

~~Top Secret~~

POLAND: Solidarity Appeals for More Protests

*The recent calls by the leadership of Solidarity for more frequent and larger strikes and demonstrations reflect the ascendancy of radicals in the underground, but they may have difficulty producing a substantial turnout.*

The underground leadership has distributed a series of communiques calling for eight-hour strikes on 10 November--the second anniversary of the union's registration--and for demonstrations to mark Poland's prewar national day on 11 November. It also has proclaimed a "week of protests" from 13-17 December and has ordered a general strike next spring.

Comment: Leadership in the underground may be passing from the moderate Zbigniew Bujak, who believes the authorities are too strong to be forced to make concessions now, to Bogdan Lis, who has been pushing for a general strike. Lis believes the authorities will make concessions only if they become convinced that many desperate people might stage a general strike. He wants extensive preparations, including the acquisition of communications equipment to allow strikers to overcome any government communications blackout.

By establishing a strike schedule, union leaders hope to persuade workers that they have an overall plan and to dispel the impression of indecision created by their silence after Solidarity was officially dissolved. Some protests would have occurred in any case, but the leadership will have difficulty staging widespread strikes on 10 November. Many workers will hesitate to participate, fearing others will not follow.

The regime will continue using repressive tactics--arresting resistance leaders, spreading disinformation, firing strikers, and providing economic rewards to those who remain on the job.

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