

CIACO NID 81 [REDACTED]

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USSR-POLAND: More Criticism of Polish Party

Pravda's favorable coverage yesterday of severe criticism of Kania by some Polish party members in Katowice will increase tension between Moscow and Warsaw and could presage another Soviet attempt to have next month's Polish party congress postponed. [REDACTED]

The *Pravda* account cited charges that Polish leaders have been passive in resisting "revisionists" in the party and have produced ideologically weak theses for the congress. Although the article omitted the most direct attacks on Kania, it reported that his leadership was charged with having done more harm to the party during the 10 months he has been in power than party leader Gierek did in 10 years. [REDACTED]

The documents and statements from the Katowice Party Forum, in which about 150 party activists participated, have aroused a considerable number of protests in the party. Even hardline Politburo member Olszowski has disavowed them. Many protests are thinly veiled comments aimed at demonstrating to Moscow that the forum has no domestic support. [REDACTED]

The Politburo yesterday rebutted some of the forum's criticisms while apparently admitting that others were justified. The leadership probably felt that a more stringent counterattack would bring it uncomfortably close to open polemics with Moscow. The muted response will probably not satisfy reformers. They may become more convinced that far-reaching changes in the Politburo are necessary. [REDACTED]

The condemnation of "revisionism" and of the theses for the congress reflects Moscow's increasing fear that the meeting will ratify a sweeping liberalization of the party, including the ouster of most of its current leaders. The Soviets and their East European allies are stepping up pressures on the Poles to resist liberalization through more direct media criticism and by sending delegations to Poland to lobby Polish Communists. [REDACTED]

If these pressures do not produce results, the Kremlin could try to have the congress postponed. The Soviets might use a Warsaw Pact summit to accomplish this; rumors of such a meeting have been floating around Eastern Europe for the past two weeks. Kania, however, will continue to resist efforts to postpone the congress. He realizes that delaying it risks a serious weakening of the party's fragile unity. [REDACTED]

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