

~~Top Secret~~

POLAND: Debate Over Living Standards

Discussion of economic policy at the Central Committee on Wednesday indicates there is increasing pressure to give higher priority to consumption. The party secretary for economics said a majority of party organizations want faster growth in living standards than outlined in the draft economic plan for 1983-85. The plan now gives priority to increasing exports and national income by 27 and 16 percent, respectively, by 1985, while per capita consumption is to grow by only 7 percent.

workers are unhappy the plan calls for a six-day workweek in more industries and for substantial price rises, starting with a 25-percent increase in 1983.

Comment: The debate is not likely to cause a dramatic change in targets. The leadership would like to appease workers by offering the prospect of higher living standards, but the massive debt problem leaves little room for maneuver. Even with its trade surplus this year and no payments to Western creditors, Poland will be able to pay perhaps one-third of the interest for 1982 owed private creditors.

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