

~~Top Secret~~

POLAND: More Reports of Unrest

*A protest march by 3,000 people in a provincial town caught security forces unprepared. The Pope has spoken out forcefully for the rehabilitation of Solidarity, which may encourage a more determined stance by the Church.*

[REDACTED] more than one-third of the workers in a factory in Lublin stopped work for 15 minutes on Friday in response to a Solidarity leaflet. About 3,000 people successfully staged a silent 30-minute march last Saturday in Swidnik, near Lublin. Police are investigating the incident. A street demonstration involving some 4,000 people took place in neighboring Tarnobrzeg Province on Monday. [REDACTED]

The disbanded Independent Student Association has reiterated its call for a student demonstration on 18 February in support of Solidarity. There also are growing expectations of increased resistance in the spring. The slogan "The winter is yours, but the spring is ours" is being used more frequently. [REDACTED]

Comment: The march in Swidnik--one of the largest demonstrations to date--apparently caught local officials off guard. This march and the strike in nearby Lublin suggest the area is another center of worker militancy and will lead to a tightening of security there. The short duration of the demonstration may have prevented the authorities from reacting with force. [REDACTED]

The expectation of increasing conflicts in the spring reflects gloomy assessments by senior Church leaders and many intellectuals. They do not believe that the regime has intimidated the population or is prepared to offer an acceptable policy of accommodation. These judgments may also contain some wishful thinking from people disappointed over the limited resistance thus far to martial law. [REDACTED]

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