

CIACO NID 81 [REDACTED]

December 15, 1981

POLAND: Scattered Strike Activity

Factory workers staged scattered strikes yesterday in major industries, but there apparently was no violence following the imposition of martial law. [REDACTED]

We have confirmation of strike activity at the Lenin Shipyards in Gdansk, several major factories in Warsaw, a large steelworks in Krakow, and several mines in Silesia in southwestern Poland. Solidarity spokesmen also have stated that key industries in Poznan and Wroclaw have been shut down. Such claims may be exaggerated, however, in the hope that Western radiobroadcasts aimed at Poland would repeat such reports and thereby encourage others to strike. [REDACTED]

Solidarity activists reportedly are continuing efforts to organize in the wake of large-scale detentions. [REDACTED]

Archbishop Glemp yesterday indicated that Solidarity leader Walesa was being detained near Warsaw and estimated that at least 2,000 people have been interned. An interfactory strike committee reportedly has been set up in Silesia, and similar efforts are apparently under way in Warsaw and Gdansk. The unions probably are beginning to establish lines of communication through a courier system. [REDACTED]

Government Tightening Control

The regime apparently has reacted with moderation to these strikes, using force only at the steel mill in Katowice. A strike leader at that plant earlier had said that workers would not resist and would employ a work slowdown following an Army takeover. [REDACTED]

The government also may have encountered opposition from some plant managers. Official media yesterday reported that three managers were fired for improperly fulfilling martial law orders. [REDACTED]

The government is using police and security forces and approximately 150,000 Polish troops to impose its

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martial law plans. [REDACTED]

The regime has further restricted access to communications, suggesting that the situation is not as calm as officials claim. In addition to the total cutoff of all internal telephone, telex, and postal services, the government yesterday cut all communications between Western news services and their headquarters and restricted all Western correspondents to Warsaw. Such measures will severely limit the already fragmentary information on strikes. [REDACTED]

Soviet Reactions

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

There is no indication that Soviet forces in or around Poland are preparing to intervene. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Initial Soviet commentary has generally been positive but has stopped short of explicitly endorsing the imposition of martial law. Moscow probably is reluctant

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to associate itself too closely with the current measures in case events take a turn for the worse. It also may realize that a Soviet endorsement could heighten popular resistance. [REDACTED]

Moscow also appears sensitive to the ideological implications that the military is taking on a prominent role in Poland. A commentator on Soviet television on Monday stressed that the military has not taken over and that the party has not relinquished its leading role. [REDACTED]

Debt Problems

Finance Minister Krzak yesterday informed representatives of 16 major Western governments that Poland is unable to pay \$350 million of the interest due to Western banks. Warsaw also notified all of its bank creditors of the shortfall and asked for a six-month loan of that amount so that an agreement on rescheduling for 1981 can be signed later this month. [REDACTED]

The banks recently have rejected several other Polish requests for loans to cover interest payments, and the crackdown on Solidarity probably will make the banks even more reluctant. The Poles' only hope seems to be that the USSR, encouraged by Warsaw's tough stand, might provide the hard currency needed to cover current obligations. [REDACTED]