

GRS 300

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

FM WARSAW 011100Z APR

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 241 OF 1 APR

INFO IMMEDIATE PEKING (FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY) UKDEL NATO

INFO ROUTINE MOSCOW EAST BERLIN PRAGUE PARIS BONN

WASHINGTON THE HAGUE MODUK

SAVING TO SOFIA BUDAPEST BUCHAREST BELGRADE HELSINKI

STOCKHOLM UKMIS NEW YORK UKREP BRUSSELS

MY TELNO 238 : POLISH SITUATION

1. THE SOLIDARITY NATIONAL COORDINATING COMMISSION MET YESTERDAY IN GDANSK AND DECIDED TO CALL OFF THE GENERAL STRIKE. THE MEETING WAS A STORMY ONE, AND IT WAS FULLY 7 HOURS BEFORE THE DECISION WAS TAKEN BY 25 VOTES TO 4, WITH 6 ABSTENTIONS. WALESA CAME UNDER CONSIDERABLE FIRE FOR THE WAY IN WHICH HE HAD CONDUCTED THE NEGOTIATIONS. A PARTICULARLY BITTER LETTER FROM RULEWSKI, ONE OF THE VICTIMS OF THE BYDGOSZCZ VIOLENCE, WAS READ OUT AT THE MEETING. THE COMMISSION DECIDED TO RESUME DISCUSSIONS AT 10 AM TODAY TO CONSIDER AMONG OTHER THINGS WHETHER TO CALL OFF THE STRIKE ALERT.

2. WE CAN ONLY SPECULATE ON THE COURSE OF TODAY'S MEETING. THE EVIDENCE WE HAVE FROM THE WARSAW REGION CONFIRMS WALESA'S CLAIM THAT THE RANK AND FILE IN THE FACTORIES ARE SUPPORTING HIM. BUT IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT THE HARD-LINERS IN SOLIDARITY WILL BE ARGUING FOR A DIFFERENT METHOD OF NEGOTIATIONS TO BE USED IN THE FUTURE, PERHAPS WITH A RATHER LESS PROMINENT ROLE FOR WALESA IN ANY ACTUAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT. THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT WALESA'S NATIONAL POSITION WILL BE ATTACKED, SINCE I BELIEVE THAT MOST EVEN OF THE JACOBINS IN SOLIDARITY REALISE THAT THEY CANNOT AFFORD TO DITCH HIM AT THIS STAGE. IT IS ALSO PROBABLE THAT THERE WILL BE PRESSURE FOR SPEEDY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GDANSK AGREEMENTS AND FOR CAMPAIGNS ON SUCH ISSUES AS CENSORSHIP AND POLITICAL PRISONERS WHICH WERE SWEEPED UNDER THE CARPET DURING THE

RESTRICTED

RECENT

RESTRICTED

RECENT NEGOTIATIONS. AN ORTHODOX COMMUNIST OBSERVER
WOULD NOT HOWEVER DERIVE ENOUGH COMFORT FROM THE
APPARENT SPLITS IN SOLIDARITY TO OFFSET HIS ALARM
AT THE CRISIS IN THE PARTY.

FCO PLEASE PASS SAVING ADDRESSEES.

PRIDHAM
BT

(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 OPL3 D/EMPLOYMENT

2

RESTRICTED