

CIACO NID 81 [REDACTED]

December 11, 1981

USSR-POLAND: Soviets Call for Firmness

In its strongest language in months, Moscow has signaled deep concern over developments in Poland and implied that the regime must not back away from firm action. [REDACTED]

A TASS commentary yesterday alluded to "demagogical demands" that Poland withdraw from the Warsaw Pact and alleged that threats have been made against Soviet lines of communication across Poland--one of Moscow's most sensitive concerns throughout the crisis. [REDACTED]

The commentary accused Solidarity of seeking to overthrow the executive and legislative branches of the Polish Government. It claimed that local Solidarity organizations are setting up "commando units" in Polish factories and that weapons have been stolen from government storage areas. [REDACTED]

TASS also claimed that there has been an increase in activity within the Polish Catholic Church aimed at discrediting the government. Soviet criticism of the church has been rare, and in this instance doubtless reflects unhappiness over Archbishop Glemp's role in securing postponement of antistrike legislation. [REDACTED]

The commentary stopped short of calling explicitly for stronger action by the regime, and the message has yet to be repeated by more authoritative Soviet organs. Nonetheless, the commentary is an indication that the Soviets at least for now are more concerned over the possibility of Warsaw taking too weak a stance than over the danger of a confrontation getting out of hand. [REDACTED]

Approved for Release
Date AUG 1999

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