

~~Top Secret~~

POLAND: Military Impatience

Military officers are dissatisfied with the performance of civilian bureaucrats. The regime is planning some show trials. The Soviets consider the situation under control despite recent demonstrations.

Poland's military leadership is dissatisfied with the slow and inconsistent pace of personnel changes in the civilian bureaucracy and the failure of civilian organizations to take the initiative in solving problems. Last week, senior members of the Ministry of National Defense proposed that party and government officials adopt organizational and personnel policies that the Ministry has developed over the past decade.

A Foreign Ministry official subsequently commented that the military program calls for greater competition in filling positions and stringent controls on the number of government employees. He added that the military intends to remove corrupt and incompetent officials who hold their jobs because of their connections.

Comment: These plans reflect Premier Jaruzelski's desire to make the bureaucracy more responsive and efficient. The slow progress probably already has convinced some in the military that they will have to retain considerable power for a long time. Such perceptions will bring them into conflict with party stalwarts, especially if some loyal party members lose their jobs.

Show Trials

Mirosław Krupinski, one of Lech Walesa's deputies, went on trial yesterday for organizing a national strike committee in Gdansk shortly after the imposition of martial law. His trial comes on the heels of the stiff sentences handed out to lower level activists and coincides with a highly publicized "spy" trial. The regime also announced that it has completed preparations for a tribunal to try former party chief Gierek and other former leaders for corruption.

--continued

~~Top Secret~~

1
Approved for Release 11 February 1982
Date AUG 1999

410

~~Top Secret~~

Comment: Walesa will be even less likely to negotiate with authorities now that they have started to prosecute individuals whom he wants to participate in any talks with the regime. Moreover, show trials will not intimidate either dissidents or staunch union activists, who will view the defendants as martyrs. Although some Poles will be pleased to see Gierk and others punished, few will forgive the prosecution of Solidarity activists.

Soviet Observations

TASS notes that the number and impact of "antisocialist" leaflets and graffiti are "more than modest," but it claims that the general mood of the populace has improved.

Comment: The tone of the TASS commentary suggests that the Soviets do not see any reason to question the ability of the Polish authorities to control the situation. The continuation of such activity, however, will strengthen the conviction of some Soviets that there can be no early end to military rule.

~~Top Secret~~

11 February 1982