

CIACO NID 81

September 02, 1981

**POLAND: Government Flexibility in Negotiations**

*The government and Solidarity have come to terms on the distribution of coal produced by miners who work voluntarily on eight Saturdays this year, the first time that a Warsaw Pact government has heeded workers' views on resource allocation.*

Under the agreement, Saturday output will be allocated to private farmers, food processing industries, electric power stations, transportation, and the miners. The increase in production now projected for the year--about 3 million tons--implies a daily output four or five times that achieved by voluntary mining on recent Saturdays.

Solidarity, which expended some good will among the miners, is counting on a favorable response to demonstrate that its members are willing to increase their work effort in return for a greater role in decisionmaking. Many of the miners, however, accepted the agreement reluctantly and may still balk at doing the extra work. Even if the turnout is good, providing benefits for both sides, the government may be reluctant to accept similar agreements in other economic sectors.

Discussions on Media Access

The government has offered Solidarity some apparently generous concessions on the union's demands for increased access to the media. In a striking display of good will the government yesterday provided Solidarity leader Walesa and several of his colleagues 20 minutes of radio and television time to present the union's views on current disputes.

Walesa was generally conciliatory, but the others delivered some hard-hitting criticism of the regime. The militant head of the Warsaw regional chapter said that the union would not allow the regime to monopolize the media.

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During talks on Monday on media coverage of the union's congress, the government offered the union four hours of daily television reportage, promised to include journalists from Solidarity on the broadcast team, and agreed to allow Solidarity technicians to help produce the program. In return, the government demanded a pledge from Solidarity not to carry out threatened media strikes at least until October and asserted that all programs would undergo normal censorship procedures. [REDACTED]

The union leadership is to begin a scheduled two-day meeting in Gdansk today and will consider the government proposal. The union's principal negotiator was publicly pessimistic that an agreement could be reached. Solidarity's leaders, however, may feel compelled to respond positively to avoid appearing unreasonable. A party Central Committee session--slated to meet today to discuss worker self-management--could be drawn into the negotiations. [REDACTED]

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