

CIACO NID 81 [REDACTED]

December 30, 1981

POLAND: Walesa and the Government May Be Talking

Even if Solidarity leader Walesa has begun talks with the government, the negotiations will not pick up where they left off before the declaration of martial law and no early agreements are likely. The Soviet media have not yet replied to the US sanctions announced yesterday but continue to harp on US "interference" in Poland while emphasizing Poland's return to stability. Some Soviet military activity was observed yesterday, and some of the jet transports that visited Poland over the weekend evidently carried food for the needy. [REDACTED]

Walesa may have begun talks with the authorities as early as last Monday, according to [REDACTED] who claims to have spoken with Walesa's wife and priest. Church officials who have been talking with both Walesa and the government have credited Walesa with responsibility for the absence of talks thus far. [REDACTED]

Should the report prove true, Walesa finally may have decided that, with the regime's successful suppression of most of the opposition to martial law, talks with the government would be beneficial in order to preserve as much of the Solidarity movement as possible. Even if discussions have started, it is not likely that agreements will be reached soon. [REDACTED]

As news of the talks spreads in Poland, the government would hope that its willingness to start discussions would be taken as a conciliatory gesture and as confirmation of Premier Jaruzelski's pledge that reform is still possible. Solidarity forces, on the other hand, will probably consider them a sign of hope that all is not yet lost. Talks may even strengthen the hand of those Solidarity members who are urging additional resistance to martial law on the grounds that resistance will strengthen Walesa's negotiating position. [REDACTED]

The climate for the discussions probably would improve if the government releases detained members of Solidarity's Presidium. Archbishop Glemp told [REDACTED] [REDACTED] yesterday that the government was ready to do this but that Walesa was holding out for the release of several of his key advisers. It is not known what conditions the government would set for their release. [REDACTED]

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374

CIACO NID 81 [REDACTED]

December 30, 1981

According to the Polish party daily, the government is attempting to encourage Polish farmers to deliver more meat and other foodstuffs by sending military Special Operations Groups to the countryside. These groups--small teams of military personnel that were originally dispersed throughout the countryside in October and then withdrawn in late November--have been holding "conversations" with farmers in all provinces since the Military Council's appeal to the farmers on 21 December. Although the party daily claims that increased deliveries have occurred as a result of the groups' activities, a source [REDACTED] [REDACTED] said that some farmers were destroying their crops, rather than turning them over to the military teams. [REDACTED]

As part of the government's campaign to convince the populace that economic reforms will be implemented, Warsaw radio reports that the long-awaited reform of wholesale prices will be introduced on 1 January 1982. Prices of raw materials and intermediate goods will be boosted, including a 400-percent increase in prices of hard coal for electric power and a 600-percent hike in crude oil prices. The resulting upward pressure on production costs is expected to lead to higher retail prices, which for nonfood items will be set by producers, not the state. [REDACTED]

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Soviet Commentary

Moscow has not yet commented on President Reagan's decision to impose economic sanctions on the USSR, but a TASS official said there will be a Soviet reaction later today. In the meantime, TASS has released Foreign

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Minister Gromyko's statement to Ambassador Hartmann yesterday, calling on the US Government to end its "interference" in Polish internal affairs, "which has been continuing in various forms--overt and covert--for a long time now." The allusion to "covert forms" may presage a Soviet effort to document US "covert" support for Solidarity. [REDACTED]

The Soviet media also have begun to increase their coverage of Polish party affairs. A *Pravda* report yesterday suggested that the party still has problems and needs a purge of its membership. The article referred to preparations for economic reforms, but its suggestions for restoring the Polish party to strength were the traditional ones of strengthening ties with the masses, propaganda campaigns, and reeducation courses for managers and workers. [REDACTED]

Soviet Military Activity

[REDACTED]

Recent evidence indicated that at least 40 tons of Soviet food supplies for distribution to needy Polish families and orphanages were carried on two of the six Soviet IL-76 heavy jet military transport aircraft that visited Poland over the weekend. [REDACTED]