

CIACO NID 81 [REDACTED]

October 05, 1981

POLAND: Moderates Gain Time

The compromise resolution on workers' self-management endorsed by Solidarity's congress is a tactical victory for union moderates that allows time for further negotiation of differences between the government and the union. [REDACTED]

There apparently was little support for a militant proposal flatly rejecting the law, which was passed by parliament on 25 September. Instead, the delegates directed the new union leadership to organize a referendum on objectionable parts of the law in what seems to be an effort to bring about amendments or to ensure implementation on favorable terms. [REDACTED]

Solidarity leaders evidently will have some latitude in carrying out this directive; no deadline for a referendum was set. They also can use the threat of the referendum to bring pressure on the regime as the two sides negotiate the vague areas of the legislation--especially the issue regarding which directors will be chosen by workers' councils. [REDACTED]

The government's announcement of price increases for a small number of consumer goods--effective today--has angered many delegates and prompted Solidarity leader Lech Walesa to send a telegram to Premier Jaruzelski demanding their rescision. In a conciliatory gesture to the newly reelected union leader, Jaruzelski quickly dispatched two ministers to Gdansk to consult with Solidarity. The ministers' justifications for the price hikes were rejected during a heated session, and Walesa again demanded rescision of the price hikes. [REDACTED]

The Solidarity leadership is interpreting a recent letter from the head of the Hungarian trade union organization offering to "discuss and debate" the role of unions as a hopeful sign that Solidarity can find some common ground with other East European unions. The Hungarian message--which declined Solidarity's invitation to its congress because of its "antisocialist, anti-Soviet" platform--is the first offer of a dialogue by any regime-controlled trade union in Eastern Europe. Hungarian motives are unclear--the message may be nothing more than rhetoric--but the action presumably will not please Moscow. [REDACTED]

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Moscow has not initiated any significant new departures in its public commentary on the congress in recent days, although it is sustaining its critical line. The Soviets are keeping pressure on Warsaw by citing continued calls for firmer government action from elements in the Polish party and populace. They are continuing to attack "extremists" in the Solidarity leadership but are also pointing to "positive" voices being raised from the floor at Gdansk. [REDACTED]

The Soviets have reported, but not commented on, Walesa's reelection. Unless some particularly provocative anti-Soviet statements are made at Gdansk, Moscow is likely to withhold a more definitive indication of its future course until after the congress, which apparently will continue at least until tomorrow. [REDACTED]