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FM WARSAW 130515Z DEC 81

TO FLASH FCO

TELNO 873 OF 13TH DECEMBER 1981

INFO IMMEDIATE: MOSCOW, WASHINGTON, PARIS, BONN, UKDEL NATO,
MODUK, HQ BAOR AND HQ RAFG.

FROM MELHUIH.

POLAND : INTERNAL SITUATION.

VERSION OF TONIGHTS EVENTS CARRIED BY BBC IS ACCURATE. THE MAZOWSZE SOLIDARITY HEADQUARTERS BUILDING, 2 BLOCKS FROM THE EMBASSY, WAS RAIDED ABOUT MIDNIGHT AND THE ROAD IN FRONT OF THE BUILDING IS CURRENTLY CUT OFF BY MILITIA VEHICLES AND A SMALL NUMBER OF ZOMO (MILITARY POLICE) AND WOW (INTERNAL SECURITY) PERSONNEL. SLIWINSKI, MAZOWSZE'S FOREIGN RELATIONS CHIEF, HAS BEEN ARRESTED AT HOME.

2. AT FIRST THERE WERE FEW OTHER SIGNS OF UNUSUAL ACTIVITY. ABOUT 0415 I WALKED AROUND THE STREETS NEAR THE MAZOWSZE HQ AND APART FROM THESE TWO ROAD BLOCKS, ONLY SAW EARLY MORNING BUSES AND PEDESTRIANS AND THE ODD SNOW-PLOUGH. THERE WERE NO LIGHTS IN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS BUILDING NOR IN PARTY HQ. OUR DEFENCE ATTACHE'S HAS HOWEVER JUST REPORTED SIGHTING 16 POLISH TANKS WITH COMMUNICATIONS VEHICLES GOING NORTH ALONG MAIN DUAL CARRIAGEWAY ROAD ON WEST SIDE OF THE VISTULA. ARMY STAFF CARS ARE ALSO PICKING UP OFFICERS FROM HOME TO TAKE THEM INTO MINISTRY OF DEFENCE.

3. ALL INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL TELEPHONE AND TELEX FACILITIES WERE CUT ABOUT 0015 THIS MORNING. BBC AND AGENCIES ARE USING SPECIAL REUTERS FACILITY WHICH BYPASSED NORMAL TELEX. WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT IS HAPPENING ELSEWHERE IN THE COUNTRY BUT, IF THE AUTHORITIES HAVE BOTHERED TO ARREST SLIWINSKI, A SMALL FRY, I PRESUME THEY WILL HAVE TRIED TO PICK UP ALL THE SOLIDARITY TOP BRASS, CONVENIENTLY CONCENTRATED IN GDANSK FOR NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING. OR AT LEAST TO SEAL OFF THE LENIN SHIPYARD WHERE THEY ARE MEETING.

4. I WILL REPORT FURTHER AS WE GET MORE INFORMATION. MY INITIAL ESTIMATE IS THAT THIS IS A CAREFULLY PLANNED SWOOP ON THE SOLIDARITY LEADERSHIP KNOWN TO FEW AND CARRIED OUT EFFICIENTLY. IT IS BOUND TO PROVIDE SERIOUS AND POSSIBLY VIOLENT REACTION FROM SOLIDARITY AND FROM THE COUNTRY AT LARGE. I SEE IT AS JARUZELSKI'S LAST DITCH ATTEMPT EITHER ON HIS OWN INTIATIVE OR ON ORDERS FROM MOSCOW TO PROVE HIS CREDENTIALS BEFORE HIS RUMOURED VISIT TO MOSCOW ON MONDAY.

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5. SO FAR THERE IS NO THREAT TO THE BRITISH COMMUNITY IN WARSAW BUT I INTEND TO CALL IN OUR WARDENS WHEN IT GETS LIGHT. I WILL ADVISE COMMUNITY TO STAY PUT. I HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING WHAT IS HAPPENING TO THE COMMUNITY ELSEWHERE IN POLAND.

6. BBC AND DAILY TELEGRAPH CORRESPONDENTS ASKED EARLIER WHETHER THEY COULD USE OUR COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES, FORTUNATELY THEY WERE ABLE TO SEND COPY VIA REUTERS BUT BBC CORRESPONDENT HAS NOW AGAIN REQUESTED OUR ASSISTANCE IF REUTERS ARE CUT OFF. I HAVE SAID THAT I COULD NOT ENDANGER OR CLOG UP OUR OWN COMMUNICATIONS BUT, IF THERE WERE NO OTHER MEANS OF GETTING INFORMATION OUT TO THE WEST, I WOULD BE PREPARED TO AUTHORISE SHORT POOLED COPY FROM ALL BRITISH CORRESPONDENTS HERE. CANADIAN EMBASSY HAVE LOST THEIR COMMUNICATIONS LINK WITH OTTAWA AND I HAVE AGREED TO HELP OUT.

JAMES

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