

~~Top Secret~~

POLAND: Precautionary Arrests

Polish security forces [redacted] late last week arrested and questioned more than 1,800 Solidarity activists suspected of being associated with an illegal publishing organization. [redacted] increased circulation of leaflets calling for strikes or demonstrations later this month, with preparations rumored to be most intense on the Baltic coast. [redacted] more arrests before the nationwide demonstrations planned for 31 August, the second anniversary of the formation of the union. [redacted]

Comment: The arrests are the first clear sign that the authorities anticipate trouble later this month and hope to forestall it through intimidation. Such tactics are unlikely to prevent protests against martial law, in view of the widespread disaffection from the regime and the apparent willingness of the workers to participate in protest activity. Some demonstrations could occur as early as Friday, the end of the eighth month of martial law. [redacted]

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