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~~Top Secret~~

POLAND: Seeking a Papal Visit

A senior Church official yesterday told [redacted] that Pope John Paul II intends to visit Poland in August and has charged the Polish Church with preparing the visit. The joint Church-state commission has already met to begin working out details. Potential stumbling-blocks in the continuing negotiations over the visit include the Pope's reported desire to visit internment camps and his possible refusal to meet with Premier Jaruzelski. Underground Solidarity leaders believe that the Pope's visit could improve morale and encourage more opposition activity. [redacted]

Comment: Church leaders are seeking to force the regime to take a stand on a papal visit and to take the blame for any postponement. Many in the martial law leadership probably believe the regime has nothing to gain from the visit and will try to block it. Even though Solidarity leaders may refrain from engaging in major resistance activities, the security services could try to create an incident that would justify delaying the trip. [redacted]

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