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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
18 December 1970

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

MORI/CDF per C03323617

The Situation in Poland
(As of 1400 P.M. EST)

1. Rioting and arson continued in Szczecin this morning, but there are no reports indicating the present state of affairs in the city, except that schools are closed and some workers have been excused from their jobs. The curfew is still in effect. Eyewitness accounts indicate that tanks and armored vehicles are being employed against crowds in Szczecin, as they were earlier in the tri-city area on the coast.

2. According to Polish announcements a modicum of order has been restored once again in Gdansk, but the city apparently has not returned to normal. Many workers refuse to go back to their jobs, and there are reports of sporadic violence.

3. There is little specific information about the situation in other cities, but the tenor of Polish reporting suggests that tensions remain high and that work stoppages are still common. The central market in Wroclaw (formerly Breslau) reportedly is cordoned off, but no one knows why. Workers at the Zeran automobile plant in Warsaw, where party boss Gomulka has close ties, are reported to have laid down their tools for discussions about the riots.

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The ambassador was unable to identify what the vehicles contained and they have not been sighted since.

6. College students reportedly will be dismissed on Saturday, three days early, for their Christmas holidays, in an obvious effort by the regime to break up concentrations of volatile young people. Students living in troubled areas, however, do not have permission to leave.

7. Today's editorial in Trybuna Ludu, the main party daily, blames Radio Free Europe (RFE) for fanning the flames once the disorders began. This item was viciously elaborated on later in the day by the East German radio, which linked RFE to unnamed US intelligence agencies. RFE broadcasts are being jammed, but the US Embassy in Warsaw reported today that there is no jamming of VOA Polish-language broadcasts.

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