

1587

[REDACTED] NID 81 [REDACTED]

February 28, 1981

SITUATION REPORT

POLAND

An unannounced Warsaw Pact field training exercise will begin in Poland on Monday, [REDACTED]

The report indicates the exercise will involve Soviet, Polish, and possibly East German forces. We cannot confirm this, although tenuous evidence suggests that a combined Soviet-Polish exercise is to be held early next month. [REDACTED]

Amphibious assault and airborne landings along the Baltic coast and in a training area in northwestern Poland apparently are to be featured during the exercise. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Soviet preparations for the exercise have not been detected. [REDACTED]

Demands for Party Reform

Some of the party rank and file in Poland continue to press for radical reform of the party and are taking matters into their own hands. The party committee in the Lenin Shipyards in Gdansk--the birthplace of Solidarity--had refused to follow Warsaw's rules for selecting delegates to the coming party congress and have rebuffed pressure from the Central Committee to overturn elections under its rules. [REDACTED]

The shipyard committee has decided to send emissaries to other local party organizations to spread its ideas on giving the rank and file a larger voice in setting policy and choosing party officials. Although the party organizations in Gdansk may represent an extreme viewpoint, some of their ideas on reform could have appeal elsewhere. [REDACTED]

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Younger party members have been shocked by revelations of Poland's immense economic problems and by the extent of corruption within the party. They blame the highly centralized party structure and are seeking "guarantees" to prevent such mistakes in the future. Party members who have joined Solidarity probably are in the forefront of those pressing for such changes. [REDACTED]

The drive for party reform may be receiving support from deputy Politburo member and Gdansk party First Secretary Fiszbach, who told [REDACTED] last month that he disagreed with those who want "step-by-step" changes. [REDACTED]

Opposition to Reforms

The central party leadership, nevertheless, has generally criticized demands from below for far-reaching internal party reforms. The sharpest public comments have come from Politburo member Olszowski, who spoke out for "democratic centralism" early this month and again on Wednesday. [REDACTED]

The central party leaders are concerned about party discipline because their powers are at stake and because they are more aware than regional leaders of Moscow's sensitivity on this issue. [REDACTED]