

CIACO NID 81 [REDACTED]

October 02, 1981

**USSR-POLAND: Soviets Attempt To Reassure West**

*Moscow appears to be making a concerted effort to reassure the West that it is not planning to intervene militarily in Poland, but at the same time is keeping pressure on the Polish regime for stronger action against Solidarity.* [REDACTED]

Soviet Premier Tikhonov in a meeting last week with the visiting West German Economics Minister cited Soviet economic aid as evidence of Moscow's desire for stability in Poland. He added, however, that the Polish Government must restore order. A high-ranking official of the Soviet Central Committee made a similar comment to a West German interviewer, and Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko told his Canadian counterpart on Tuesday that any suggestion the Soviets are planning an invasion is a "fabrication." [REDACTED]

Provocative statements, meanwhile, by militants at Solidarity's congress will give the Soviets and hard-liners within the Polish Government more ammunition. The number-three man in the union hierarchy advocated "radical cuts" in Polish defense spending, and an economics expert called for Solidarity to take full control of the economy to head off food riots this winter. Such extreme proposals, nonetheless, probably will be kept out of the final platform document that the union is slated to approve this weekend. [REDACTED]

Two other militants--Marian Jurczyk and Jan Rulewski-- have joined Andrzej Gwiazda in challenging Solidarity chief Walesa for the union leadership. The vote is expected in a few days, and the likelihood that Walesa will win is greater now, with the other three candidates probably splitting the radical vote. [REDACTED]

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Price Increases

The party newspaper announced yesterday that price increases of 300 to 400 percent for key foodstuffs, gasoline, and utilities would go into effect "soon." The regime appears to be laying more of the groundwork for eventual price hikes and will consult with Solidarity before taking action. The government instituted its so-called Stage I increases for bread and cereal products a month ago and has continually publicized the necessity for other price hikes. [REDACTED]