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*Bland*

GRS 450

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FM WARSAW 121430Z JAN

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 20 OF 12 JAN

INFO MOSCOW PRAGUE SOFIA BUDAPEST BUCHAREST EAST BERLIN

BELGRADE UKDEL NATO WASHINGTON PARIS BONN HELSINKI

STOCKHOLM UKMIS NEW YORK MODUK

*Read i full.*

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MY TELNO 15: POLISH SITUATION.

1. THE GOVERNMENT APPEARS TO HAVE DECIDED NOT TO MAKE AN ISSUE OF THE FREE-SATURDAY CONFRONTATION.
2. OLSZOWSKI, THE PARTY SECRETARY WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROPAGANDA, MADE A HARD-LINE DECLARATION ON RADIO AND TV ON FRIDAY EVENING ( 9 JANUARY) SAYING THAT THE GOVERNMENT MUST MAKE A STAND ON THE ISSUE. NEVERTHELESS, THE LINE TODAY SEEMS TO BE TO PLAY UP THE PATCHY RESPONSE TO SOLIDARITY'S CALL TO WORKERS TO STAY AWAY, AND TO TALK OF THE ABSENTEES IN TERMS OF SORROW RATHER THAN OF ANGER. A STATEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN CLAIMS THAT:
  - A. THERE WAS A 65% OVERALL TURN-OUT
  - B. THE LIGHT AND MACHINE INDUSTRY SECTORS WERE THOSE MOST AFFECTED.
  - C. 40% OF THE MINERS - THE ONLY GROUP ACTUALLY ENTITLED TO A FREE SATURDAY THAT DAY - PATRIOTICALLY TURNED UP FOR A VOLUNTARY SHIFT
  - D. ONE MILLION PEOPLE DECIDED TO SWAP THE FREE SATURDAY DUE THEM ON 31 JANUARY FOR A DAY OFF ON 10 JANUARY.
3. WHILE THIS LAST RATIONALISATION DESIGNED MAINLY TO SAVE THE GOVERNMENTS FACE, IT AND OLSZOWSKI'S HARD-LINE STATEMENT BEFORE THE EVENT MAY ALSO BE INTENDED TO DEMONSTRATE TO POLAND'S ALLIES THAT GOVERNMENT FIRMNESS WORKED. WE HAVE NOT YET SEEN ASSESSMENT OF THE RESULTS OF THE ACTION, BUT THEY ARE BOUND TO CLAIM A MODEST VICTORY. MEANWHILE, THE FREE-SATURDAY ISSUE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA FOR THE TIME BEING.
4. IN THE SAME WAY, KANIA'S APPARENTLY HARD-LINE STATEMENT AT THE WEEKEND ATTACKING THE ANTI-SOCIALIST BACKGROUND OF SUPPORTERS OF A RURAL SOLIDARITY ORGANISATION MAY BE LESS RIGID ON THE STILL UNRESOLVED QUESTION OF THE REGISTRATION OF SUCH A BODY THAN SOME COMMENTATORS HAVE INDICATED. THE SPEECH, DELIVERED AT A JOINT MEETING OF THE PZPR AND ZSL ( PEASANTS PARTY) AND SUBSEQUENTLY SHOWN

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ON TV CONCENTRATED RATHER ON PRESENTING A CONSTRUCTIVE PROGRAMME FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF EXISTING RURAL ORGANISATIONS. THE DENUCIATION OF RURAL SOLIDARITY MAY HAVE BEEN MADE WITH AN EYE ON THE POSTPONED SUPREME COURT RULING. IT DOES NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF THE LEGITIMISING OF THE ORGANISATION. MEANWHILE, THE ATTACKS ON ITS ORGANISERS SEEM DESIGNED, AS MUCH AS ANYTHING, TO DEMONSTRATE TO POLAND'S ALLIES THAT THE PARTY HAS NOT GONE SOFT.

4. THE PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE SOLIDARITY OCCUPATION OF THE NOWY SACZ TOWN HALL, REPORTED ON THE BBC AND, RESTRAINEDLY, IN THE POLISH PRESS, SEEMS ALSO TO INDICATE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WISH TO KEEP BACK FROM THE BRINK. REPORTS INDICATE THAT THEY WERE HELPED ON THIS OCCASION BY THE LOCAL SOLIDARITY ORGANISATION WHICH RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO THE GOVERNMENT'S LOW-KEY APPROACH. BUT AT BOTH THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS THERE REMAIN MANY CONTENTIOUS ISSUES. BOTH SIDES WILL BE HARD PUT TO CONTINUE POSTPONING A SERIOUS CLASH ON SOME OF THEM.

MELHUI SH

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POLAND SPECIAL STANDARD

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ESID  
TRED  
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SEC D  
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SIR K COUZENS } TREASURY  
MISS BAKER }  
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MR WOOLGAR D/EMPLOYMENT  
CAXTON HOUSE TOTHILL STREET  
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