

CIACO NID 81 [REDACTED]

March 23, 1981

POLAND: Situation Remains Tense

*Negotiations between Solidarity and the regime are continuing in an effort to lower tensions, but the party leadership has indicated it intends to take a hard line toward Solidarity's demands.*

The Politburo leadership yesterday restated its will to resolve conflicts through "political means," but it also took a tough line toward Solidarity. The statement accused the union of "tending" toward political activity and seeking to replace government authorities. This, the leadership said, creates anarchy. [REDACTED]

The Politburo also took a tough, narrow view of the incident in Bydgoszcz saying that the local Solidarity leaders had attempted to occupy a building and that the authorities had the legal right to evict them. The statement fails to mention the charges of police brutality. This will not sit well with either Solidarity or the populace who have focused on the rough treatment of the union leaders. [REDACTED]

No large-scale strikes are slated for today although some local strikes may take place. A nationwide "strike alert," a procedure used to prepare workers for a possible future strike and to put pressure on the regime, however, will begin. In a conciliatory gesture, the militant Warsaw chapter of Solidarity agreed to cancel a two-hour warning strike it had called for today. [REDACTED]

Solidarity's National Consultative Commission will meet today to discuss the union's next steps. There will undoubtedly be pressure for the union to set strike deadlines for compliance by the regime with Solidarity's demands. These now focus primarily on the removal of individuals, including a Deputy Prime Minister, held responsible for the police brutality. Walesa and other leaders will probably try to deflect such pressure. [REDACTED]

Union leaders will probably discuss the Politburo statement which Jacek Kuron, a leading dissident and adviser to Solidarity, has reportedly called "a communique

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indicating an open war." They will probably discuss also the stance Walesa should take when he resumes talks with Deputy Prime Minister Rakowski on Wednesday. No details were released about their seven hours of reportedly "sharp" talks yesterday. [REDACTED]

Soviet Reaction

Soviet media coverage indicates that Moscow has already conducted its own "investigation" of the Bydgoszcz incident and found Solidarity guilty, thereby greatly narrowing the Polish regime's room for compromise in its investigation and its negotiations with Solidarity. Moscow will keep pressure on Warsaw to fulfill its pledge to take "all measures" to ensure order in the country. [REDACTED]

A TASS dispatch on Saturday places full blame upon Solidarity for the incident. It claims that union members tried "by means of force" to remain in the building when local authorities, acting "in accordance with law," began to oust them. [REDACTED]

The TASS dispatch contains the most direct Soviet criticism of Solidarity, and Lech Walesa personally, since the tensions of early February. It calls Walesa's comment that the situation in Poland is now more serious than it was in August an "instigatory assertion" and quotes Polish Government spokesman Barecki's statement that order in Poland is being "unceasingly violated" by Solidarity. [REDACTED]

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