

CIACO NID 81

August 24, 1981

POLAND: Resumption of Talks

*Solidarity and government representatives are slated to discuss several key issues this week despite continuing local labor unrest.*

The two sides are expected to resume discussions of the union's demands for greater access to the media and negotiation of planned increases in bread prices. The most difficult issue is likely to be the union's desire to air its own regular radio and television programs free of significant government censorship. A senior Solidarity official wants the government to transfer control of radio and television to parliament and to establish a citizens' committee to set broadcasting guidelines.

Solidarity printers in one small provincial capital, meanwhile, remain on strike, prompting militants elsewhere to threaten sympathy strikes. Union officials are trying to settle the controversy. Another dispute, in the industrial center of Katowice, involves the censorship of union publications and worker self-management, issues that are of special importance to many union activists. Workers in a large steel mill are organizing a referendum in an effort to remove the factory director, who permitted the shutdown of the union newsletter because it published allegedly anti-Soviet material.

Moscow Cites "Lessons" of Polish Crisis

A statement on Saturday by the Soviet Politburo, asserting that Poland's problems result from straying from Leninist principles, probably was intended to remind Polish leaders--and perhaps other East Europeans--of the need to adhere to the orthodox policies approved by Moscow. Its tone, however, was not threatening, and its language was broad enough to allow some tactical latitude. The remarks came in a routine release approving Soviet party leader Brezhnev's recent talks with his East European counterparts.

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The announcement asserted that Poland faces "acute crisis phenomena" and reaffirmed the concern of all "socialist" countries for each other's interests. It did not imply, however, an immediate need for a more active role by Poland's allies or the desirability of precipitate action by the Poles themselves. [REDACTED]