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FM MOSCOW 241230Z DEC 81

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 764 OF 24TH DECEMBER

FOR INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON AND WARSAW

FOR INFO SAVING PARIS BONN AND UKDEL NATO.

WASHINGTON TELNO 3916: POLAND.

1. FIRST SOVIET REACTIONS TO REGANS TELEVISION SPEECH OF 23 DECEMBER WERE IN THE FORM OF A TASS DISPATCH FROM WASHINGTON WHICH DESCRIBED IT AS "UNPRECEDENTLY CRUDE PRESSURE AND ABONINABLE INTERVENTION INTO THE STRICTLY INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF A SOVEREIGN STATE", AND AS "MALICIOUS ATTACKS" ON THE STEPS TAKEN BY THE POLSIH STATE COUNCIL. TASS ALLEGED THAT COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY FORCES IN POLAND WERE "CLOSELY CONNECTED WITH THE CIA AND OTHER SPECIAL SERVICES OF IMPERIALIST STATES AND AT THEIR BIDDING PREPARED AN ANTI-STATE COUP, AND PUSHED THE COUNTRY INTO THE ABYSS OF FRATRICIDAL WAR".
2. IN ANTICIPATION OF THE AMERICAN MEASURES THIS MORNING'S PRAVDA CONTAINED AN ARTICLE BY KORIONOV IN "IN IMPOTENT SPITE" (TEXT BY BAG TO F C O).
KORIONOV CLAIMED THAT THE "CAMPAIGN, DISGUSTING IN ITS CYNICISM AND UNSCRUPULOUSNESS, UNLEASHED AGAINST POLAND BY IMPERIALIST PROPAGANDA IN THE US AND SOME OTHER NATO COUNTRIES" WAS INSPIRED AND DIRECTED FROM ONE CENTRE. WASHINGTON MADE NO SECRET OF THE FACT. WASHINGTON WAS INTERFERING IN POLAND'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS: DELIVERIES OF FOOD SUPPLIES HAD BEEN HALTED AND THE QUESTION OF CREDITS WAS BEING REVIEWED. EAGLEBURGER HAD GONE TO NATO HEADQUARTERS IN BRUSSELS TO TRY TO INVOLVE OTHER NATO COUNTRIES IN THE US' "BLOCKADE" AGAINST POLAND. THE US WAS DEMANDING THE REVERSAL OF POLISH GOVERNMENTAL MEASURES.
3. KORIONOV WENT ON TO CITE OTHER SIMILAR EXAMPLES OF ALLEGED INTERFERENCE. HE CLAIMED THAT THE AIM WAS TO INCITE THE POLES TO SLAUGHTER, AND THUS TURN THE POLISH QUESTION INTO A SOURCE OF FURTHER INTERNATIONAL TENSION. BUT THE SITUATION IN POLAND WAS GRADUALLY RETURNING TO NORMAL. ALTHOUGH ISOLATED SEATS OF TENSION REMAINED, COUNTER-REVOLUTION IN POLAND WAS NOT PASSING AND WOULD NOT PASS. POLAND'S FAITHFUL FRIENDS - THE SOVIET UNION AND THE OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES - WERE AS EVER ON HER SIDE.
4. THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL PRESS ARTICLES OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS CRITICISING US POLICIES ON POLAND; E.G. A REPORT IN PRAVDA OF 22 DECEMBER OF A STATEMENT BY THE AMERICAN COMMUNIST GUS HALL. ARTICLES ON THE INTERNAL SITUATION IN POLAND HAVE MEANWHILE GIVEN SOME DETAILS OF UNREST BUT HAVE CONTINUED TO CLAIM THAT LIFE IS GENERALLY RETURNING TO NORMAL. PRAVDA OF 23 DECEMBER REPRINTED THE POLISH GOVERNMENT'S ASSURNACE THAT SOLIDARITY AND OTHER TRADE

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UNIONS HAD NOT BEEN DISBANDED, BUT THAT THEIR ACTIVITY HAD BEEN TEMPORARILY HALTED. PRAVDA OF 24 DECEMBER CLAIMED THAT MANY POLES HAD BEEN REASSURED BY THE MARTIAL COUNCIL'S ASSURANCE OF ITS READINESS TO CONTINUE REFORMS. ACCORDING TO POLISH OPINION POLLS, 91 PER CENT OF THE POPULATION SUPPORTED THE MILITARY OPERATION GROUPS. BUT THERE WAS STILL QUITE ENOUGH "DISORIENTATION, TEMPORIZING AND INDECISION". A REPORT FROM PRAVDA'S SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT ON 23 DECEMBER TALKED TO THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN PARTY RANKS AND RAISE THE IDEOLOGICAL LEVEL OF PARTY WORK.

F C O PSE PASS TO SAVING ADDRESSEES.

KEEBLE

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