

CIACO NID 81 [REDACTED]

July 14, 1981

USSR-POLAND: Soviets Hedging

The choice of Moscow city party boss Viktor Grishin to head the Soviet delegation to the Polish party congress is apparently intended to give the Soviets some tactical flexibility in responding to developments. [REDACTED]

Since Grishin is not a senior secretary, Soviet representation will be a notch below the norm for a major East European party congress. His selection, however, neither insults nor threatens the Poles, because he is a Politburo member, and not publicly associated with a tough policy toward Poland. [REDACTED]

Before becoming head of the Moscow party, Grishin spent more than a decade as Soviet trade union chief--an experience that enables him to convey with authority the Soviet line on the role of trade unions in Communist societies. [REDACTED]

Moscow has been generally silent about the congress, but a domestic television commentary this weekend betrayed some anxiety about party rifts and "opportunists" at the congress. Nevertheless, it also commended recent resistance to "antisocialists" by the Polish leadership. [REDACTED]

In private conversations with Westerners, Soviet officials speak of Poland with cautious optimism. Foreign Minister Gromyko informed [REDACTED] that the Poles would solve their problems by themselves. A senior party official gave a similar assessment to [REDACTED] but expressed deep concern over the lack of effective leadership in Poland. [REDACTED]

Polish dockworkers and merchant marine and fishing crews, who had planned a strike for today, have postponed action until Thursday. A decision will be made on the basis of the willingness of the government to resume negotiations. [REDACTED]

--continued

Approved for Release
Date _____

CIACO NID 81 [REDACTED]

July 14, 1981

Military Situation

Exercise activity by Soviet forces adjacent to Poland continues to increase as the training season progresses; some security measures related to the Polish party congress have been taken. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

In Poland, several measures have been taken by both the Poles and the Soviets to improve security conditions during this week's party congress. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] In addition, the headquarters of the Warsaw Military District released regular Polish troops from duties related to the economy. Although the reason for this move is unknown, it could free units in the military district to aid in controlling civil unrest, if required. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Approved for Release
Date AUG 1999