

RESTRICTED

GRS 700

RESTRICTED

FM WARSAW 101300Z MAR

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 172 OF 10 MAR

INFO IMMEDIATE CABINET OFFICE ( FOR ASSESSMENT STAFF)

INFO ROUTINE MOSCOW EAST BERLIN PRAGUE PARIS BONN

WASHINGTON UKDEL NATO THE HAGUE MODUK

SAVING TO SOFIA BUDAPEST BUCHAREST BELGRADE HELSINKI

STOCKHOLM UKMIS NEW YORK UKREP BRUSSELS

POLISH SITUATION ROUND-UP

1. THE LULL CONTINUED TO THE WEEKEND BUT THE LAYING OF CHARGES AGAINST KURON, WHICH MAY STEM FROM THE POLISH/SOVIET MEETING IN MOSCOW, HAS ( TOGETHER WITH THE MEETING ITSELF) SHARPENED TENSION. CERTAIN INDICATIONS FROM THE PRESS AND TV, FROM WHICH IT IS TOO EARLY TO DRAW FIRM CONCLUSIONS, SUGGEST A HARDENING GOVERNMENT LINE.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES

2. SOLIDARITY IN LODZ HAVE PROCLAIMED A ONE-HOUR STRIKE FOR TODAY. THIS MOVE, FOLLOWING SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATIONS YESTERDAY FOR THE REINSTATEMENT OF 5 DISMISSED WORKERS, IS IN PURSUIT OF AN UNRESOLVED DISPUTE OVER A MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR HOSPITAL. IT IS THE FIRST SUCH LOCAL ISSUE TO PROVOKE A STRIKE SINCE JARUZELSKI'S ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE AND IT IS OCCURRING DESPITE WALESZA'S COUNTER-PLEA.

THE SEJM

3. THE SEJM MET LAST FRIDAY AND APPOINTED A COMMISSION TO CHECK ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GDANSK, SZCZECIN AND JASTRZEBIE AGREEMENTS. JAN SZCZEPANSKI HAS BEEN APPOINTED CHAIRMAN OF THIS COMMISSION AND HAS TOLD US THAT HE REGARDS IT AS "MISSION IMPOSSIBLE". THE SEJM ALSO GAVE A FIRST READING TO THE BILL ON RURAL SELF-GOVERNMENT. AMONG THE QUESTIONS ASKED OF MINISTERS WAS ONE FROM 15 DEPUTIES WHO ARE ALSO JOURNALISTS, ABOUT THE PROGRESS OF THE CENSORSHIP BILL. DEPUTY PREMIER RAKOWSKI ANSWERED THAT THE BILL WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNMENT PRESIDUM THIS COMING WEEK AND TO THE MARSHAL'S OFFICE WITHIN 10 DAYS. BUT IT IS STILL NOT CLEAR WHEN IT WILL BE PUBLISHED. THE QUESTION REFLECTS GROWING DISSATISFACTION BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE SEJM WITH THE PROGRESS OF THE BILL.

RESTRICTED

/4. THE SEJM

RESTRICTED

4. THE SEJM WILL MEET AGAIN TOWARDS THE END OF MARCH BUT THERE IS NO FIRM INDICATION WHEN THE TRADE UNION BILL

PUBLISHED LAST WEEK WILL BE DEBATED.

THE GOVERNMENT

5. THE LAYING OF CHARGES AGAINST KURON ( MY TELNO 171) HAS BEEN FOLLOWED BY THE FORMAL PUBLICATION OF CHARGES AGAINST LEADERS OF KPN. IT HAS ALSO BEEN RUMOURED THAT THE AUTHORITIES WISH TO DETAIN MICHNIK BUT ARE BEING PREVENTED FROM ARRESTING HIM BECAUSE HE IS CONSTANTLY SURROUNDED BY A BODYGUARD OF 8 SOLIDARITY MEMBERS. KURON HAS ALSO BEEN TOLD TO REPORT TO THE POLICE STATION EVERY TUESDAY AND THURSDAY. THIS MOVE IS INTENDED TO REDUCE HIS ABILITY TO ATTEND SOLIDARITY PRESIDUM MEETINGS.

6. A CURIOUS DEVELOPMENT IS THE APPEARANCE IN WARSAW OF A PLACARD TO '' THE VICTIMS OF THE ZIONIST TERROR 1949-53''. IT IS DESIGNED AS A COUNTER TO THE COMMEMORATION ON 8 MARCH OF THE VICTIMS OF THE 1968 PURGES AND IS TO BE EXPLAINED LARGELY IN TERMS OF THE HISTORY OF THE TWO WINGS OF THE POLISH COMMUNIST PARTY. WE ARE TOLD THAT OLDER PEOPLE ARE DROPPING COINS INTO THE COLLECTING-BO BUT THAT THE YOUNG HARDLY BOTHER TO READ THE PLACARD.

THE CHURCH

7. WYSZYNSKI HAS ISSUED A PASTORAL LETTER FOR LENT. WHILST THERE IS SOME REFERENCE TO THE NEED FOR SOCIAL PEACE, THE MAIN EMPHASIS IS SPIRITUAL AND WE ARE NOT INCLINED TO REGARD THIS AS A POLITICAL GESTURE.

THE PARTY

8. WE CONTINUE TO PICK UP INDICATIONS THAT THE GRASS-ROOTS OF THE PARTY WANT AN EARLY CONGRESS. BUT IT STILL SEEMS THAT THE LEADERSHIP WISH TO SOFT-PEDAL PREPARATIONS , AND THERE IS STILL NO SIGN OF A PLENUM OF THE PREPARATORY COMMISSION TO APPROVE THE GUIDELINES ( ALTHOUGH A MEMBER OF CHANCERY WAS TOLD THAT THIS WOULD TAKE PLACE BETWEEN 10 AND 15 MARCH). EXPULSION OF IVANOV IN TORUN MAY INDICATE THAT THE LEADERSHIP ARE APPLYING PRESSURE TO THE REFORMIST ELEMENTS IN THE PARTY.

RESTRICTED

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

9. FISCHER, THE GDR FOREIGN MINISTER, ARRIVED YESTERDAY FOR A TWO-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT. SO FAR HE HAS SEEN JABLONSKI AND HAD TALKS WITH CZYREK. OFFICIAL REPORTING HAS CONCENTRATED ALMOST ENTIRELY ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES.

ECONOMIC

10. A RECENT TRYBUNA LUDU EDITORIAL REPORTED THAT EXPORT FIGURES FOR THE FIRST 7 WEEKS OF 1981 WERE VERY DISAPPOINTING, WITH A 32% SHORTFALL ON EXPORTS TO HARD-CURRENCY COUNTRIES AND A 22% SHORTFALL ON EXPORTS TO CMEA. OVER THE SAME PERIOD IMPORTS FOR HARD-CURRENCY COUNTRIES DROPPED BY 17% WHILE IMPORTS FROM CMEA COUNTRIES ROSE BY 15%. FEBRUARY'S COAL PRODUCTION, AT 13.34 MILLION TONS, IS SLIGHTLY UP ON JANUARY WITH A BETTER DAILY AVERAGE YIELD BUT A PROJECTION OF THESE TWO MONTHS RESULTS FOR THE WHOLE YEAR WOULD PRODUCE ONLY SOME 160 MILLION TONS. COAL EXPORTS FOR THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF THE YEAR CAME TO ONLY ONE MILLION TONS.

FCO PLEASE PASS ALL SAVING ADDRESSEES.

PRIDHAM

[REPEATED AS REQUESTED]

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING STREET]

POLAND SPECIAL STANDARD

EESD  
CSCE UNIT  
CONS D  
NAD  
SED  
WED  
ECD (E)  
ESID  
TRED  
ERD  
SEC D  
OLA  
CABINET OFFICE

COPIES TO

PS/S OF S }  
MR DICK } DOT  
MR POWNALL }  
  
PS/CHANCELLOR }  
SIR K COUZENS } TREASURY  
MISS BAKER }  
  
MR P J BULL BANK OF ENGLAND  
MR COTTERILL ECGD  
  
MR WOOLGAR D/EMPLOYMENT  
CAXTON HOUSE TOTTEHILL STREET

3  
RESTRICTED