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GRS 400

FM WARSAW 141025Z DEC 81

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 886 OF 14TH DECEMBER 1981

AND TO IMMEDIATE PRAGUE (FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY : LORD TREFGARNE)
WASHINGTON, BONN, MOSCOW, PARIS, UKDEL NATO, MODUK, HQBAOR AND
HQAFG.

POLAND : THE STATE OF EMERGENCY.

1. ALTHOUGH THE RULING MILITARY COUNCIL HAVE NOW ASSUMED SWEEPING POWERS, THEY DO NOT SEEM TO BE ENFORCING THEM IN ANY SYSTEMATIC OR AUTHORITARIAN WAY. THERE IS AN AIR OF A PONEY WAR. CHILDREN THROW SNOW-BALLS AT ARMoured PERSONNEL CARRIERS PARKED AT MOST CROSS-ROADS. TROOPS WITH ARMoured VEHICLES HAVE BEEN POSTED ON ROUTES INTO WARSAW BUT SEEM TO BE DOING NOTHING TO CHECK VEHICLES IN-BOUND OR OUT-BOUND. BRIDGES WERE LAST NIGHT BEING PATROLLED IN FREEZING WEATHER BY SOLDIERS WHO TOOK NO NOTICE OF THE TRAFFIC. YESTERDAY IN THE STREETS AROUND THE EMBASSY RIOT POLICE STOOD WATCHING CROWDS WATCHING THEM BUT MADE NO ATTEMPT TO ENFORCE THE NEW RULING ON ILLEGAL GATHERINGS. THE MAZOWSZE SOLIDARITY HQ IS SOMETIMES GUARDED BUT OFTEN NOT. THE ONLY CONSISTENTLY WELL-GUARDED AREA IS JARUZELSKI'S HOME AND HIS ROUTE TO THE OFFICE.

2. LAST NIGHT SEEMS TO HAVE PASSED WITHOUT MAJOR INCIDENT IN WARSAW. THE MILITARY HAVE ADOPTED A LOWER PROFILE THIS MORNING, MOVING BACK THEIR ROADBLOCKS AND HINDERING TRAFFIC MOVEMENT RATHER LESS THAN YESTERDAY. BUSES AND TRAMS ARE RUNNING NORMALLY, ALTHOUGH THEY SEEM TO BE CARRYING FEWER PASSENGERS THAN USUAL. MOST OF OUR LOCAL STAFF HAVE ARRIVED FOR WORK, ALTHOUGH EARLY ARRIVALS HAD SOME DIFFICULTY PASSING A POLICE/ARMY GUARD ON THE EMBASSY. IT SEEMS THAT NO POLISH CITIZENS WILL BE ALLOWED INTO THE EMBASSY TODAY.

3. GLEMP'S SERMON DELIVERED YESTERDAY MORNING AT CZESTOCHOWA WAS BROADCAST FOR 3 HOURS ON WARSAW RADIO IN THE EVENING, WHICH INDICATES THAT THE AUTHORITIES MUST HAVE BEEN REASONABLY SATISFIED WITH IT. WHILST IT LEAVES NO DOUBT ABOUT GLEMP'S DESIRE TO AVOID VIOLENCE, IT ALSO MAKES CLEAR GLEMP'S DISAPPROVAL OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTION AND HIS SADNESS AT THE STATE OF EMERGENCY. FOR FULL DETAILS SEE MIFT.

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4. WE PLAN TO CHECK UP ON SOME OF THE MAJOR FACTORIES IN WARSAW
TODAY TO SEE IF THE REPORTED STRIKE CALL FROM THE SOLIDARITY
LEADERSHIP IN GDANSK IS BEING HEEDED.

JAMES

BT

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