

CIACO NID 81 [REDACTED]

March 21, 1981

[REDACTED]
POLAND: Political Tension High

The clash between police and Solidarity followers in Bydgoszcz has raised political tension to its highest level since last November. [REDACTED]

Union leaders endorsed a few two-hour warning strikes yesterday but have deferred any larger strike actions until some time next week. Solidarity chief Walesa and other leaders apparently believe the incident was a provocation staged by hardliners in the government intent on undermining Prime Minister Jaruzelski. [REDACTED]

There evidently is considerable sentiment in union ranks favoring a general strike. Walesa argued yesterday against such an action, warning that the situation is "very precarious," but he may have difficulty reining in union militants. [REDACTED]

Should a nationwide general strike take place, the government would come under great pressure from conservatives and Moscow to declare martial law. In the current atmosphere, such an action could lead to a total breakdown of civil order. If this were to occur, Moscow would almost certainly intervene militarily. [REDACTED]

The government faces strong demands from the public to repudiate the actions of the police during the clash. Youth, media, and party groups in the Bydgoszcz area have expressed their opposition to the use of force. [REDACTED]

The government has opened an investigation, and a preliminary report was made public this morning. It admitted that the beatings had occurred, but added that the commission had not established the causes of the beatings. The regime called on Solidarity to participate in the investigation. [REDACTED]

Jaruzelski issued a statement yesterday in which he said talks are "particularly necessary" in the present circumstances. This was a response to Solidarity's decision to suspend talks with the government and may also have been an implicit rejection of the police actions. While eager to avoid charges of a whitewash, the regime does not want to heap abuse on the police. To do so would give more ammunition to the hardliners and would undermine police effectiveness. [REDACTED]

Approved for Release
Date AUG 1994

CIACO

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ORIGIN 1000

Status of Soyuz-81

Soyuz-81 entered a new phase yesterday,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]