

NID 81

January 31, 1981

SITUATION REPORTS

POLAND

The regime and Solidarity reached a compromise agreement early today on a five-day workweek and on union access to the media, but they failed to settle their dispute over a farmers' union.

During 1981, every fourth Saturday will be a work-day. Solidarity has been granted a weekly radio and television program. Concerning the farmers' union, Solidarity said a government commission would meet with striking farmers on Monday in Rzeszow to hear their grievances.

Walesa led the union side in the marathon talks and Prime Minister Pinkowski the government side. Solidarity will now hold an emergency leadership session to review the compromises and decide whether to call off a one-hour general strike set for Tuesday. A joint communique from the talks will not be issued until tomorrow, indicating the agreement is still not firm.

Meanwhile, widespread strikes continued in various areas of Poland as workers seemed intent on pressing local grievances. Politburo member Olszowski attended a special local party meeting in Lodz to discuss the student strikes and other problems in the city.

Neither Solidarity's recent appeal for an end to strikes nor the government's threat have had much effect on strikers. Although the strikes in southeast Poland were called off, others continued and some workers in two large plants in Warsaw went on a "strike alert."

The regime has attempted to increase the pressure by issuing a statement that occupying buildings and issuing uncensored publications are punishable with prison sentences.

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Moscow Edits Polish Statement

The Soviets yesterday in their media coverage sent yet another signal to the Kania regime that they expect it to stand firm against the demands of Solidarity by omitting the lone conciliatory passage from Thursday's tough Polish Council of Ministers' statement. [REDACTED]

The Soviet version concluded with the Council of Ministers' warning that if the current labor turmoil continues it would "take necessary measures" to ensure order and discipline in the country. The Polish statement actually went on to temper that warning somewhat by affirming the government's readiness to negotiate with Solidarity and implement the Gdansk accord. [REDACTED]

The Soviet leadership, which has been counseling Kania to take a harder line against Solidarity, has probably been encouraged by the Council of Ministers' statement. Nevertheless, its editing job tells the Polish leaders that Moscow does not want to see the warning watered down and puts additional pressure on them to follow up their words with action. [REDACTED]

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