

CIACO NID 81

September 11, 1981

POLAND: End of Union Congress

*Solidarity's increased militancy, which came into clearer focus during the congress, will force the regime to be equally uncompromising during the coming weeks.*

In its final day of deliberations, Solidarity yesterday approved a seven-point resolution that included the demand for free parliamentary elections. The resolution called for Solidarity to draft a new electoral law that would allow secret ballots and candidates not affiliated with the official government list. Solidarity leader Walesa also won support for his demand for a stronger central leadership for the union.

Many delegates believe, however, that there will have to be another major dispute with the regime before any further progress is possible. They believe the regime cannot be trusted to negotiate in good faith and will not live up to commitments made during negotiations.

The regime's options are limited. It cannot appear lenient toward Solidarity's increasingly political behavior or it will risk total alienation from Moscow. It also cannot prevent the second part of the congress without precipitating a domestic explosion.

As Solidarity prepares for the second part of its congress in two weeks, it will resume negotiations with the regime on demands for greater access to the media and for more worker self-management. Little progress is likely, however, and tensions generally will be high. The possibility of a strike by radio and television workers remains, but Walesa probably will argue against any major protest action before the union has completed its elections and set out its program.

Soviet Reaction

Moscow's angry rejection of Solidarity's "appeal to the peoples of Eastern Europe" vaguely warned of a

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mounting wave of indignation but gave no signal that action on the part of the USSR is imminent. Calling Solidarity's statement "interference in the affairs of other peoples," TASS repeated earlier charges that the Polish union is intent on vanquishing the party, restoring capitalism, and altering Warsaw's foreign policy. [REDACTED]

Moscow's criticism probably will continue, but its authoritative public assessment of the latest events may not come for several days. The Soviet Ambassador in Warsaw probably used his meeting yesterday with party chief Kania to state formally Moscow's displeasure. [REDACTED]