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FM WARSAW 131415Z DEC

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 531 OF 15 DECEMBER

INFO ROUTINE MOSCOW PRAGUE SOFIA BUDAPEST BUCHAREST EAST BERLIN
BELGRADE UKDEL NATO WASHINGTON PARIS BONN HELSINKI STOCKHOLM
MODUK

mo

YOUR TELNO 6⁸⁴ TO MOSCOW : POLISH SITUATION

1. WHILE I MAY BE PROVED WRONG BY EVENTS IN GDANSK OR GDYNIA THIS WEEK I DO NOT THINK ANOTHER CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND SOLIDARITY IS SO IMMINENT AS YOUR TUR (NOT TO ALL) SUGGESTS.

2. THE SOLIDARITY APPEAL FOR THE RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS SEEMED ILL-TIMED AND PROVOCATIVE BUT IT WAS NOT BACKED UP BY ANY STRIKE THREAT. ON THE CONTRARY, WALESKA HAS CALLED FOR A SIX-WEEK MORATORIUM ON STRIKES, AND STRESSED THE NEED FOR PEACE, CO-OPERATION AND GOOD WORK. MEANWHILE THE EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE HAS ISSUED A STATEMENT WHICH MOST PEOPLE REGARD AS SURPRISINGLY PRO-REGIME THOUGH IT DID NOT CONTAIN ANY SPECIFIC ATTACK ON SOLIDARITY OR DISSIDENTS. A KEY PASSAGE STATED THAT " THE CHANGES AND RENEWAL WHICH ARE TAKING PLACE IN OUR COUNTRY AWAKEN MUCH HOPE, BUT THEY ARE NOT FREE FROM DANGERS. UNIVERSAL RENEWAL MUST BASE ITSELF ON PERMANENT PRINCIPLES, WHICH FOR CHRISTIANS MEANS THE TEACHING OF CHRIST. IT IS NOT PERMISSIBLE TO UNDERTAKE ACTIONS WHICH COULD THREATEN OUR HOMELAND'S FREEDOM AND STATEHOOD. THE EFFORTS OF ALL POLES MUST BE DIRECTED TO STRENGTHENING THE PROCESS OF RENEWAL WHICH HAS ALREADY BEGUN AND CREATE CONDITIONS FOR AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE AUTHORITIES AND SOCIETY. DIFFICULT YEARS ARE AHEAD OF US WE MUST HOPE THAT THERE WILL BE SENSE IN THEM AND THAT THEY WILL LEAD TO A BETTER TOMORROW AND A FREE HOMELAND. WE MUST OPPOSE ATTEMPTS TO BENEFIT FROM OUR PRESENT DIFFICULTIES FOR REASONS OTHER THAN THE GOOD OF THE NATION AND THE STATE. OUR COUNTRY NEEDS INTERNAL PEACE ABOVE ALL ..." (FULL TEXT FOLLOWS BY BAG.) THE MESSAGE WAS REINFORCED BY A PASTORAL LETTER READ OUT YESTERDAY IN ALL CHURCHES ENTITLED " RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE HOMELAND".

3. THIS SUGGESTS THAT THE CHURCH'S INFLUENCE IS BEING THROWN VERY STRONGLY ON THE SIDE OF RESTRAINT AND MODERATION. FOR THEIR PARTY THE 3 GOVERNMENT PARTIES ISSUED A JOINT STATEMENT OVER THE WEEKEND TO THE EFFECT THAT POLAND CAN ONLY DEVELOP AS A SOCIALIST COUNTRY AND WITHIN ITS PRESENT ALLIANCE AND ECONOMIC GROUPING.

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4. THIS WEEK WILL BE A TENSE TIME IN THE NORTHERN PORTS. BUT IF, AS IT IS REASONABLE TO HOPE, THERE IS NO MAJOR FLARE-UP, FURTHER CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND SOLIDARITY SHOULD BE AVOIDED, AT LEAST UNTIL MID-JANUARY. THERE IS A VERY CONSIDERABLE MEASURE OF CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT, THE CHURCH AND THE MODERATE WING OF SOLIDARITY LED BY WALES.

PRIDHAM

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING STREET]

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MR COTTERILL ECGD
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MR R WILKES
MAFF

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