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POLAND: Possible Debate Within Government

There are tentative signs of a debate within the Polish regime over the possibility of negotiating with Solidarity. [REDACTED]

Interior Minister Kiszczak told parliament yesterday that the authorities had offered to hold talks with the underground union leadership in April, but Solidarity did not accept the offer and instead fomented riots on 31 August. A reliable source says Kiszczak told [REDACTED] in early September that he opposed negotiations with Solidarity. A source whose reliability has not been established reports Premier Jaruzelski and Deputy Chairman Rakowski favor talks with Solidarity on the future of trade unions. [REDACTED]

A signed article in *Pravda* Tuesday cited a warning from Lenin to Polish Communists in 1921 to avoid acts of provocation while maintaining a firm grip. It included among lessons the Polish party had learned from the Soviets the need to avoid inflexibility and factionalism and to apply Leninism creatively. [REDACTED]

Comment: Kiszczak was trying to portray Solidarity as intractable to absolve the regime from responsibility for the clashes on 31 August and for the failure to relieve the political unrest since the declaration of martial law. His public reference to possible talks with union leaders could indicate a debate within the regime about such contacts, to which he is adamantly opposed. [REDACTED]

The article in *Pravda* implies that the Polish authorities, while dealing firmly with opposition activity, should avoid actions likely to inflame popular feeling. It also suggests opposition in Moscow to any attempt by Polish hardliners to challenge Jaruzelski's policies. Despite the article's hint of flexibility, however, the Soviets would be deeply suspicious of any genuine dialogue between Polish authorities and the Solidarity underground and would probably state their misgivings in strong terms. [REDACTED]

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