

CIACO NID 81 [REDACTED]

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POLAND: High-Level Talks on Cooperation

*The unprecedented meeting that apparently will take place today among leaders of the three main political forces in Poland--Solidarity, the Church, and the regime--appears to be a signal from moderates that some form of cooperation is necessary if the country is to come to grips with its dismal economic condition.* [REDACTED]

The talks are unlikely to lead quickly or smoothly to any kind of formal mechanism and will only pave the way for further discussions. All three leaders have differing ideas on the details of such a cooperative relationship, are pursuing conflicting political objectives, and have their own solutions to Poland's economic problems. [REDACTED]

Party leader Jaruzelski probably views the meeting as a first move toward realizing his proposed "coalition of national accord" and toward gaining some credibility for the government and its policies. He will have to be prepared to show, however, that he is willing to give the union and Church influence on regime policy to keep his proposal alive. Making such concessions risks raising concerns in Moscow. [REDACTED]

Archbishop Glemp's decision to participate suggests that the Church is concerned over the economic situation and is inclined to take Jaruzelski's proposal seriously. Glemp, however, must avoid any appearance that he is siding with the regime and will be wary of committing the Church to any specific program until he has a show of good faith by Jaruzelski. The presence of the Church may facilitate talks between the union and government. [REDACTED]

Solidarity leader Walesa probably welcomed the meeting because it implies government recognition of the union as one of three main political forces in the country. His involvement also reflects his basic belief that the union must continue talking with the government. [REDACTED]

Walesa probably considers the Church an ally in such three-way talks and a guarantor of any pledges made by the regime. He also realizes, however, that his involvement must eventually produce results or he risks widening the gulf between him and union militants, especially at the local level. [REDACTED]

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