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FM WARSAW 131253Z AUG

TO PRIORITY F C O

TELNO 578 OF 13TH AUGUST 1981.

INFO ROUTINE MOSCOW.

SAVING: UKMIS NEW YORK, UKREP BRUSSELS, EAST BERLIN, PRAGUE, BUDAPEST, PARIS, BONN, WASHINGTON, MODUK, UKDEL NATO, SOFIA, BELGRADE, BUCHAREST, HELSINKI AND STOCKHOLM.

POLISH SITUATION.

1. THE MEETING OF THE NATIONAL COORDINATING COMMISSION OF SOLIDARITY FINISHED YESTERDAY AND ISSUED A DECLARATION AND AN APPEAL. THE DECLARATION IS A STRONGLY WORDED REBUTTAL OF SIX DEMANDS MADE OF SOLIDARITY BY THE GOVERNMENT. IT DENIED THAT SOLIDARITY WAS A POLITICAL ORGANISATION BUT SAID IT COULD NOT STOP ITS MEMBERS FROM EXPRESSING THEIR POLITICAL OPINIONS. IT DENIED THAT THE UNION WAS UNDERTAKING ACTIVITY ABROAD CONTRARY TO THE INTERESTS OF THE PRL. IT SAID THAT THE ECONOMIC SITUATION RATHER THAN SOLIDARITY HAD BEEN THE CAUSE OF THE RECENT WAVE OF PROTESTS AND THAT ECONOMIC REFORM WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY. WHILST PROMISING TO HELP IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST SPECULATION AND WITH ATTEMPTS TO IMPROVE COAL SUPPLIES, IT ALLEGED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD NOT FULFILLED ITS OBLIGATIONS TOWARDS THE MINERS.

2. THE MAIN POINTS IN THE APPEAL WERE SOLIDARITY'S CALL TO STOP FURTHER PROTEST ACTION AGAINST SHORTAGES (INCLUDING, PRESUMABLY, STRIKES) AND FOR PEOPLE TO WORK ON EIGHT FREE SATURDAYS DURING THE REST OF THE YEAR. (THIS WILL MEAN ONE FREE SATURDAY MONTHLY INSTEAD OF THREE.) IT CALLED FOR UNITY IN THE UNION FOR THE NEXT TWO MONTHS (UNTIL THE END OF SOLIDARITY'S CONGRESS) AND A STOP TO ISOLATED PROTESTS. SOLIDARITY TWEAKED THE GOVERNMENT'S TAIL BY CALLING FOR A PRESS STRIKE ON 19/20 AUGUST UNLESS THEY WERE ALLOWED TO PUT THEIR CASE IN THE MASS MEDIA.

3. AS FORESHADOWED IN MY TELNO 572, GLEMP AND KANIA MET YESTERDAY. THE MEETING MAY HAVE BEEN BROUGHT FORWARD A DAY BECAUSE OF KANIA'S IMPENDING VISIT TO THE CRIMEA, ALTHOUGH NO ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE VISIT HAS YET BEEN MADE. GLEMP AGREED WITH KANIA THAT POLAND'S GREATEST NEED WAS FOR PEACE AND HARD WORK - AN IMPLICIT ENDORSEMENT BY THE CHURCH OF RECENT GOVERNMENT STATEMENTS.

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4. SOLIDARITY'S APPEAL IS INGENUOUSLY WORDED. IT REPRESENTS A COMPROMISE BETWEEN THE VARIOUS ELEMENTS IN SOLIDARITY'S LEADERSHIP. IT MANAGES TO EXTRACT SOLIDARITY FROM THE RATHER IMMODERATE STANCE THAT THEY HAVE RECENTLY ADOPTED AND YET AT THE SAME TIME TO SHOW THAT THE UNION CAN STILL CALL THE TUNE IN POLAND. THERE IS NO SPECIFIC APPEAL TO ABANDON NEXT WEEK'S MARCH FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS. BUT THE APPEAL FOR UNITY AND FOR AN END TO ISOLATED PROTEST ACTIONS SEEMS TO COVER THIS MARCH. THE GOVERNMENT WILL THUS BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO STOP IT IF IT GOES AHEAD DESPITE SOLIDARITY'S APPEAL.

FCO PLEASE PASS SAVING TO ALL SAVING ADDRESSEES"

JAMES

[REPEATED AS REQUESTED]

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POLAND SPECIAL STANDARD

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MR MOUNTFIELD }

MR P J BULL B/ENGLAND  
MR COTTERILL ECGD

[NOT ADVANCED]

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