

~~Top Secret~~

POLAND: Threat to CSCE

Poland seems determined to make good on its threat to boycott any CSCE session that criticizes it, but will not leave the meeting altogether. The internal situation remains unsettled, with the party attempting to increase its visibility and Solidarity stepping up its leaflet campaign. Meat supplies continue to dwindle.

The Polish press on Saturday printed Deputy Foreign Minister Wiejacz's assertion that Poland will walk out of any CSCE meeting where the West tries to put Warsaw "in the dock." Poland is slated to chair the opening ministerial-level session in Madrid tomorrow. West German Foreign Minister Genscher stated yesterday that progress is still possible on CSCE issues, even though there will be discussion at the meeting of the situation in Poland.

Comment: Although the Poles have long taken a keen interest in CSCE and are bidding to host a post-Madrid security conference, the publication of Wiejacz's remarks suggests that Warsaw is willing to carry out its threat, if only by boycotting some of the plenary sessions. This could throw at least the first day's session into a procedural wrangle.

The Soviets may be inclined to force an extended procedural delay, hoping that busy ministers would have to go home and leave the discussion of Poland to lower level officials.

Party Troubles

A senior official confirmed yesterday that the party had lost nearly half a million members in the last 18 months and is trying to recruit workers who previously

--continued

~~Top Secret~~

1
Approved for Release February 1982
Date AUG 1990

407

dropped out. He admitted that the party is having trouble rebuilding its ranks; even so, party purges at all levels will continue. Party officials have instructed local organizations to establish factory-level committees to oversee implementation of price increases on manufactured goods. The committees--composed of at least 50 percent workers--would ensure that price hikes are not "excessive." [REDACTED]

Comment: The party's effort to project a more visible image reflects continuing sensitivity among the leaders and the rank and file over military domination of the country. Its attempts to gather new support will fail, and prospects are that membership will continue to decline. [REDACTED]

Solidarity Activities

[REDACTED] an intensified Solidarity leaflet and poster campaign is a consequence of Solidarity Day in the West and the recent demonstrations in Gdansk. [REDACTED] a decline in discipline among workers, including many expressions of support for Solidarity at factories. [REDACTED]

Comment: The demonstrations in Gdansk, subsequent protests of price increases, and increased student activity probably have unnerved some in the regime and have raised doubts over how long the short-term calm created by martial law can last. [REDACTED]

Meat Supplies

A government official admitted over the weekend that meat consumption this year would be only about 75 percent of the level of last year. He implied that meat rations would be further reduced, perhaps as early as next month. [REDACTED]

Comment: The projected drop reflects the crippling of the poultry industry due to a lack of fodder and reduced levels of meat imports. Warsaw plans to import only 60,000 tons of meat this year--mainly from China--compared with 175,000 tons in 1981. [REDACTED]