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February 26, 1981

SITUATION REPORT

POLAND

Some members of Solidarity's leadership appear intent on using the current calm to flesh out the union's organizational structure and to clarify its future goals.

At a meeting of the National Coordinating Commission yesterday in Gdansk, several speakers proposed that the union draft an "ideological statement" defining its aims, activities, and working relationship with the government. One leader apparently said such a program is necessary to avoid "misinterpretations." He may have been reacting to the government's charge that Solidarity's recent activities have begun to resemble those of an opposition party.

Drafting such a statement would be controversial within the union but could create a clearer understanding than now exists of the role it should play. Solidarity, however, will have to avoid making it appear to be a "political" program--lest it provide ammunition to party conservatives who would see it as a direct challenge to the party's leading role.

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Speeches at Soviet Congress

Comments by East European leaders on Poland at the Soviet party congress were mixed. Hungarian party leader Kadar alone reiterated the statement of confidence in

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the Polish party issued in December at the Warsaw Pact summit in Moscow. He also expressed "trust" in the ability of the Poles to find a "socialist" solution to their problems.

East German leader Honecker's failure to mention Poland conveys the message that in East Germany's view everything that need be said on Poland has been said. Czechoslovak leader Husak, in an allusion to Poland, reiterated Prague's conviction that the alliance with Moscow guarantees "imperialist" forces will not succeed in attempts to "disturb the unity of the socialist countries" or "uproot" any one of its members.

Romania's Ceausescu reiterated his standard call for basing relations between socialist states on respect for independence, sovereignty, and noninterference in internal affairs. He also repeated his line about respecting each Communist Party's "right to independently decide its political line and revolutionary strategy and tactics."

Paris Creditors' Meeting

Polish officials yesterday made a strong plea for quick implementation of bridging pledges by Western governments for the second quarter of the year to prevent default. In response, representatives of the 15 nations attending announced new credits or bridging finance, or promised to recommend Warsaw's request to their governments.

A small task force including representatives from the Big Four creditor countries plus Austria will have meetings in March with Polish representatives to gather data and details about stabilization efforts. The Polish officials have agreed to provide any information needed. The US unsuccessfully pressed for a second neutral country to join the task force and expressed reservations about participation.

The Polish officials--in need of a rollover of private debt and eager to tell bankers that official creditors have decided on debt relief--pushed for a press release indicating agreement in principle about rescheduling. US reluctance to make a commitment led to a compromise stating that sufficient progress had been made to justify continuing the talks.