

~~Top Secret~~

POLAND: Parliament Session Postponed

Postponement of the session of parliament scheduled for next Wednesday may indicate that Premier Jaruzelski is having difficulty formulating a program. Polish efforts, meanwhile, to improve relations with West European governments have encountered rough going.

The first full session of the parliament since the imposition of martial law has been delayed until 25 or 26 January, when Jaruzelski presumably will make his scheduled major address setting forth government policies.

The official Polish Army newspaper yesterday called for sweeping purges of the party and other institutions. [redacted] confirms that several local dissident writers have been detained and that intellectuals fear a "second wave" of arrests in the near future. Some prisoners, especially recalcitrant Solidarity activists, apparently are receiving progressively harsher treatment.

Comment: Postponement of the parliamentary session may be a sign that the predominantly military government--which considers its primary responsibility the maintenance of order--is having problems devising a broad political-economic program. Jaruzelski probably is not receiving much helpful advice from the Communist Party, where moderates and hardliners remain divided.

While deliberations about future policies continue, hardliners may be using concerns about maintaining control to push for tougher actions. The Army newspaper's demands were harsher and more far-reaching than those proposed earlier this week by the head of the party's Central Control Commission but do not necessarily indicate a rift between the military and the party. The paper has long been known for its stern tone and may only be supporting an overall hardline campaign of repression.

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