

CIACO NID 81 [REDACTED]

August 07, 1981

POLAND: More Protests Set as Talks Fail

Negotiations yesterday between Solidarity and the regime failed to narrow differences on issues such as food shortages and proposed price increases, and protests slated for many cities will proceed. [REDACTED]

Solidarity leader Walesa, who had expressed pessimism at the prospects for the talks during a short recess, said only that he had invited government spokesmen to a meeting of the union leadership on Monday. [REDACTED]

The most serious strike--lasting four hours--will be staged by the Silesian miners whose mood has grown increasingly ugly in recent weeks as food supplies have dwindled. Miners have traditionally received more meat than any other social group. There will also be a hunger march in Krakow, a symbolic five-minute halt to all traffic in Poznan, and numerous other demonstrations. [REDACTED]

The demonstrators may be angered by a press conference yesterday of senior government spokesmen, who confirmed that the 20-percent cut in meat rations will have to be continued in September and strongly suggested the immediate need for price increases for bread. [REDACTED]

Solidarity leaders, despite their concern about the dangers of a clash, can only hope to guide and control the demonstrations. The union leaders have failed to convince the regime that the tensions are the result of the government's failure to proceed quickly and in consultation with Solidarity to develop reform proposals. [REDACTED]

The demonstrations have remained peaceful so far as a result of careful Solidarity policing of the demonstrators and restraint by the authorities. A breakdown in either would increase the chances of violence. [REDACTED]

Meanwhile, the Politburo announced yesterday that the Central Committee session, slated originally for tomorrow, has been postponed until Tuesday. There is speculation in Warsaw that party leader Kania will go to the Crimea to meet President Brezhnev. It may also be taking longer than expected for the party leadership to inform the new Committee members about the agenda and to get their reactions to current developments. [REDACTED]

Approved for Release
Date AUG 1999