

GRS 600
RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

Rdand

FM WARSAW 201100Z MAR
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 196 OF 20 MAR
INFO MOSCOW EAST BERLIN PRAGUE PARIS BONN WASHINGTON
UKDEL NATO THE HAGUE MODUK

MS.

SAVING TO SOFIA BUDAPEST BUCHAREST BELGRADE HELSKINKI STOCKHOLM
UKMIS NEW YORK UKREP BRUSSELS

BYDGOSZCZ

1. THE DETAILS OF THE EVENTS OF YESTERDAY AFTERNOON IN BYDGOSZCZ ARE INEVITABLY OBSCURE. BUT THE MOST ACCURATE VERSION OF EVENTS THAT WE CAN PIECE TOGETHER FROM WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS AND SOLIDARITY IS AS FOLLOWS.

2. A SESSION OF THE LOCAL PEOPLE'S COUNCIL WAS HELD YESTERDAY AFTERNOON TO WHICH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FARMERS' ORGANISATION AND OF THE LOCAL BRANCH OF SOLIDARITY WERE INVITED AS OBSERVERS. WHEN THE VOIVOD DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED A GROUP OF ABOUT 27 PEOPLE INCLUDING SOLIDARITY MEMBERS, FARMERS AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL ITSELF, ANGERED BY THE PROCEEDINGS REFUSED TO LEAVE. THE VICE-VOIVOD THEN CALLED THE POLICE, WHO SURROUNDED THE BUILDING AND THEN USED FORCE TO EVICT THEM. THREE PEOPLE ARE REPORTED TO BE IN HOSPITAL., INCLUDING RULEWSKI, THE LOCAL SOLIDARITY BOSS, WHO IS SAID TO HAVE THE BUILD OF A HEAVYWEIGHT BOXER: A NUMBER OF OTHERS WERE ALSO INJURED. A CROWD OF ABOUT A THOUSAND PEOPLE WERE WAITING OUTSIDE THE BUILDING BUT WERE KEPT CALM BY REPRESENTATIVES OF SOLIDARITY.

3. IN ONE VERSION, THE AUTHORITIES HAVE CLAIMED THAT THE FARMERS AND SOLIDARITY MEMBERS ARRIVED AT THE BUILDING UNINVITED. BUT TODAY'S PARTY PRESS WOULD APPEAR TO GIVE THE LIE TO THIS IN THAT IT REPORTS THAT THE MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF SOLIDARITY IN BYDGOSZCZ. IT MAY HOWEVER BE THAT THEY WERE JOINED BY COLLEAGUES WHO HAD NOT BEEN INVITED.

4. AS SOON AS NEWS OF THE INCIDENT BROKE, WALESA AND 4 OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDUM WENT TO BYDGOSZCZ AFTER ISSUING AN INITAIL DIRECTIVE TO SOLIDARITY TO KEEP CALM AND NOT TO TAKE ANY ACTION UNTIL THE SITUATION BECAME CLEARER. AT 4 AM THIS MORNING THEY PASSED A RESOLUTION IN WHICH THEY DESCRIBED THE ACTION AS A PROVOCATION AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT OF JARUZELSKI. THEY CALLED A NATIONAL STRIKE ALERT AND SAID THAT ON MONDAY 23 MARCH THEY WOULD TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION. THIS IS THOUGHT TO MEAN IN THE FIRST INSTANCE A NATIONAL WARNING STRIKE.

RESTRICTED

THEY

RESTRICTED

THEY ALSO CALLED OF ALL TALKS PRESENTLY GOING ON WITH THE GOVERNMENT. DESPITE A CALL BY THE PRESIDUM FOR NO LOCAL ACTION, BYDGOSCZC AND ONE OR TWO OTHER REGIONS ARE TO HOLD TWO-HOUR STRIKES TODAY.

5. THE LOCAL PRESS IN BYDGOSCZC HAS SAID THAT EXPLANATIONS AND ASSURANCES WILL BE FURNISHED IN DUE COURSE. BUT THE CLEAR MESSAGE FROM SOLIDARITY IS THAT THIS IS A NATIONAL ISSUE AND THAT ANY EXPLANATIONS WILL HAVE TO BE GIVEN AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL. THIS MAY BE TAKEN TO BE A CALL FOR EXPLANATION FROM JARUZELSKI HIMSELF, GIVEN THAT HE IS DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SECURITY AUTHORITIES.

6. OUR OWN ASSESSMENT IS THAT THE LOCAL POLICE IN BYDGOSCZC ACTED OFF THEIR OWN BAT WITHOUT ORDERS FROM WARSAW. BUT THE INCIDENT BRINGS INTO SHARP FOCUS THE FACT THAT MOST RECENT CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN SOLIDARITY AND THE AUTHORITIES HAVE INVOLVED THE SECURITY APPARATUS, WHO HAVE THE MOST TO LOSE FROM RECENT EVENTS IN POLAND. SOLIDARITY HAVE SAID THAT THE POLICE MUST LEARN THAT THEY CAN NO LONGER BEHAVE IN THIS FASHION. BUT IN DOING SO, THEY HAVE BROUGHT THEMSELVES IN A HEAD-ON CONFLICT WITH THE SECURITY AUTHORITIES.

7. SOLIDARITY ARE HOLDING A PRESS CONFERENCE IN WARSAW THIS AFTERNOON, AFTER WHICH WE WILL REPORT FURTHER.

FCO PLEASE PASS 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 TOTTHILL STREET

2
RESTRICTED