

~~Top Secret~~

POLAND: Actors' Union Abolished

The abolition on Wednesday of the Actors' Union eliminates one of the last pockets of organized resistance before the dissolution of martial law and the lifting of restrictions on most cultural groups. The move is designed to end an actors' boycott of radio and television, under way since the imposition of martial law, and bring the theater under closer government control. It follows recent threats by Deputy Premier Rakowski that uncooperative actors would be punished and a sermon on Sunday by Archbishop Glemp urging actors to return to work. [REDACTED]

Comment: The regime's action comes at a time when the boycott appeared to be collapsing because of the economic concerns of unemployed actors, the stance of the Church, and the expected termination of martial law. Rakowski, who enjoys a liberal reputation in cultural affairs and reportedly is held in low esteem by party hardliners and the Soviets, led the campaign against the actors. Although his role will damage Rakowski's liberal credentials, it may raise his standing in the eyes of his opponents. [REDACTED]

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