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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

13 August 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence
FROM : [redacted]
Acting Director of Strategic Research
SUBJECT : Warsaw Pact Force Modernization Program

1. The attached memorandum prepared by the CIA's Office of Strategic Research assesses probable developments in the modernization of Polish ground and tactical air forces through the mid-1980s. It is based largely on documents outlining Soviet proposals for Warsaw Pact modernization and on the Polish General Staff's recommended response. The memorandum concludes that Polish planners do not anticipate making more than token progress over the next six years toward achievement of the modernization goals proposed by the Soviets, thus underscoring OSR's view that East Europeans view the Pact plan as a general objective rather than as a firm plan to be achieved by the mid-1980s.

2. This is a [redacted] report. For convenience of reference by NFIB agencies, the codeword [redacted] has been assigned to the product of certain extremely sensitive agent sources of CIA's Directorate of Operations. The word [redacted] is classified [redacted] and is to be used only among persons authorized to read and handle this material.

3. This memorandum must be handled in accordance with established security procedures. It may not be reproduced for any purpose. Queries regarding the substance of this memorandum may be addressed to the Director, Office of Strategic Research. Requests for extra copies or for utilization of any part of this report in any other form should be addressed to the Deputy Director for Operations.

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SUBJECT: Warsaw Pact Force Modernization Program

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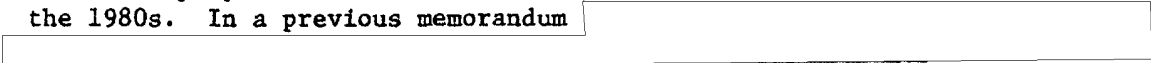


13 August 1979

MEMORANDUM

Warsaw Pact Force Modernization Program

1. A recently acquired, highly classified document has provided additional evidence of the probable reaction of the East Europeans to Soviet proposals for the modernization of Warsaw Pact forces in the 1980s. In a previous memorandum



we described the Soviet program and concluded that it would be unlikely for the East Europeans to meet the goals by 1985. This latest document supports our conclusion.

2. The document contains Polish General Staff recommendations for the procurement of new equipment and weapon systems for their forces during the 1981-85 Five Year Plan period. Although we cannot predict what changes may be made as the recommendations proceed through other levels of review, their extent is not likely to be great.

3. The Polish staff recommends procurement of most types of weapons included in the Soviet plan that was approved in December 1978 by the Pact defense ministers. The number of weapons to be procured, however, falls far short of the goals established by the Pact plan.

NOTE: This memorandum was prepared in the Office of Strategic Research.



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Ground Forces. The level of investment in new ground force weaponry (expressed in constant rubles) recommended by the Polish staff appears to be only about a third of that which would be required to fully implement the improvements called for in the Pact plan (see Table 1). If the Polish recommendations were accepted, the spending shortfall would be greatest in T-72 tank procurement: less than 25 percent of the estimated total Polish T-72 requirement would be met by the end of 1985. The Poles also would fail to achieve the inventory levels that we believe to be required by the Pact plan for most new models of artillery, antitank weapons, and air defense systems.

Tactical Air Forces. Polish acquisition of new tactical aircraft to replace older fighters and fighter-bombers also would fall short of the number required to meet the estimated goals of the Pact program (see Table 2). We believe the Pact plan requires maintaining the present size of the Polish tactical aircraft inventory while replacing some 70 percent of the older aircraft. Under the Polish plan, however, the total inventory would decrease by some 7 percent as some older aircraft were scrapped, 72 percent retained, and only 21 percent replaced with new aircraft.

4. Implications. It is clear from this document that Polish planners do not anticipate making more than token progress over the next six years. The document thus underscores our belief that the East Europeans view the Pact plan as a general objective rather than a firm plan to be achieved by the mid-1980s. While there are indications that some, if not all, of the East Europeans anticipate modest increases in weapons procurement spending during the 1981-85 period, we continue to doubt that substantial progress toward the goals outlined in the Pact plan will be made over the next decade.

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TABLE 1: RELATIVE

(1970 Constant Rubles)

ON: 1981 - 1985

Full Implementation
of Pact Program

Polish Plan
1981 - 1985

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| |

— SAMS

— ATGMs

— Artillery

— BMPs

— T-72 Tanks

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- 3 -

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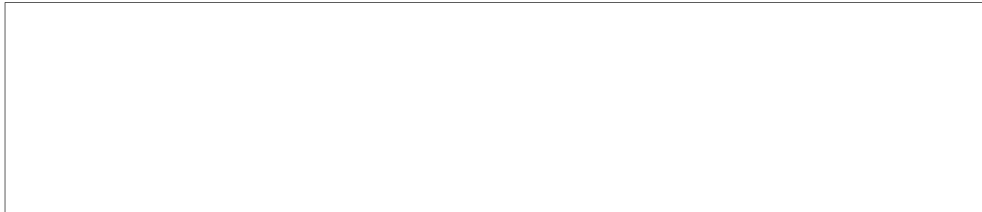
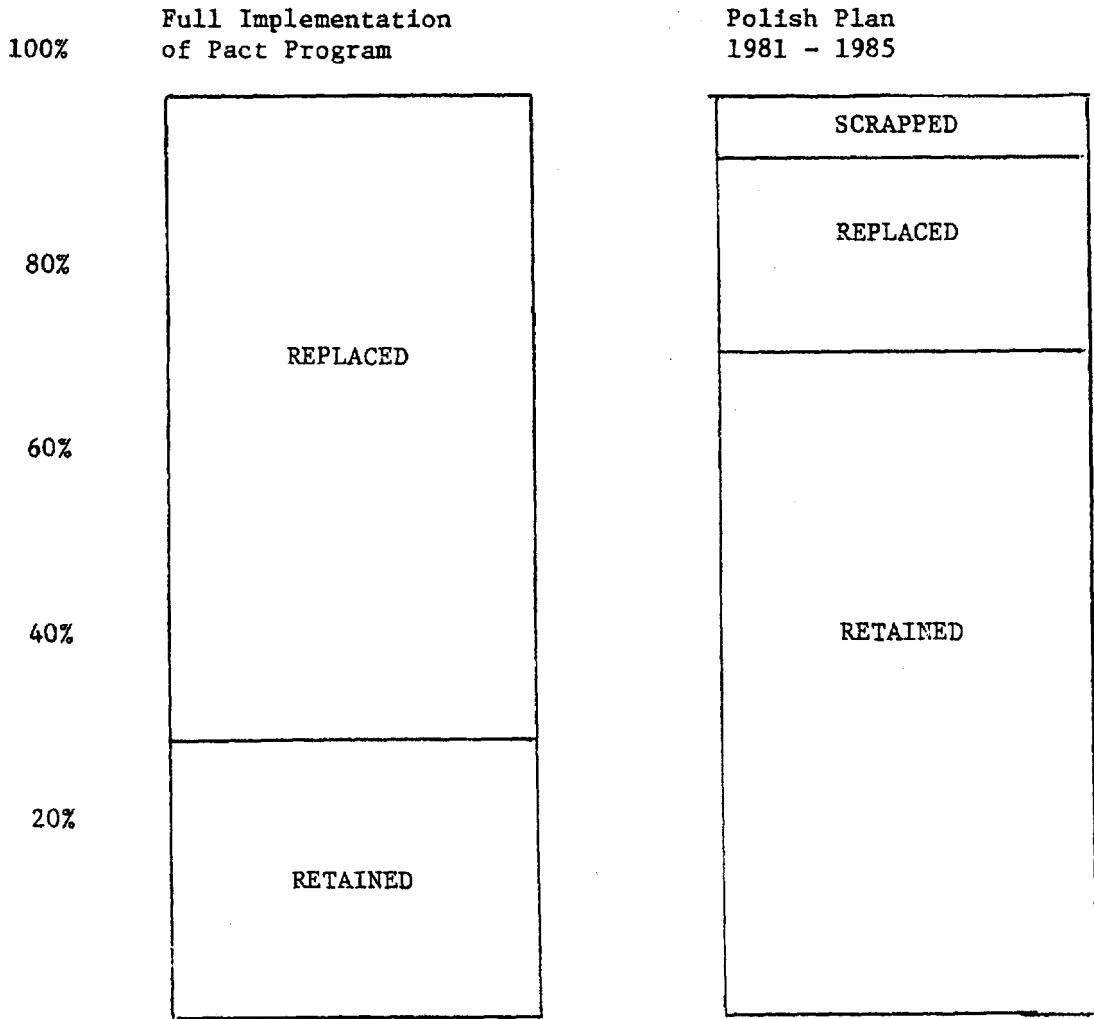


TABLE 2: TACTICAL AIRCRAFT MODERNIZATION



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