

CIACO

NID 81 [REDACTED]

July 03, 1981

USSR-POLAND: Softer Soviet Line

The new note of moderation in Soviet commentary on the eve of Foreign Minister Gromyko's visit to Warsaw is intended to dampen Western speculation about possible military intervention. [REDACTED]

After a week of warnings that events in Poland threaten Soviet strategic interests, a more moderate tone appeared last Saturday in remarks on Soviet television by a senior party official. Speaking the day before Gromyko's visit was announced, he sounded almost defensive in denying that the USSR opposes any change in Poland. He reaffirmed Soviet approval of "renewal" when used to correct past mistakes and gave Polish party chief Kania a grudging nod of approval. [REDACTED]

Western visitors to Moscow during the past week have been given a similar message. A Central Committee official stressed [REDACTED] that the USSR is approaching the Polish situation with caution and restraint. [REDACTED]

A senior Soviet official has said, however, that Gromyko's visit was to be discussed yesterday at the regular weekly Politburo meeting. The Kremlin seems likely to use his visit to continue to lobby with the Polish leadership for firmer policies and to send a strong message to Warsaw that the party congress must not compromise Soviet strategic interests in Poland. [REDACTED]

Military Activity

Soviet exercise activity in and around Poland is increasing, but the scope of Soviet and other Warsaw Pact activity is considerably less than that observed in the two weeks before the beginning of the Soyuz-81 exercise in March. [REDACTED]

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Approved for Release
Date AUG 1999

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Soviet forces in East Germany began a front-level exercise yesterday. Components of three Soviet divisions have moved to training areas in western and central East Germany. [REDACTED]

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