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POLAND: East European Propaganda Pressure

*East German and Czechoslovak media are taking the lead in criticizing developments in Poland as the party congress approaches.* [REDACTED]

The absence of significant Soviet comment indicates at least that Soviet leaders have decided against increasing public pressure on Warsaw until they have assessed the results of Foreign Minister Gromyko's visit. [REDACTED]

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President Brezhnev's departure for a vacation on Saturday suggests that he is not anticipating a major policy decision on Poland this week. [REDACTED] the communique issued at the end of Gromyko's visit indicates that the Soviets are willing to let the congress convene on schedule. [REDACTED]

Meanwhile, East Berlin and Prague are giving extensive publicity to the activities of the hardline Katowice Party Forum. In an effort to depict it as a thriving enterprise, their reports claim that a forum meeting last week drew 300 individuals from at least seven provinces. In fact, the forum probably remains a small group of extreme conservatives. [REDACTED]

Participants in the forum reportedly focused their attention on the party congress, calling for the rejection of the mandates of those delegates who were not elected according to the party statutes. Debates over such procedural questions will probably take up a disproportionate amount of time at the congress. [REDACTED]

There has been no apparent change in the status of Soviet forces in and around Poland. [REDACTED]

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