

CIACO NID 81 [REDACTED]

May 22, 1981

EAST GERMANY - POLAND: Criticism of Warsaw

East Germany's renewed hostile media coverage of the situation in Poland is intended to put pressure on the Polish leadership and intimidate the East German populace. [REDACTED]

Commentaries this week describing the "ineffectiveness" of the Kania regime and the economic chaos in Poland may presage an increased propaganda campaign by Moscow, East Berlin, and Prague as the Polish party congress in mid-July draws near. East Berlin accused Polish Government officials of denying that the crisis was deepening and of vacillation in the face of a "counterrevolutionary" Solidarity. [REDACTED]

The East Germans also have expressed alarm over what they called "factions" within the Polish party and related attacks on "democratic centralism." The rigid East German leadership views itself as especially threatened by any weakening of central control and wants Warsaw to halt this trend in the party. [REDACTED]

Although there is now little inclination among East Germans to follow the Polish lead and challenge the regime, the party wants to warn against emulation by citing the grim consequences of forces set in motion by Solidarity. It claims that in Poland there is an "avalanche" of inflation, threatening unemployment, food shortages, and a "terrifying" rise in crime. [REDACTED]

East Berlin, at the same time, remains unsure of how to regulate contacts with the Poles. A new policy prohibits exchange visits by factory delegations, and Polish guest workers in Rostock reportedly have been deported because of their political activity. The party, however, has resumed approval of some student and youth exchanges. [REDACTED]

East German officials, including the Ambassador to Washington, have been uncharacteristically open in expressing to US officials their pessimism and frustration over the events in Poland. Their anxiety may come from the growing realization that a quick or easy reversal of Polish trends is unlikely. [REDACTED]

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