

~~Top Secret~~

POLAND: Challenge to Jaruzelski

Open Criticism of Premier Jaruzelski and his policies by hardliners may inaugurate a prolonged debate on the future role of the party.

Party hardliner Tadeusz Grabski has circulated an open letter to members of the Central Committee warning the party has not been reconstructed but has "sunk into a kind of coma." He reportedly criticized the government's economic reform program and blamed senior officials in the Church for causing social unrest.

Grabski proposed using the "strongest possible force" to destroy the underground opposition, a severe purge of the party, a retreat from liberal economic reforms, and tougher measures against the Church. the Politburo met on Wednesday to discuss the implications of the challenge to Jaruzelski.

The Soviets recently indicated that they regard the reconstruction of the party as their top priority and that they would like to see Jaruzelski move more quickly to purge its ranks of revisionists. They also have publicized their opposition to the Church's playing a political role.

Comment: Jaruzelski can easily withstand this challenge. The letter, however, is likely to revive complaints from party bureaucrats on how the party is being dominated by the military.

The Soviets probably were aware of the letter. There is no sign, however, that Moscow has ceased to regard Jaruzelski as the best available leader for now or that it would support a hardline challenge to his position. Recent Soviet commentaries have affirmed the need to take a long-term view of the problems in Poland and to avoid provocative measures against the opposition.

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