

CIACO NID 81 [REDACTED]

October 20, 1981

POLAND: More Personnel Changes

Party leader Jaruzelski apparently intends to strengthen his hand in the party leadership by making high-level personnel changes at a Central Committee session to be held "soon." [REDACTED]

The new First Secretary intends to make changes in the Secretariat and the Politburo, and Kania may be among the party leaders he will dismiss. Jaruzelski may have to draw from the ranks of the military and government to find candidates in whom he has confidence. [REDACTED]

Jaruzelski also wants to gain approval of changes in the government that would open more cabinet-level posts to non-Communists. This seems an effort to create a more broadly based "national unity" government that the regime hopes would help isolate Solidarity. The Central Committee reportedly will also decide whether Jaruzelski will retain his government posts. [REDACTED]

The new party leader yesterday again underscored his willingness to deal firmly with Poland's problems by attending a meeting of the military council, at which the tasks of the military were "defined in light of the current situation." Such meetings have been used before to put pressure on Solidarity to moderate its views. [REDACTED]

Solidarity leaders may be prepared to make a show of good will toward the new First Secretary, but local union militants will keep them from appearing too conciliatory. The union's national executive yesterday called the strike ban proposed by the Central Committee a mistake but vowed to help eliminate unjustified strikes and protests. One local chapter heatedly attacked the proposed ban as tantamount to breaking the basic union-government agreement. [REDACTED]

The union's formal response to the party's proposals will be delayed until after Solidarity leader Walesa returns to Poland from France later today or tomorrow. Leaders will poll the rank and file on the Central Committee resolutions before their meeting tomorrow and Thursday, when they are slated to decide whether to go

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ahead with a short nationwide warning strike to protest price increases made during Solidarity's congress. The union's success over the weekend at gaining a temporary price freeze should provide enough justification for canceling the strike plan. [REDACTED]

Soviet party leader Brezhnev's congratulatory message to Jaruzelski indicates that while expecting firm action from the new First Secretary, Moscow recognizes his need for room to maneuver. The message expresses confidence that Jaruzelski will use his full authority to strengthen the unity of the Polish party and defend socialism against "counterrevolution," but it does not call for drastic measures or suggest the possibility of "fraternal assistance." [REDACTED]

The message is far more cordial than the one sent Kania upon his reelection in July but less effusive than the one at the time of his initial election. This note of reservation suggests that Moscow will refrain from expressing full approval of Jaruzelski until it has seen how he performs in his new office. [REDACTED]