromise and whether both sides have agreed to it. [redacted]

Meanwhile, the party's propaganda and ideological chief, Stefan Olszowski, appealed for calm last night in a TV and radio address and restated the party's support for "renewal." He also warned workers, however, to avoid "anarchy and chaos" and severely criticized some recent Solidarity activities, including the "ruthless and uncompromising" rejection of the government's proposal for a reduction of the workweek. Olszowski has no particular authority with workers, and the harsh parts of his speech could well be counterproductive. [redacted]

Soviet Comments on the Polish Question

Moscow continues to charge the West with aiding and abetting "antisocialist forces" in Poland, and a TASS report from Warsaw yesterday painted an unusually bleak--by Soviet standards--picture of the country's economic problems. The Soviet media have yet to comment directly, however, on the possibility of a work stoppage today to back up Solidarity's demands for a five-day workweek in Poland. [redacted]

Approved for Release 1999 --continued
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Pravda senior political observer Yuriy Zhukov was a bit more candid during a conversation [REDACTED] in Moscow yesterday. Zhukov said the Soviets were confident the Polish leadership could deal with the nation's economic problems, but admitted that the recovery process would take years. He also said the "irresponsible attitude" of many Polish workers--who were demanding more pay, yet refused to earn that pay--simply exacerbated the situation. According to Zhukov, if the Polish workers insist on a five-day week, they had better be prepared to face the economic consequences. [REDACTED]

When asked whether the USSR believed the formation of free trade unions by Poland's private farmers would be inconsistent with socialist principles, Zhukov said he could not understand the farmers' demands. The trade unions' role in socialist society is to defend the workers against the bureaucratic excesses of management, but Polish farmers--having their own land and their own political party to represent them in the national government--have no need of such organizations, he said. [REDACTED]

Warsaw Pact Military Status

Over the past week the level and scope of Warsaw Pact field and staff training in the western USSR and Eastern Europe have gradually increased consistent with past Pact training practices. [REDACTED]

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