

CIACO NID 81 [REDACTED]

May 01, 1981

POLAND: Soviet Treatment of Kania's Speech

*Soviet media coverage of Polish party leader Kania's speech on Wednesday suggests that Moscow approved only his tougher statements and is still waiting for the Poles to do more than talk. Polish reaction to the plenum has thus far been limited. Solidarity and the government have reached agreement on the union's access to the broadcast media.* [REDACTED]

Initial Soviet media coverage indicates that Moscow has given Kania's speech a mixed review. Most of the tougher portions are quoted. References are omitted to policies Moscow finds objectionable, including proposed changes in the party statutes and the promotion of greater intraparty democracy. [REDACTED]

Kania's strong statement on the need to preserve party control of the media also is not mentioned, which may indicate skepticism that he intends to abide by his words. Although the Soviets do include positive reference to Solidarity, they devote far more space to Kania's criticisms of Solidarity. [REDACTED]

Solidarity's Access to Radio and TV

According to Polish radio, Solidarity and government negotiators yesterday agreed that the union will have the right to produce its own radio and TV programs. The two sides are continuing their discussions on the length and frequencies of the programs. [REDACTED]

May Day Celebrations

May Day this year in Poland will focus on national and religious values almost to the exclusion of the traditional attention to international worker solidarity. There will be no grand marches of workers; instead there will be festivals, rallies, and Church masses. The party is trying without much success to keep up appearances that it is stage-managing the celebrations. [REDACTED]

Approved for Release  
Date AUG 1999