

~~Top Secret~~

POLAND: Strikers Protest Solidarity Ban

Workers at the Lenin shipyards in Gdansk, the birthplace of Solidarity, staged an eight-hour strike yesterday and are threatening similar action today, according to reports [REDACTED]. The police used force against small crowds outside the shipyards but did not enter the grounds. Workers elsewhere on the Baltic coast reportedly also considered strikes. [REDACTED]

Comment: This is the first major strike since the initial days of martial law and presents the regime with a dilemma. It cannot allow the strike to be repeated lest workers regain some of their former confidence. To use force, however, risks major disruption and destruction in the shipyards and an escalation of the confrontation. The authorities [REDACTED] probably will try to head off the threatened strike by arresting activists, bringing in extra security personnel, or as a last resort, by closing the shipyards for the day. [REDACTED]

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12 October 1982

Approved for Release
Date AUG 199

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