

CIACO NID 81 [REDACTED]

August 05, 1981

POLAND: Stalemate Continues

The government and Solidarity seem anxious to avoid a clash, but the continuing protests increase that risk. [REDACTED]

Vehicles belonging to members of Solidarity still are blocking a major downtown intersection in Warsaw, but the police are behaving in a restrained manner. The regime, nevertheless, has prepared for trouble by placing several units in the capital area on alert, including elite Interior Ministry troops wearing field gear. [REDACTED]

Premier Jaruzelski yesterday created an "anticrisis operational headquarters" that apparently has extraordinary powers to cut through the rigid bureaucracy on questions of production and distribution of goods. This step may be intended to preempt a demand by Solidarity that its experts be allowed to control production and distribution of food. The new headquarters, however, apparently also has some defense- and security-related functions because representatives of the Defense and Internal Affairs Ministries are also included. [REDACTED]

Some Solidarity spokesmen are trying to take an upbeat tone about the situation, but it is not certain they believe what they are telling the press. One spokesman, for example, said that the union has weathered more serious contests than this one and thought that a settlement was likely. [REDACTED]

There were strikes in several cities yesterday, and a two-hour general strike is set for today in Warsaw. This will be the highpoint of the protests, which have been going on for 12 days. The "blockade" in Warsaw may be removed at the end of the strike, eliminating an immediate sore point. [REDACTED]

The leadership of Solidarity has been successful in guiding the public's anger toward nonviolent methods. It must, however, get some concessions from the government in the coming negotiations to win continued forbearance. If the regime refuses to compromise, popular

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discontent, stimulated by pervasive distrust of the party and government, may become difficult even for Solidarity to control. [REDACTED]

Soviet Reaction

Moscow yesterday for the first time published details of the current unrest in Poland. It cited the recent Polish Politburo statement warning of "the threat of conflict on a nationwide scale" and implied that the situation could affect Polish defense and security commitments. [REDACTED]

The tone of Soviet media treatment suggests that Moscow may urge Warsaw to introduce strong measures, such as martial law, if calm cannot be restored quickly. The Soviets will see this as the first test of the ability of the new leadership to exercise the firm control Moscow wants. [REDACTED]