

~~Top Secret~~

POLAND: Possible Review of Solidarity's Strategy

*Pessimistic appraisals of the demonstrations this week by some Solidarity activists suggest the union's leadership may become caught up in a lengthy reassessment of its goals and tactics.*

Two members of Solidarity's national committee and several intellectual activists [redacted] asserted the turnout of workers was lower than even the most pessimistic union forecast. They believe workers are intimidated by possible economic and other reprisals and, under the circumstances, find attractive the regime's vague promises of new semiautonomous trade unions. They conclude the majority of workers have abandoned active support for a free trade union.

Meanwhile, the authorities are continuing their hard line toward the union. A government spokesman yesterday admitted that the recent disorders were the most serious since the imposition of martial law and added that the violence showed Solidarity is not a legitimate partner for a dialogue. The government also formally charged with treason several leading dissident intellectuals who were key Solidarity advisers.

Comment: The pessimistic views of a handful of union activists probably are not representative of the entire leadership. Many workers probably are skeptical about the regime's offer of new trade unions. Such deep pessimism, however, may increase the chances that frustrated extremists will be more likely to resort to violence.

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