

CIACO NID 81 [REDACTED]

December 23, 1981

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POLAND: Coping With the Crisis

With strikes apparently limited largely to two provinces, the regime has increased its efforts to gain acceptance from the populace. Some East Europeans, acutely aware of Poland's disastrous economic and political condition, are pessimistic the Polish regime will succeed, and a Soviet official believes the Polish party will have to be totally rebuilt. There are no unusual Soviet military activities in or around Poland. [REDACTED]

Premier Jaruzelski's televised address to the nation, which could be delivered today, will probably include an announcement of a further easing of martial law restrictions and more promises of economic and social reforms when law and order is completely restored. This will be Jaruzelski's first public appearance since he imposed martial law, although the Polish news service claimed yesterday that he has been in Warsaw and met daily with the ruling Military Council. [REDACTED]

The regime is trying to portray the country as beginning to return to normal. A meeting of the Politburo was reported yesterday for the first time, but no details have been publicized. The regime announced that some internees--apparently cultural figures and not Solidarity activists--have been released, that more curfews are being eased, and that newspapers currently not published will reappear soon. [REDACTED]

Important pockets of active resistance remain, notably in several mines and enterprises in Katowice and along the Baltic Coast. The Church is attempting to mediate the strikes in the mines, but a Polish bishop reported that both miners and police are "nervous." In Gdansk, military crews have apparently replaced shipyard workers who have had their furlough further extended until 4 January, indicating the regime's concern about shipyard worker militancy. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the party believes that union activists are attempting to rebuild the union structure and disseminate "propaganda." Union militants are reported to be active in Warsaw and several provinces, and Solidarity banners are reappearing in some factories.

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369
397

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Soviet Commentary

"Normalization" continues to be the dominant theme in Soviet media coverage of the situation in Poland. Citing various Polish officials, TASS yesterday noted that economic output is increasing, the curfew has been eased, and the situation is "gradually stabilizing." [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] yesterday, a Soviet official displayed a cautious optimism on the situation inside Poland, noting that Soviet policymakers realize martial law will not solve Poland's economic and social problems but will at least bring calm. He claimed that Moscow's relations with the military regime will not be easy and that the Polish party will have to be rebuilt from top to bottom. He also warned that Washington's "dangerous policy" on Poland could affect US-Soviet relations [REDACTED]

East European Reactions

Most East European media are echoing the theme of a return to normalcy in Poland. Some Hungarian and Yugoslav officials are pessimistic, however, that Jaruzelski can turn his military crackdown into an economic and political success. Yugoslav media treatment has been gloomier since Warsaw acknowledged the deaths in Katowice. [REDACTED]