

376

CIACO NID 81 [REDACTED]

December 03, 1981

**POLAND: Response by Solidarity**

*Solidarity leaders probably will issue a strong condemnation today of the regime's use of force yesterday against cadet fire-fighters in Warsaw but are likely to opt for more moderate counter-measures to discourage such actions by the government.* [REDACTED]

Union leader Walesa yesterday apparently postponed a meeting of the union's leadership for a day in order to allow tempers to cool. He also may have needed time to determine how strongly Solidarity chapters throughout the country objected to the government's action. [REDACTED]

The meeting today of the leadership will be heated, and Walesa probably will have to fend off demands from militants for a counterreaction stronger than he is willing to accept. All the union leaders will agree that some response is necessary in order to maintain their credibility and not to give the regime the impression it can use force against other strikers with impunity. [REDACTED]

The union's response could take the form of a work stoppage limited to the Warsaw area or a more general strike of short duration. The Warsaw branch may take action independent of the national Solidarity response because it has been directly involved from the outset with the protesting cadets and thus has more at stake. [REDACTED]

The regime may have decided on its first major use of force to demonstrate to the population, to Warsaw Pact Foreign Ministers meeting in Bucharest, and to Pact Defense Ministers meeting in Moscow its resolve to oppose future strikes. The government also has been sensitive to Solidarity activities in the Ministry of the Interior and probably felt compelled to resist the cadets' demand out of fear of setting a bad example. [REDACTED]

Conservatives in the regime may have pressed for the use of force in the hope that Solidarity would react with a strike. Such a counteraction could be used as additional justification by parliament to adopt an anti-strike law, which the party's Central Committee endorsed last week. [REDACTED]

--continued

Approved for Release  
Date AUG 1999

354  
376

CIACO NID 81 [REDACTED]

December 03, 1981

For the longer term the government's action seems likely to sour the atmosphere at the working level in negotiations between the regime and the union. Solidarity probably will be even less responsive to party leader Jaruzelski's call for a Front of National Accord. [REDACTED]

Troops Not Used

There is no evidence that Polish military troops actively participated in the assault by Polish riot police on the firefighters' academy. Polish military police did, however, assist in blocking streets around the academy. Some 12 truckloads of internal security troops subordinate to the Ministry of Defense, moreover, also were at the scene and available if needed. [REDACTED]