

[REDACTED] NID 81 [REDACTED]

February 17, 1981

EAST GERMANY - POLAND: Relations Unclear

East Germany has approved the change of government in Poland but continues to limit severely contacts with Poles. [REDACTED]

The leadership is trying to reconcile its acute fear of contagion from Poland with its obligation to maintain close relations with an ally and to help it "roll back counterrevolutionary influences."

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After considerable indecision, party leaders apparently concluded that the danger of East German youth being "poisoned" by exposure to the atmosphere in Poland outweighed any advantages of the youth exchange program and halted it.

Labor-short East Germany also is having difficulties balancing its need for Polish workers with the fear of being "contaminated" by Solidarity's ideas. East German party officials are reacting forcefully to an attempt by some Polish workers to follow the instructions of their union headquarters in Warsaw and work only a 42-hour week. Although an overall policy seems lacking, one of the largest industrial complexes plans to discharge most of the Polish work force by this summer.

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