

207

CIACO NID 81 [REDACTED]

August 20, 1981

POLAND: Printers' Strike

Solidarity printers shut down most of Poland's official daily newspapers without major incident in their job action that is slated to end today. [REDACTED]

The government reportedly used military presses to print limited editions of major newspapers, but few copies appeared on newsstands in Warsaw partly because vendors refused to distribute them. Several provincial papers were published, apparently because some local Solidarity workers decided not to go along with the strike. There reportedly was one minor incident between the strikers and the printers who were trying to work. [REDACTED]

Meanwhile, Solidarity continues to deal with the regime on economic issues. It has agreed with the government on a system to compensate the people for the steep increases planned for bread prices. The union leadership also reportedly persuaded recalcitrant coal miners to work extra Saturdays; they probably will insist that their extra production go to farmers and the food industry. [REDACTED]

Planning for the first session of the union's national congress, set to begin on 7 September, has intensified. A union official said that representatives of major foreign trade union organizations--including the Soviet-sponsored World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) and the AFL-CIO--will be invited. Those in the union opposed to including the WFTU finally accepted the arguments that Solidarity could use the WFTU invitation to avoid asking the regime-controlled unions in Eastern Europe and that WFTU probably would not send a representative in any case. [REDACTED]

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