

CIACO NID 81 [REDACTED]

October 08, 1981

POLAND: Solidarity Congress Ends

Solidarity chief Walesa is determined to assert firm control over the union after the conclusion yesterday of the congress despite the efforts of his critics to restrain his powers. [REDACTED]

Walesa is disappointed that two of his close supporters were not elected to the union's 107-man National Commission, but he has been moving quickly to gather support and to influence the commission's selection of the union's presidium. The presidium--composed of only about 14 members--is Solidarity's executive committee and will play a key role in directing union affairs. [REDACTED]

Walesa has been making overtures to such important regional leaders as Karol Modzelewski, who has sometimes opposed Walesa and now may be instrumental in helping negotiate economic reform issues with the government. Walesa also hopes to isolate any militants in the new presidium by requiring them to live in Gdansk or by strict enforcement of attendance rules. Aiding Walesa in his efforts to pack the new presidium with men of his own choosing is an apparent feeling among many union leaders that some of Walesa's more radical critics showed themselves too intemperate. [REDACTED]

Solidarity's new leadership will be charged with executing a union program approved yesterday that appears to be a mixture of moderation and militancy. The program reportedly calls for free elections, public trials of former political leaders, and far-reaching economic reforms. [REDACTED] however, the program's section on international relations has been toned down from earlier drafts. [REDACTED]

The union leadership evidently has latitude in carrying out the program, and it has been charged with drafting a "proposed" election law by the end of the year. A token national strike to protest recent price increases would occur only if the leadership's negotiations with the regime are fruitless. [REDACTED]

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320

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The regime and the Soviets are certain to react vehemently to the overt political planks of the platform, but the union's demand for "social control" over the economy is apt to bring it into conflict with the government first. The union delegates seem disposed to push rapidly for their version of worker self-management which Prime Minister Jaruzelski yesterday called an impediment to economic reform. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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