

April 20, 1981

[REDACTED]
POLAND: Moscow Backs Polish Leaders

In an apparent effort to bolster Kania's leadership before its party plenum this coming weekend, the Soviets on Saturday issued their most direct high-level expression of confidence in the Polish regime's ability to solve its own problems since the Warsaw Pact summit in December. [REDACTED]

Soviet party propaganda chief and Central Committee member Zamyatin, a close associate of President Brezhnev, commented on Soviet television that Polish party and government leaders were "doing everything possible" to stabilize the "complicated" situation and that they "will be able" to accomplish this. The Soviets believe, according to Zamyatin, that the Polish working class, "guided by the party, should itself cope with the crisis." [REDACTED]

Zamyatin's remarks went beyond Brezhnev's highly qualified statement of confidence at the Czechoslovak party congress on 7 April, which did not mention the party or its leadership, and the communique from the Soviet-Polish summit in early March, which stated only that Poland's Communists have the "potential" to turn the course of events. His comments, however, included a reminder that the USSR retained the right to intervene should the Polish party fail. [REDACTED]

Zamyatin, in one of the most direct accusations of US interference by a high-level Soviet, accused "some figures" in the US of warning the Polish Government against taking measures to ensure order--a veiled reference to President Reagan's statement in March about the dire consequences of an internal crackdown in Poland. Zamyatin did not comment on the grass-roots pressure within the Polish party for democratic reforms or on the registration of "Rural Solidarity," which the Soviet media briefly noted on Saturday. [REDACTED]

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