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POLAND: Glemp Seeks Dialogue

The Church is making new efforts to edge the regime toward a more conciliatory policy but is not optimistic about any quick results.

Archbishop Glemp told [redacted] that the Church was planning to release a document later this week for the "guidance of society" to help stimulate renewed dialogue with the authorities. Glemp fears, however, that some may reject the document, and he plans to follow up by meeting with Premier Jaruzelski soon after Easter.

The Archbishop stated that the government's failure to be more responsive to the interests of the people reflects in part Jaruzelski's willingness to listen to hardline advisers who argue that the regime can win by using coercion. Glemp also said the leadership is avoiding difficult decisions while awaiting the outcome of the repercussions of President Brezhnev's illness.

Glemp added that the government opposes the Pope's planned visit to Poland in August and indicated that the visit probably would be postponed if there is no serious Church-state dialogue. He gave no hint that he expects major unrest this spring and appeared resigned to the fact that Poland faces a long and difficult road to economic recovery.

Comment: This assessment by the Archbishop differs substantially from the pessimistic analysis he offered [redacted] in late January. Although it clearly is not optimistic, the current evaluation reflects Glemp's belief that the Church will have to play its traditional conciliatory role despite the existing political stalemate.

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