

CIACO NID 81 [REDACTED]

June 26, 1981

POLAND: Report of Combined Maneuvers

We have no evidence to confirm that combined Polish-Soviet training exercises are occurring in Poland, as reported yesterday by the Polish News Agency. [REDACTED]

The Polish announcement claimed that the "traditional" exercises are routine in nature and are confined to Army training areas in southern Poland. Twice in the past the Polish media have highlighted combined maneuvers during times of tension when no such maneuvers were occurring. We continue to note no unusual activity by Warsaw Pact military forces in and around Poland. [REDACTED]

Polish Party Disarray

The Polish party leadership continues to have difficulty in manipulating the selection of delegates to the party congress. Following a two-day debate, provincial party members in the western city of Poznan decided yesterday to allow the candidacies of three individuals proposed by the Politburo. The results of the election of the delegates are not yet available. [REDACTED]

Hardline Politburo member Grabski, embroiled in a heated argument on the matter, was supported via telephone by party leader Kania, who has been trying to ensure that current members of the leadership and some longtime party activists be elected as delegates. [REDACTED]

Contrary to earlier reporting, Grabski apparently has not yet been elected as a delegate; he and three other hardliners on the Politburo evidently will stand for election this weekend, when the party conferences are scheduled to end. The election results will have a major impact on Soviet assessments of the Polish situation. [REDACTED]

The provincial party conferences continue to make major changes in the local party organizations. In at least three provinces, the entire local party leadership has been replaced. In other areas, there has been a 25- to 75-percent turnover in personnel. [REDACTED]

--continued

Approved for Release
Date AUG 1999

June 26, 1981

Soviet Criticism of Kania

A party lecturer in Leningrad has gone the furthest of any Soviet official in publicly criticizing Kania and acknowledging the possibility of eventual Soviet military intervention. He echoed the line that events in Poland are part of a global campaign by the US and its allies to alter the strategic balance. He compared Kania to Czech Party leader Dubcek, charged Kania with doing nothing to reverse the course of events, and said that he is following a policy of capitulation to "antisocialist elements." When asked if the USSR will have to intervene militarily, he replied that "anything is possible, but it is not yet necessary." [REDACTED]

Although these remarks are not authoritative indicators of Politburo policy, such lecturers follow guidelines provided by the party and their messages are intended for a domestic audience. The speaker's willingness to acknowledge the possibility of intervention apparently reflects a decision by Soviet leaders to prepare the population for that contingency. [REDACTED]