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HUNGARY: Anxiety Over Poland

The Hungarian regime appears to be concerned both about its allies' reaction to the Polish situation and the possibility of domestic repercussions.

Budapest was disturbed by the tough stands regarding Poland taken earlier this month by East Germany and Czechoslovakia. Although the regime may be influenced by mounting Soviet pressure to reevaluate its position, that Polish developments are solely an internal affair, the media in Hungary for now are echoing that line. The Polish issue reportedly was a major topic of discussion at last week's Central Committee meeting--which occurred less than three weeks after the last plenum.

The regime remains sensitive to any hints of linkage between events in Poland and Hungarian domestic policies. The depiction in the Western press of the recent meetings between the Hungarian Government and the trade unions as initiatives related to the Polish crisis drew quick criticism. The media, however, have given extensive coverage to preparations for the 24th trade union congress in December.

The trade union president's public comments this weekend that "work stoppages of short duration" have occurred may have been referring to the worker "discussions" held in the summer in the leading industrial centers of Raba and Czepele. Both recently were visited by high-ranking Hungarian officials, including party leader Kadar, to promote grass-roots support for the trade union system. Kadar has encouraged the trade union movement to anticipate and solve worker grievances, maintaining that it can resolve any labor dispute.

The regime also has moved to assure greater consumer supplies in the near term. The government announced this week a special "Christmas order" of Western consumer goods.

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