

CIACO NID 81 [REDACTED]

December 16, 1981

POLAND: Government Strikebreaking [REDACTED]

Government efforts to break strikes and clear other public buildings have caused some injuries, but there apparently has been no large-scale violence. [REDACTED]

The regime claims that a number of strikes have been broken, including one at the large Warsaw Steel Plant and that the instigators have been detained.

[REDACTED] say that some persons have been injured. [REDACTED] also have reports of some workers being beaten as they were led out of factories. [REDACTED]

Military troops are being used in some of these actions and apparently are performing their duties reliably. [REDACTED] the military ended a strike in Warsaw on Monday by sending 60 armored cars with troops and riot police with fixed bayonets and tear gas into a factory. When the workers told the soldiers they would regroup and strike again, the soldiers replied that renewed protests would also be broken up. In Gdansk, military troops removed some strikers from the shipyards although about 5,000 workers reportedly remain. [REDACTED]

The most volatile situation still appears to be at the Lenin Steel Plant near Krakow, where workers were given a deadline to leave by late yesterday. [REDACTED] reported an increased number of ambulances in the city and added that a local Solidarity leader expected the plant to be taken by the military. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Polish students have become increasingly active in support of strikers. They apparently were dissuaded from holding a sit-in strike but are collecting information, acting as couriers, and carrying food and medical supplies into the factories. The official media admits that the student community had been "boiling over with emotion" but claims it is now calming down. [REDACTED]

Units from 13 of the 15 Polish divisions, including the airborne division and the sea-landing division, have been [REDACTED] conducting martial law operations. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Poland has banned all Western air traffic over its territory. Flights to Moscow are being routed over the Baltic Sea and Leningrad. Polish authorities closed all airports to civil flights and banned overflights prior to the declaration of martial law, but Western flights across Poland subsequently had been permitted.

The announcement yesterday by the government that all food exports would be banned will do little to alleviate shortages, since such exports had already declined sharply over the past year. Warsaw's efforts to increase pressure on farmers to fulfill contractual agreements also will have little immediate effect. Supplies of many food items--already inadequate before the imposition of martial law--are even tighter now as consumers increase panic buying.

Status of Soviet Forces

There is no evidence that Soviet or other Warsaw Pact forces are preparing to intervene.

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East European Reaction

The first official reactions from Warsaw Pact countries to the imposition of martial law in Poland are approving in tone, although Hungary is somewhat cautious in its public commentary. [REDACTED]

East Germany has promised "unlimited support to Polish Communists and patriots" and has stressed the importance of Poland's role in the Warsaw Pact. The East Germans also have announced that the Commander of Soviet Forces in East Germany met on Sunday but provided no other details. Some East German and Czechoslovak units have canceled leaves or restricted personnel to their barracks, but there is no evidence that formal alerts have been declared. [REDACTED]

The Czechoslovaks are stressing the necessity of strong action and the initial successes of martial law; they have detained a number of dissidents to inhibit any demonstrations of support for the Poles. The Bulgarian party daily praised the Polish military's actions as did the Romanian party daily, which added that only the Polish people themselves can reach a solution. [REDACTED]

The official Hungarian commentary was more cautiously worded in expressing "sympathy" for the Poles. A Hungarian official, moreover, has confided [REDACTED] that Budapest is worried that Jaruzelski's "gamble" could fail and end in civil war and Soviet intervention. [REDACTED]

A Yugoslav Foreign Ministry spokesman yesterday stated that the "Polish people, working class, the party and other political forces" are the "only ones" who can find

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a solution consistent with "the democratic road and socialist renewal." A Yugoslav official told [REDACTED] that Jaruzelski is a patriot who acted without Soviet instigation to avoid a worsened situation. In a show of concern, a joint party-government meeting was held yesterday to discuss the Polish situation. [REDACTED]