

CIACO NID 81 [REDACTED]

December 29, 1981

POLAND: Government Faces Passive Resistance

With major strikes at least temporarily over, government leaders will turn their attention to methods of combating passive resistance. The Church has reached an agreement with the regime on distribution of emergency food aid. TASS reports continue to charge the US with using the Polish crisis to disrupt East-West negotiations.

The Polish Government is claiming that production is returning to normal, but absenteeism and passive resistance by the work force were evident yesterday, the first work day after the holidays. With the end of the last officially acknowledged strike, at the Piast colliery in Silesia, the regime probably has begun to devise a strategy of intimidation and inducements--such as the relaxation of some martial law restrictions--to combat passive resistance by workers. The government will have to decide how much carrot and how much stick to apply to obtain increased agricultural products from now-reluctant farmers.

The limited information available on worker turnout yesterday indicates that the government faces a difficult task. [REDACTED] touring Warsaw yesterday, noted little activity at plants and offices, with many buildings dark in late afternoon and few workers seen using public transportation serving industrial sites. Polish radio admitted that only two-thirds of the work force showed up at the Ziemowit coal mine and 60 percent at the Gdansk and Gdynia Shipyards. The broadcast claimed restrictions on electricity and materials in the case of the shipyards as the reason for the personnel shortfall.

Unconfirmed reports point to scattered incidents of industrial sabotage. Workers at the large automobile plant in Warsaw are reportedly turning out parts that do not fit together. Strikers at the steel mill in Katowice evidently severely damaged the furnaces shortly before the strike was broken on 23 December, although the government claims that steel production resumed several days later at the huge works.

The government has withdrawn the 1982 plan and budget from parliamentary consideration because of the uncertainties of martial law and imports from the West.

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Instead, interim targets will be drawn up for short periods--one month for critical areas such as coal and food supplies and three months for most other sectors. Planning Chief Madej hinted that production goals in certain sectors may be raised because of extended working hours. Actual output, however, probably will be lower in many industries because of passive resistance and a shortage of imports.

The Church and the government apparently are to cooperate in drawing up a priority list of those persons who are to receive food aid in each parish. There is no information on whether the Church or the government is to have custody of the donated food, but the authorities clearly will want to give the impression abroad that it is the Church.

Soviet Commentary

The Soviet media claim the situation in Poland is on the whole "tranquil," and thereby frustrating US efforts to turn Poland into a "permanent seat of tension in Europe." A TASS dispatch from Warsaw yesterday noted that *Trybuna Ludu* had decried President Reagan's response to martial law in Poland.

A TASS report from Washington insists that Under Secretary of State Stoessel did not say "anything essentially new" during his press interview yesterday. Stoessel--according to TASS--attempted to make continuation of the Soviet-US talks in Geneva contingent on Soviet "conduct on a global scale." TASS claimed that Stoessel's remarks confirmed that "extremists" from Solidarity are still receiving US support, and it again charged Washington with hoping to use the Polish crisis as a pretext for disrupting the Geneva talks and other East-West negotiations.

Soviet Activity

There has been no significant change in the overall military situation.

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