

CIACO NID 81 [REDACTED]

July 10, 1981

USSR: Representation at the Polish Party Congress

The composition of the Soviet delegation to the Polish party congress next week will give some indication of what Moscow expects to come out of the meeting. [REDACTED]

If precedent is followed, a senior Soviet party secretary will lead the delegation. This time, however, political considerations will outweigh protocol in the Politburo's decision. [REDACTED]

Fears that the congress could turn into a debacle could prompt the Soviets to send a junior secretary such as Konstantin Rusakov, who is responsible for relations with ruling Communist parties. This slight would underline Moscow's objections to the reform movement and avoid the risk of embarrassing a more senior official. A much less likely possibility would be to send Defense Minister Ustinov or KGB chief Andropov in a final bid to intimidate the Poles. [REDACTED]

If the Soviets expect the congress to be orderly and produce results they can at least live with, they probably would send a senior secretary. President Brezhnev, however, would be likely to saddle someone else with the onerous mission and probably would not interrupt his current vacation to go to Warsaw. [REDACTED]

The attendance of a senior secretary other than Brezhnev would not insult the Poles but would not give the special endorsement to the congress that Brezhnev's appearance would. [REDACTED]

A Soviet decision to pursue a tough approach at this stage might result in the selection of party ideologue Suslov. His trip to Warsaw earlier this year apparently had little political effect, however, and this might impel the leadership to send another senior secretary--Kirilenko, Chernenko, or Gorbachev. [REDACTED]

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