

CIACO NID 81 [REDACTED]

August 17, 1981

POLAND: Protests Suspended

Organizers of the protests on behalf of political prisoners abruptly canceled their demonstrations yesterday, apparently in response to strong pressure from Church and union leaders. [REDACTED]

The cancellation came only hours after protest organizers had publicly restated a commitment to proceed. Archbishop Glemp, who had called Saturday for suspension of the demonstrations, may have intervened personally. [REDACTED]

Suspension of the protests is an important victory for the government, even though it probably had little to do with bringing about the cancellation. Over the weekend, the government continued to make clear its intention to prevent the marches by declaring on Saturday a ban on the use of public vehicles and taxis in protest marches and yesterday reportedly assembling large numbers of extra police. [REDACTED]

The government's resolve will be tested by other protests planned this week, including a two-day newspaper strike beginning Wednesday to support Solidarity's demand for greater access to the media. The regime may be prepared to endure the strike and deduct workers' wages for lost time. [REDACTED] the head of one publishing house has told his workers that the strike is not in conformity with union-government agreements and consequently workers will not be paid for time lost in strikes. [REDACTED]

Brezhnev-Kania Talks

The communique issued after the short visit to the USSR of Polish party leader Kania and Premier Jaruzelski indicates Moscow is willing to give the Polish leadership yet more time in the hope it can bring the Polish situation under control, but the Kremlin still seems uncertain that Warsaw can accomplish this. [REDACTED]

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The atmospherics indicate the talks were tough and probably involved disagreements. The communique was delayed some seven hours after Kania had left, and the characterization of the talks was restrained-- "comradely, mutual understanding." The Poles apparently stressed the tougher measures they have been taking, acknowledging that strikes and demonstrations as well as anti-Soviet propaganda created a "serious threat" to Poland and stating that their priority was setting up a "barrier to manifestations of anarchy." [REDACTED]

In a departure from his last publicized meeting with the Polish leadership in March, President Brezhnev did not give even a grudging vote of confidence to the Polish leadership. The communique merely said the Soviets "solidarize sincerely" with Polish efforts to correct the situation. Nevertheless, the tone of the communique was not threatening and did not contain a sense of urgency that events must be quickly brought under control. [REDACTED]

Kania did win from Brezhnev a halfhearted endorsement of the July party congress, but Moscow qualified this by implying reservations about some aspects of the party reforms. [REDACTED]

Kania may have succeeded privately in winning additional aid from the USSR but the Soviet economic aid to Poland mentioned in the communique appears to represent nothing new. The agreement to defer for five years payment of debts to the USSR was announced in March and the Soviet promise of additional raw materials and consumer goods may be only a repetition of a similar pledge announced last December. Other vague statements may refer to recent Soviet proposals for increased industrial cooperation based on Soviet supplies of raw materials for Polish factories and export of the finished goods to the USSR. [REDACTED]