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TO PRIORITY F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 003 OF 2ND JANUARY

FOR INFO ROUTINE WARSAW UKDEL NATO WASHINGTON PARIS BONN  
INFO SAVING BUDAPEST BUCHAREST PRAGUE SOFIA EAST BERLIN  
HELSINKI AND BELGRADE

*Prime Minister*

*MA*

*mb*

SOVIET COMMENT ON POLAND.

1. AN UNSIGNED TASS REPORT IN TODAY'S PRAYDA, HEADLINED "PROVOCATIVE DEMANDS", NOTED THE CONTINUING ACTIVITIES OF ANTI-SOCIALIST FORCES IN POLAND WHO WERE TRYING TO HAMPER PZPR AND GOVERNMENTAL MEASURES TO NORMALIZE THE SITUATION. TASS SAID THAT "THESE FORCES MOST OFTEN OPERATE BY USING AS A COVER THE SLOGANS OF THE TRADE UNION "SOLIDARITY". THEY ARE URGING ORGANISATIONS OF THAT TRADE UNION TO ASSUME THE ROLE OF A SORT OF COUNTERBALANCE TO THE OFFICIAL ORGANS OF POWER, TO BECOME AN ORGANIZATION OF A POLITICAL KIND". TASS ADDED THAT THESE FORCES WERE TRYING TO CREATE CHAOS IN THE POLISH ECONOMY WHICH THEY HOPED TO USE FOR THEIR OWN "SUBVERSIVE ENDS". THEIR DEMANDS WOULD INCREASE DISPROPORTIONS IN THE POLISH ECONOMY AND TENSION IN THE DOMESTIC MARKET. THE WORK STOPPAGES ON WHICH THEY WERE COUNTING AGGRAVATED IRREGULARITIES IN THE SUPPLY OF CONSUMER GOODS TO THE POPULATION.

2. THIS IS THE FIRST PUBLIC SOVIET ATTACK ON SOLIDARITY SINCE THE TASS PIECE OF 8 DECEMBER (MY TELNO 777) WHICH WAS DENIED BY THE POLISH AUTHORITIES AND SUBSEQUENTLY DROPPED FROM THE SOVIET MEDIA. THE PRESENT ARTICLE IS MORE CAUTIOUSLY PHRASED (THERE ARE, FOR EXAMPLE NO REFERENCES TO 'COUNTER-REVOLUTION', AND THE ATTACK IS GENERAL WITH NO SPECIFIC INSTANCES OF "PROVOCATION" CITED). BUT IT CLEARLY DEMONSTRATES CONTINUING SOVIET UNHAPPINESS WITH SOLIDARITY'S STRENGTH AND ROLE AND WILL BE DESIGNED BOTH TO KEEP UP PRESSURE ON THE POLES TO PUT SOLIDARITY WITHIN ACCEPTABLE LIMITS, IT SHOULD HOWEVER BE SEEN ALONGWITH A BALANCING PIECE OF REPORTAGE IN IZVESTIYA OF 1 JANUARY WHICH GAVE A NOTABLY OPTIMISTIC ACCOUNT OF PARTY AND FACTORY WORK IN SILESIA, STRESSING THAT THE ATMOSPHERE HAD CHANGED SIGNIFICANTLY. THERE WAS LESS EMOTION AND MORE CONSTRUCTIVENESS. NOW THE MAIN FEELING WAS DEEP CONCERN AT HOW

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TO DIRECT POLAND'S DEVELOPMENT IN A CHANNEL FAVOURABLE TO  
"SOCIALIST POLAND". SINCE THE 7TH PARTY PLENUM LOCAL PARTY  
ACTIVISTS HAD BEGUN TO ACT WITH MORE DECISIVENESS AND  
PURPOSFULNESS. THIS CHANGE IN THE MOOD OF COMMUNISTS WAS  
PERCEPTIBLE EVERYWHERE.

FCO PLEASE PASS SAVING TO BUDAPEST BUCHARST PRAGUE SOFIA  
EAST BERLIN HELSINKI AND BELGRADE.

KEEBLE

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING STREET]

POLAND SPECIAL STANDARD

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2  
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THIS TELEGRAM  
WAS NOT  
ADVANCED

[PASSED] AS REQUESTED