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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Wednesday 14 December 1977

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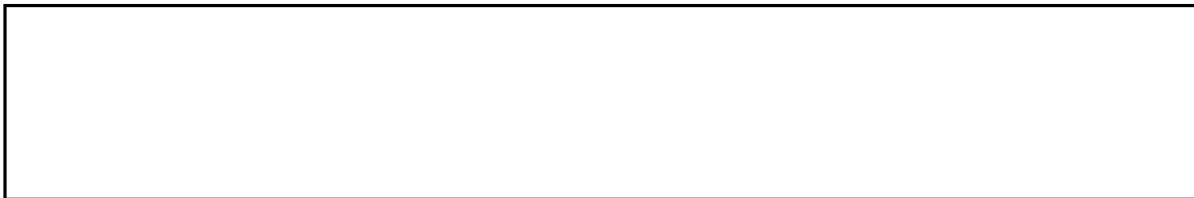
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National Intelligence Daily Cable for Wednesday, 14 December 1977

The NID Cable is for the purpose of informing senior US officials.

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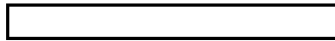
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USSR
UK-EC



Angola
Poland



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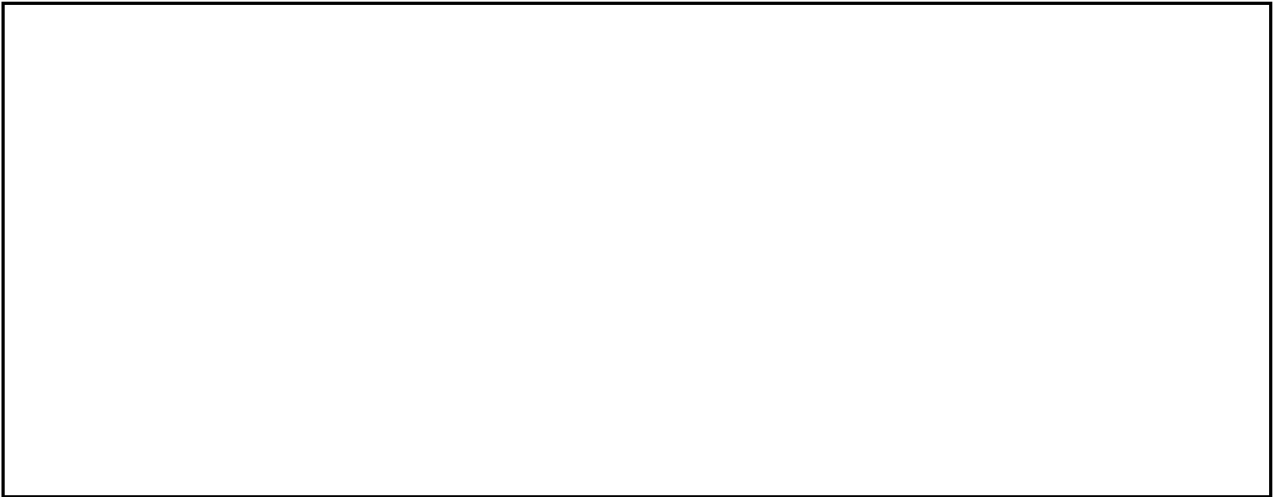
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POLAND: Pope's Speech Stirs Controversy

25X1 [redacted] *The extraordinary support given to Polish party chief Gierek by Pope Paul during their meeting on 1 December has produced "shock and concern" among some Polish Catholic intellectuals. The Pope's support has almost certainly strengthened Gierek's position within the country.*



25X1 [redacted] *The intellectuals' reaction to the Pope's support for Gierek reveals the contradictory feelings they have toward Gierek. While they may see Gierek as the least objectionable party leader, they feel they cannot in good conscience support him forthrightly or openly, as they think the Pope has done. So controversial is this subject that the independent Catholic weekly *Tygodnik Powszechny* omitted the portions of Pope Paul's speech that were particularly helpful to Gierek. Differences over how much the Church should support Gierek will become more pronounced if it becomes evident that Wyszynski did not extract significant concessions from Gierek.* [redacted]

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BELIZE: Independence Issue

25X1 [redacted] *//A vote of support for Belizean Premier Price from representatives of seven Caribbean and Latin American nations, coupled with the overwhelming defeat of his party's candidates in the Belize City election, will probably stiffen*

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Price's resolve to oppose any British-Guatemalan agreement requiring Belize to cede territory to Guatemala in exchange for independence.//

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[redacted] Last Friday, representatives from Panama, Venezuela, Jamaica, Guyana, Surinam, Barbados, and Grenada met in Kingston and declared that any Belize settlement should be based on self-determination and territorial integrity. The resolution also stated that the settlement must be acceptable to the government and people of Belize, and that Belize must be a party to all negotiations.

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[redacted] Two days before the Kingston conference, Price suffered a serious domestic political setback when his People's United Party lost all nine seats on the Belize City municipal council to the opposition, which had held six seats.// Although there were a number of local issues involved, the opposition candidates emphasized their party's line that Belize is not ready for independence and that Price will recant on his pledge not to cede territory.//

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[redacted] //Members of Price's party differ on whether the independence issue played a role in the defeat. One-third of the country's population lives in Belize City, however, and both sides consider it to be something of a national barometer.// Although the opposition generally has been stronger in Belize City than the countryside, [redacted]

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[redacted] if a national election were held now, Price's party would lose.

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[redacted] //Price has little maneuverability left on the independence issue. Independence is an old promise on which he built his political career but which is now wearing thin. Territorial cession before the 1979 election, however, would play into his opponents' hands. Given the opposition's showing in Belize City, Price would be hard-pressed to take Belize into independence without submitting the question to a plebiscite-- something the opposition has demanded for years--and the chances that he would win such a vote are now reduced. [redacted]

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BRIEFS

[REDACTED]

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USSR

[REDACTED] The USSR has stepped up its attacks on the "neutron bomb" to coincide with the NATO meetings last week in Brussels. The Soviets have been pursuing this campaign since last summer but are no longer using the issue as a pretext to attack President Carter and his disarmament proposals. They are concentrating instead on official and public opposition to the weapon in Western Europe. [REDACTED]

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UK-EC

[REDACTED] //As expected, the House of Commons last night overwhelmingly rejected a government-sponsored amendment to use proportional representation in elections to the European Parliament. It opted instead for the more familiar plurality single-member district system, ignoring government warnings that this would delay Britain's participation in the elections scheduled for next spring. The bill will now be returned to committee, and further debate will be postponed until after the Christmas recess. A final vote is not likely until January or February.//

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[REDACTED] //The rejection received strong support from both Labor and Conservative backbenchers. It is unclear what effect this will have on the pact between Labor Prime Minister Callaghan and his Liberal Party allies. Some Liberals, mostly outside Parliament, have demanded that the future of the pact hinge on strong Labor support for proportional representation.

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Angola

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[redacted] The highlight of Angola's first national party congress, held last week, was the transformation of the ruling Popular Movement into the Labor Party--officially described as a "vanguard working-class party pursuing a Marxist-Leninist ideology." A new central committee consisting of 45 members and 10 alternates was chosen. Its first task will be "to reinforce ideological cohesion" by directing an immediate purge of dissidents in the Popular Movement's former central committee.

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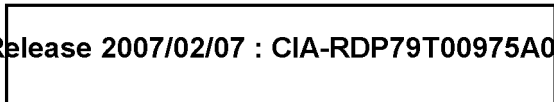
[redacted] No announcements were made regarding the composition of the party politburo or a new cabinet. According to the Belgian charge in Luanda, the congress had been expected to approve "a slight constitutional modification" empowering President Neto to name his own cabinet and consolidate his position.

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[redacted] The congress approved a three-year economic plan for Angola and a reorganization of the country's defense and security forces that includes a stronger role for the party. A second national party congress is not scheduled until 1986, although an extraordinary session has been called for 1980.



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Poland

25X1 [redacted] The Polish Minister of Agriculture, Kazimierz Barcikowski, has been demoted to party chief of Krakow Province. He will probably lose his candidate membership on the Politburo.

25X1 [redacted] A US Embassy source has attributed Barcikowski's fall to Poland's agricultural problems and his poor health. Barcikowski has generally been associated with the liberal wing of the party leadership, however, and it is conceivable that his fall is related to current controversies within the leadership between liberals and hardliners over Poland's future economic policies. The significance of his demotion may become clearer at a session of the parliament this Friday or at a party conference scheduled for the first half of January.

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