

25X1

04/ /

SECRET

FRP: 2, , , 6, 8

STATE

81 7714570 SSO

PAGE 001

NC 7714570

TOR: 271949Z DEC 81

OO RUEAIIB
 ZNY SSSSS ZOC STATE ZZH
 STU9059
 OO RUEHC
 DE RUDKRW #2559/01 3611900
 ZNY SSSSS ZZH ZZK
 O 271836Z DEC 81 ZFF-4
 FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5122
 BT
 S E C R E T WARSAW 12559 COMBINED SECTION

E.O. 12065: RDS 12/27/01 (WILGIS, BERBERT) OR-M
 TAGS: MPOL, BGOV, PINT, PINS, PL
 SUBJECT: REPORT BASED ON INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM MEDIA SOURCES

REF: STATE 335872

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION FROM MEDIA SOURCES. EMBASSY CANNOT CONFIRM THE ACCURACY OF THE REPORT.
2. POLES ARE ADAPTING TO WHAT IS SHAPING UP AS A LONG, REPRESSIVE PERIOD OF MARTIAL LAW WITH BITTER JOKES, BITS OF GRAFFITI ON THE WALLS, AND TALK OF AN UNDERGROUND STRUGGLE TO KEEP THE IDEAS OF SOLIDARITY ALIVE. TWO WEEKS AFTER THE IMPOSITION OF MARTIAL LAW, THE SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY WAS FAR FROM CLEAR. AFTER A FOUR DAY BREAK FOR THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY, WORK WAS DUE TO RESUME MONDAY AT FACTORIES AND COAL MINES WHICH HAD BEEN THE FOCUS OF EARLY OPEN RESISTANCE TO THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES. THE AUTHORITIES ARE LOOKING AT HIS WEEK AS A MAJOR TEST OF WHETHER THEY CAN SAFELY RELAX SOMEWHAT THE UNPRECEDENTED RESTRICTIONS ON PERSONAL FREEDOM THAT HAVE SO FAR KEPT THE OPPOSITION FROM MOUNTING A COORDINATED ANTI-GOVERNMENT CAMPAIGN. AMONG THE POTENTIAL TROUBLE SPOTS ARE THE LENIN SHIPYARD IN GDANSK, WHERE SOLIDARITY WAS BONR 16 MONTHS AGO, THE GIANT KATOWICE STEEL MILL WHERE THE SECURITY FORCES HAVE ALREADY PUT DOWN TWO STRIKES IN AS MANY WEEKS, AND THE COAL MINES

SECRET

State Dept. review completed

SECRET

STATE

81 7714570

SSO

PAGE 002

NC 7714570

TOR: 271949Z DEC 81

OF SILESIA, WHERE AT LEAST SEVEN WORKERS HAVE ALREADY DIED. OBSERVERS FOUND IT SIGNIFICANT THAT WORKER'S RESISTANCE HAD CENTERED IN TWO VITAL ECONOMIC SECTORS IN WIDELY DISTANT REGIONS--THE BALTIC SHIPYARDS AND THE SOUTHERN COAL MINES. ANY LONG TERM DISTURBANCE IN EITHER OF THESE SECTORS THREATENS TO BRING POLAND'S VIRTUALLY BANKRUPT ECONOMY TO A TOTAL COLLAPSE. THE AUTHORITIES SAY THE ONLY HOLDOUTS AGAINST MILITARY RULE ARE THE 1100 MINERS AT THE BTOOM OF THE PIAST MINE NEAR KATOWICE. BUT POLES ARE BEGINNING TO EXPRESS THEIR OPPOSITION IN DOZENS OF WAYS, SOME OPEN AND DEFIANT, OTHERS CLANDESTINE AND MILD. SOME POLES MADE VISITS TO THEIR FAMILIES DURING THE HOLIDAYS WEARING BLACK MOURNING RIBBONS ON THEIR LAPELS --A FORM OF PROTEST THAT WAS USED AFTER THE 1863 UPRISING WAS PUT DOWN BY THE CZAR. TODAY A CAR WITH SOLIDARITY STICKER DISPLAYED BOLDLY ON THE REAR WINDOW DROVE DOWN ONE OF WARSAW'S ICY THOROUGHFARES. BUT MOST WORE THEIR BUTTONS LESS CONSPICUOUSLY -- ON THE INSIDES OF LAPELS, FOR EXAMPLE. ONE RESIDENT IN THE MOKOTOW SECTION, SOUTH OF DOWNTOWN, PUT A SOLIDARITY BUTTON ON THE CHRISTMAS WREATH ADORNING HIS FRONT DOOR, BUT THEN TOOK IT DOWN AFTER AN HOUR. "WHAT'S THE QUICKEST WAY TO GET AN AMBULANCE?" ASKS ONE OF THE BITTER MARTIAL LAW JOKES CIRCULATING WIDELY THROUGH THE CAPITAL, WHERE TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS HAVE BEEN CUT SINCE DEC. 12. "GO OUTSIDE TO A TELEPHONE BOOTH AFTER CURFEW AND YELL 'SOLIDARITY'". "ADOLF JARUZELSKI" GRAFFITI HAS APPEARED IN SOME PARTS OF TOWN -- A BITING COMPARISON OF ADOLF HITLER WITH POLAND'S MARTIAL LAW SHIEF, GEN. WOJCIECH JARUSELSKI. POLES HAVE TAKEN TO CALLING THE NEW MILITARY COUNCIL "THE CROW" AFTER ITS POLISH ACRONYM. "THE CROW WILL NOT CONQUER THE EAGLE" -- POLAND'S NATIONAL SYMBOL. ALL THEATERS, MOVIE HOUSES, AND SPORTS EVENTS HAVE BEEN CLOSED OR CANCELLED SINCE MARTIAL LAW BEGAN. AFTER A STEADY DIET OF MILITARY CONCERTS AND WAR FILMS, POLISH TELEVISION IS NOW LIGHTENING ITS FARE, WITH "THE FLINTSTONES," "THE MUPPETS," A SEXY SCANDAVIAN REVIEW, AND OLD LIGHT ENTERTAINMENT FILMS.

SECRET

SECRET

STATE

81 7714570

SSO

PAGE 003

NC 7714570

TOR: 271949Z DEC 81

BUT MOSTLY POLES ARE REVIVING THE OLD CUSTOM OF DROP-IN VISIT. THEY BRING FLOWERS, A BIT OF VODKA IF THERE IS ANY, AND LOTS OF PRIMARILY MARTIAL LAW GOSSIP. THEY EXPECT THE SAME IN RETURN. BUT AT 10:45 PM, DOORS UP AND DOWN THE BLOCK OPEN, AND PEOPLE TRUDGE THROUGH THE SNOW IN A MAD DASH TO BEAT THE 11 PM CURFEW. DURING THEIR VISITS, SOME POLES ENGAGE IN A

NEW PASTIME--DREAMING UP WAYS TO FOIL THE AUTHORITIES. ONE STUDENT DESCRIBED A SERIES OF INVENTIVE TECHNIQUES FOR SPREADING LEAFLETS. HE SAID STUDENTS AT WARSAW POLYTECHNIC HAD DEVISED A BOX, CHARGED WITH FLARES AND CONTAINING A STACK OF LEAFLETS, WHICH WOULD EXPLODE MINUTES AFTER BEING SET, SCATTERING THE CONTENTS CIDEELY. HE ALSO SAID CHEMICAL STUDENTS HAD COME UP WITH AN INVISIBLE INK-TYPE PAINT USED TO DESECRATE OFFICIAL POSTERS. THIRTY MINUTES AFTER IT IS APPLIED--AND LONG AFTER THE PERPETRATORS HAVE DISAPPEARED INTO THE CROWDS, THE PAINT BLOTS OUT THE OFFICIAL PROPAGANDE. THE EXISTENCE OF THESE INVENTIONS COULD NOT BE INDEPENDENTLY CONFIRMED. THERE ARE ALSO NUMEROUS STORIES OF OLD POLISH SOLDIERS FROM THE WARTIME RESISTANCE MOVEMENT GIVING LESSONS TO YOUNGSTERS IN HOW TO TAKE ON THE MARTIAL LAW AUTHORITIES. THERE APPEARS TO BE NO SUBSTANCE TO REPORTS THAT TWO OF POLAND'S BEST KNOWN POLITICAL DISSIDENTS--JACEK KURON AND ADAM MICHNIK--HAVE BEEN TREATED BRUTALLY IN PRISON. MICHNIK WAS REPORTED BY PEOPLE WHO HAVE VISITED THE BIALOLENKA PRISON WHERE HE IS HELD TO BE ENGAGING IN POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS WITH PRISON OFFICIALS. THE VISITORS SAID THE CELL DOORS OF MANY DETAINEES WERE OPEN SO THEY COULD CONGREGATE. KURON WAS REPORTED TO HAVE ORGANIZED A POLITICAL STUDY GROUP FOR WORKERS WITH WHOM HE IS BEING HELD IN A PRISON NEAR GDANSK.

AT A MAJOR INTERSECTION IN A WARSAW SUBURB, THERE WAS ONE SIGN OF A MORE RELAXED ATMOSPHERE. THREE SOLDIERS IN FULL BATTLE DRESS HAD GIVEN UP THEIR NORMAL DUTIES OF CHECKING THE IDENTIFICATIONS OF PASSING MOTORISTS. INSTEAD THEY BUILT A SNOWMAN IN THE SHADOW OF THEIR ARMoured PERSONNEL CARRIER.

3. MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.

SECRET

SECRET

STATE

81 7714570 .SSO

PAGE 004
TOR: 271949Z DEC 81

NC 7714570

MEEHAN

END OF MESSAGE

SECRET