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State Dept. review completed.

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FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4869

INFO RUDKRW/AMEMBASSY BELGRADE 6193

RUFHEB/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 4011

RUFHOL/AMEMBASSY BONN 5232

RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS 1360

RUDKAR/AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST 6705

RUDKDA/AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST 6641

RUEHLD/AMEMBASSY LONDON 4854

RUEHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID 1143

RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 8150

RUFHMU/AMCONSUL MUNICH 4388

RUFHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 4476

RUDKRP/AMEMBASSY PRAGUE 6597

RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 2251

RUDKSA/AMEMBASSY SOFIA 5269

RUDKFMQ/AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM 1500

RUFHJA/USMISSION USBERLIN 4562

RUFHNA/USMISSION USNATO 3705

RUEHIA/USICA WASHDC 427

RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC

RUEKJCS/DOO WASHDC

RUSNAAA/USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 12290 COMBINED SECTION

BRUSSELS FOR USEC

E.O. 12065: GDS 12/17/87 (HOUGHT, JOHN) DR-P
 TAGS: MPOL, PINS, PINT, PGOV, PL
 SUBJECT: SITREP #20: STRIKE BROKEN AT FSO--TRAVEL
 RESTRICTIONS--GOVERNMENT PREPARATIONS FOR CASUALTIES

1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT)

2. FSO STRIKE BROKEN. ACCORDING TO FSO WHOSE SON WORKS AT FIAT FIAT (FSO) PLANT IN WARSAW (PROTECT), THE FACTORY WAS "PACIFIED" DURING THE NIGHT OF DEC. 15. ABOUT 3,000 OF THE PLANT'S WORKERS HAD GATHERED INSIDE AND BARRICADED THE GATES WHEN APPROXIMATELY FORTY POLICE AND MILITARY VEHICLES ARRIVED. SEVERAL TANKS WERE AMONG THEM. THE WORKERS SANG THE NATIONAL ANTHEM AND OTHER SONGS BUT DID NOT RESIST. THE POLICE SET FIRE TO THE BARRICADED GATES AND AS MANY WORKERS AS COULD GOT AWAY. NO ONE WAS INJURED. PERHAPS AS MANY AS 1,000 PERSONS WERE ARRESTED, SOME OF WHOM WERE TAKEN TO HOLDING JAILS IN THE CITY AND OTHERS TO A HOME FOR MENTALLY DISTURBED PEOPLE AT GANRALIN, NORTH OF WARSAW, FROM WHICH THE INMATES HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN EVACUATED.

3. EMBOFFS SAW A FILE OF 10 TRACKED APCs (CALLED BMPS) PROCEEDING NORTHWARDS TOWARD CENTER OF WARSAW ON WIEPODLEGLOSCI AVENUE AT APPROXIMATELY 2135 DEC. 16. ONE JEEP WAS ALSO IN THE COLUMN. CIVILIAN TRAFFIC FLOWED NORMALLY IN FRONT OF, ALONGSIDE AND SLIGHTLY BEHIND THE VEHICLES.

4. A DOCTOR WITH FIRST HAND KNOWLEDGE OF THE INFORMATION TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER'S SPOUSE ON DEC. 16 THAT HOSPITALS ARE BEING ASKED TO DISCHARGE THOSE PATIENTS WHO CAN BE CARED FOR AT HOME. THE DOCTOR SAID THAT THE CONSENSUS AT THE HOSPITAL WAS THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS ORDERING THIS MOVE AS CONTINGENCY PLANNING IN THE EVENT

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THAT THERE ARE INJURED DURING THE PRESENT UNREST.

5. TRAVEL DIFFICULTIES IN WARSAW. DURING EVENING OF DEC. 16, SEVERAL EMBOFFS HAD DIFFICULTY RETURNING TO THEIR RESIDENCES. FOUR OFFICERS DRIVING THEIR VEHICLES WITH DIPLOMATIC PLATES WERE STOPPED BY POLICE AND MILITARY AT CORNER INTERSECTIONS AND TOLD THAT THEY COULD NOT PROCEED ALONG THE STREET BUT WOULD HAVE TO TURN. IDENTIFICATION CARDS WERE CHECKED AND OFFICERS HAD TO ARGUE, EXPLAINING THAT THEY WERE PROCEEDING EXPEDITIOUSLY TO THEIR HOMES IN ORDER TO COMPLY WITH THE CURFEW REGULATIONS. ALL THE EMBOFFS EVENTUALLY WERE ALLOWED TO PASS.

BURSSELS FOR USEC

6. VEHICULAR RESTRICTIONS IN WARSAW. AS NOTED IN PARA 3, POLICE/MILITARY CHECKPOINTS AND ROADBLOCKS ARE SPRINKLED THROUGHOUT THE CITY. OUR EXPERIENCE WITH THESE OBSTACLES HAS BEEN VARIED. DURING THE DAY, EMBOFFS GENERALLY PASS UNHINDERED WITH A PERFUNCTORY WAVE OF THEIR DIPLOMATIC LEGITIMACIAS THROUGH THE WINDOW AS THEY CONTINUE DRIVING. THE YOUNG SOLDIERS ON THE POSTS ARE THE MOST LENIENT WITH THIS PROCEDURE ALTHOUGH THEY ARE DILIGENT IN STOPPING NON-OFFICIAL POLISH CARS INCLUDING TAXIS. POLICE ARE MORE DIFFICULT AND SINCE THE POLICEMAN OFTEN STANDS SEPARATELY FROM THE SOLDIER AFTER THE FIRST ID CHECK THE POLICEMAN SOMETIMES ASKS TO SEE THE ID AND HEAR AGAIN THE EXPLANATIONS OF "OFFICIAL BUSINESS," "GOING TO THE EMBASSY," OR "GOING HOME". BECAUSE THERE ARE SO MANY SIDESTREETS IN WARSAW THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THESE PROCEDURES ARE VARIED. FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE LATE EVENING POLICE CLOSE OFF UJAZDOWSKIE AVENUE FROM THE US EMBASSY TOWARD THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE. EMBOFFS HAVE BEEN TURNED BACK TWO NIGHTS IN A ROW AT THIS CORNER. BY GOING AROUND THE BLOCK, HOWEVER, ONE CAN COME BACK TO UJAZDOWSKIE RIGHT BY THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND AN EMBOFF TEAM DID THAT ON DEC. 16. THEY DROVE BY THE COUNCIL OF MINISTER BUILDING AT 2125 -- IT HAD CARS IN FRONT BUT SEEMED QUIET; THEN PAST THE

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SOVIET EMBASSY -- A SINGLE NO GUARD OUT FRONT AND A FEW LIGHTS ON IN THE BUILDING, AND FINALLY BY THE SOVIET TRADE MISSION -- WHICH LOOKED ALMOST DESERTED.

7. SURVEILLANCE. ON DECEMBER 16 BETWEEN 0900 AND 1015 EMBOFFS DRIVING THROUGH EASTERN PART OF WARSAW COVERING SITUATION IN SMALLER FACTORIES WERE FOLLOWED BY A TEAM OF THREE VEHICLES. WHEN EMBOFFS LEFT CARS, SURVEILLANCE TEAM ALSO DID SO. THE SURVEILLANCE WAS CONDUCTED DISCREETLY AND NO ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO INTERFERE WITH EMBOFFS ACTIVITIES. BETWEEN 1730 AND 1930, EMBOFFS TRAVELLING FROM EMBASSY TO HUTA WARSZAWA AND FSU PLANTS WERE FOLLOWED BY A TEAM OF SIX VEHICLES. EMBOFF HAD BEEN HEAVILY TAILED AS HE SURVEYED MARKETS ON FOOT ON DEC. 14 AND 15. NO ATTEMPTS WERE MADE TO INTERFERE WITH EMBOFFS ACTIVITIES.

8. MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.
MEEHAN

END OF MESSAGE

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