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POLAND: Continuing Tension

More clashes between the police and demonstrators may be in the offing.

Interior Minister Kiszczak announced yesterday that violent demonstrations had occurred on Monday in 12 major cities and that additional riots occurred yesterday in the port city of Szczecin. He said that 1,372 people had been arrested and 72 policemen injured.

rumors of leaflets calling for more demonstrations this week and next. heard from the police that they might be leaving the capital for an "extended period."

Meanwhile, the Military Council has selectively reimposed some martial law restrictions, including the curfew in Warsaw and Szczecin.

Polish media continue to blame "antisocialist" groups and foreign subversion centers for inciting the youthful demonstrators. Kiszczak warned that the authorities would not alter their overall policies, and he indirectly prodded the Church to be more active in preventing demonstrations.

Moscow's response so far has been low key. TASS attributed the unrest to "opponents of socialism" trying to regain "lost positions," and noted that the police took the "necessary measures."

Comment: The nationwide scope of the demonstrations is a clear sign that Solidarity activists have reestablished some effective organizational lines.

The uncompromising stand taken by hardliners and by reputed moderates in the regime suggests that the authorities will continue to rely on coercion, which they evidently believe does not yet require the use of the military. The opposition probably will not retreat at this point to the passivity of past months, however, and additional violence appears likely.

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