

~~Top Secret~~

USSR-POLAND: Soviet Concern About the Church

A Soviet weekly newspaper on Wednesday charged that some Polish clergymen encouraged recent disorders in several Polish cities and that they are attempting to assume Solidarity's former role of political opposition. The article also quoted a statement by the Polish news agency that the Pope's intended visit to Poland can occur only when "normalization" has been achieved. [REDACTED]

Comment: Moscow's primary purpose in publicizing its concern probably is to strengthen the resistance of the Polish regime to political activity by the Church and to the papal visit. The Soviets also may hope that linking the visit to "normalization" will encourage the Pope to help curb militant clergy. [REDACTED]

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