

GRS 700

FM WARSAW 142015Z DEC 1981

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 900 OF 14TH DECEMBER 1981

INFO IMMEDIATE: PRAGUE (FOR PS/LORD TREFGARNE), WASHINGTON,
MOSCOW, PARIS, UKDEL NATO, MODUK, HQBAOR AND HQ RAFG.

FROM MELHUI SH.

POLISH SITUATION.

1. WHAT FOLLOWS IS BITTY AND MUCH OF IT IS SUBJECTIVE AND BASED ON HEARSAY ACCOUNTS. BUT AS ALL INFORMATION IS AT A PREMIUM TODAY, I THINK IT WORTH REPORTING.
2. IN WARSAW IT IS CLEAR THAT MANY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN VERY FRIGHTENED AND SHOCKED BY WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY. AT THE SAME TIME, MOST OF THEM ARE GOING ABOUT THEIR DAY-TO-DAY LIVES MORE OR LESS NORMALLY AND IN MANY CASES ARE FRATERNISING WITH THE SOLDIERS ON THE STREET CORNERS. THE SOLDIERS HAVE BEEN PAYING PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO VANS, LORRIES AND CARS FROM OUTSIDE WARSAW, BUT OTHERWISE TRAFFIC IS MORE OR LESS AS NORMAL. THERE ARE CLEARLY SOME AREAS THAT THE MILITARY ARE CORDONING OFF, INCLUDING THE SOUTHERN SUBURB OF KONSTANCIN, WHERE THERE ARE SOME IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS.
3. WE HAVE RECEIVED EYE-WITNESS REPORTS ON THE SITUATION AT URSUS FROM MASSEY FERGUSON REPRESENTATIVES THERE. THE FACTORY IS OPEN AS NORMAL BUT IS UNDER THE COMMAND OF A MILITARY COMMISSAR. SOLDIERS ARE PATROLLING INSIDE AND ARE CONFINING WORKERS STRICTLY TO THEIR WORK PLACE. THE FOUNDRY AND GEAR SECTION WERE ON STRIKE TODAY AND THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE ANGER AMONG THE WORK FORCE. ARRESTED SOLIDARITY MEMBERS WERE BEING REPLACED BY SECRET SUBSTITUTES. A SOLIDARITY ACTIVIST TOLD THE MASSEY FERGUSON REPRESENTATIVES THAT SOLIDARITY HAD A NETWORK OF SAFE HOUSES, MEANS OF COMMUNICATION ETC. AND WERE CONFIDENT THAT, AFTER A PAUSE FOR REGROUPING THEY COULD ORGANISE A GENERAL STRIKE. NEVERTHELESS, AT THE END OF THE WORKING DAY, THE WORK FORCE APPEARED TO BE LEAVING THE FACTORY AS NORMAL WITH NO SIGNS OF EITHER A TOTAL SHUT-DOWN OR AN OCCUPATION STRIKE.
4. INFORMATION FROM THE PROVINCES IS SCARCE. WE HAVE HEARD THAT IN KRAKOW SOLIDARITY ARE HOLDING ELECTIONS TO REPLACE THE ARRESTED MEMBERSHIP AND THE BELGIAN AMBASSADOR TOLD ME TODAY THAT AT MINSK MAZOWIECKI NOT FAR FROM WARSAW THERE WAS AN UGLY INCIDENT WHEN SOLIDARITY ACTIVISTS ATTACKED THE POLICE STATION AND WERE REPELLED BY RIOT POLICE USING WATER WATER CANNON. A MAZOWSZE ENGLISH - LANGUAGE HAND-OUT RELEASED THIS EVENING CLAIMS 19 ACTS OF OPPOSITION THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, OF WHICH THE MOST IMPORTANT

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ARE SIT-IN STRIKES AT NOWA HUTA STEELWORKS AND THE SILESIAN MINES, STRIKES IN ALL MAIN FACTORIES IN POZNAN AND WROCLAW AND THE LENIN SHIPYARD IN GDANSK'S PREPARATIONS TO DEFEND THEMSELVES AGAINST SEABORNE ATTACK.

5. ON THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US SO FAR, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO SAY WHETHER SOLIDARITY'S CALL FOR A STRIKE HAS MET WITH MORE THAN A LIMITED RESPONSE. BUT IT IS UNDERSTANDABLE THAT THE SHOCK CAUSED BY YESTERDAY'S EVENTS, THE ARREST OF THE LEADERSHIP, THE BREAKING OFF OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE CURFEW, WHICH EFFECTIVELY PREVENTS ILLEGAL BILL-POSTING, SHOULD HAVE BLUNTED SOLIDARITY'S REACTIONS MORE THAN MOST WESTERN OBSERVERS FIRST THOUGHT. SOME POLES NOW FEAR THAT 17 DECEMBER MAY BE A CRITICAL DAY. IT IS THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNVEILING OF THE GDANSK MEMORIAL AND ALSO THE DAY THAT THE MAZOWSZE REGION OF SOLIDARITY HAD ALREADY DESIGNATED AS A DAY OF PROTEST. MANY ARE ALSO WAITING ON THE OUTCOME OF THE RUMOURED TALKS BETWEEN WALESIA AND THE AUTHORITIES.

6. FOR BONN. WE HAVE HEARD THAT THE POLISH AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN JAMMING THE FRG EMBASSY'S RADIO COMMUNICATIONS WITH BONN. YOU MAY WISH TO CHECK WITH THE AUSWAERTIGES AMT WHETHER THIS IS THE CASE.
JAMES

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