

GRS 300

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FM WARSAW 241200Z MAR

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 208 OF 24 MAR

INFO MOSCOW EAST BERLIN PRAGUE PARIS BONN WASHINGTON

UKDEL NATO MODUK THE HAGUE

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

BYDGOSZCZ

1. TRYBUNA LUDU OPENS ITS COVERAGE OF THE LATEST EVENTS IN BYDGOSZCZ BY SAYING THAT POLAND IS NOW IN ITS MOST SERIOUS CRISIS SINCE LAST AUGUST. THIS ASSESSMENT SEEMS TO BE SHARED BY MOST WESTERN OBSERVERS AND I AM INCLINED TO THINK THAT IT IS CORRECT.
2. THE FRONT OF NATIONAL UNITY MET YESTERDAY AND ISSUED A DECLARATION. IT WAS CONSIDERABLY LESS STRIDENT THAN THAT ISSUED BY THE POLITBURO, AND CALLED ON ALL CITIZENS TO DEFEND THE GAINS OF THE SOCIALIST ODNOWA. IT SAID THAT IN THE LAST FEW DAYS THE SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY HAD WORSENEED IN A DRAMATIC AND THREATENING FASHION.
3. THE COMMISSION WORKING IN BYDGOSZCZ HAS SAID THAT THEY WILL REPORT TO JARUZELSKI TODAY. THE COMMISSION HAS ALREADY SAID HOWEVER THAT IT WAS UNABLE TO OBTAIN FULL COOPERATION FROM THE LOCAL BRANCH OF SOLIDARITY, BECAUSE THEY HAD LAID DOWN PRE-CONDITIONS WHICH EFFECTIVELY PRE-JUDGED THE OUTCOME OF THE INVESTIGATIONS.
4. THE SOLIDARITY NATIONAL COMMISSION HELD A STORMY MEETING LAST NIGHT IN BYDGOSZCZ AND DECIDED ON STRIKE ACTION IN PRINCIPLE. THEY ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE RECOMMENDING THAT THEIR REGIONAL FOUNDING COMMITTEES SHOULD MOVE THEIR HEADQUARTERS INTO FACTORIES AND PLANTS FROM WHICH IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO DIRECT ACTION IN THE REGION. THE WARSAW BRANCH OF SOLIDARITY IS MOVING TO THE URSUS TRACTOR FACTORY. THE COMMUNIQUE GOES ON TO STATE THAT IF A STATE OF EMERGENCY IS DECLARED, OR IS ENFORCED WITHOUT FORMALLY BEING DECLARED, THE RESULT WILL BE A GENERAL STRIKE THROUGHOUT POLAND.

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5. THE NATIONAL COORDINATING COMMISSION WILL TODAY DECIDE ON THE TYPE OF STRIKE ACTION TO BE TAKEN IN THE WAKE OF THE BYDGOSZCZ INCIDENT.

FCO PLEASE PASS SAVING ADDRESSEES.

PRIDHAM  
BT

[REPEATED AS REQUESTED]

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POLAND SPECIAL STANDARD  
EESD  
CSCE UNIT  
CONS D  
CONS EM UNIT  
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SED  
WED  
ECD (E)  
ESID  
TRED  
ERD  
SEC D  
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CABINET OFFICE

COPIES TO:  
PS/S OF S }  
MR DICK } DOT  
MR POWNALL }  
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SIR K COUZENS } TREASURY  
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MR P J BULL B/ENGLAND  
MR COTTERILL ECGD  
MR WOOLAR OP13 D/EMPLOYMENT

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