

Poland

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FM WARSAW 151215Z FEB 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 252 OF 15TH FEBRUARY 1982

INFO ROUTINE: WASHINGTON, MOSCOW, UKDEL NATO, BMG BERLIN AND UKMIS GENEVA

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

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POLAND:

1. LIKE WARSAW RADIO, TODAY'S PRESS CARRIES SHORT ACCOUNTS OF EVENTS IN POZNAN OVER THE WEEKEND. IREPORTS SAY THAT 194 PEOPLE, MOSTLY SECONDARY SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, WERE ARRESTED FOLLOWING STREET DEMONSTRATIONS PROVOKED BY PAMPHLETS. 162 WERE SUBSEQUENTLY FOUND GUILTY OF OFFENCES BY THE LOCAL EQUIVALENT OF A MAGISTRATES COURT. FOLLOWING THE DEMONSTRATIONS, THE AUTHORITIES OF POZNAN HAVE DECIDED TO SUSPEND SOME OF THE RELAXATIONS OF MARTIAL LAW THERE. PRIVATE CARS WILL BE FORBIDDEN EXCEPT TO DOCTORS ETC AND PETROL WILL NO LONGER BE ON SALE. CINEMAS AND THEATRES WILL BE CLOSED. THERE IS NO MENTION OF INCREASING THE CURFEW HOWEVER.

2. THERE IS ALSO AN ACCOUNT OF THE FINDING AND DEFUSING OF A HOME-MADE TIME BOMB WITH 6 KILOS OF EXPLOSIVES AT A PETROL STATION IN LUBIN, A SMALL TOWN NEAR LEGNICA IN SOUTH-WEST POLAND. HAD IT EXPLODED, IT WOULD HAVE CAUSED GREAT DAMAGE TO A NEARBY SCHOOL, HOSPITAL AND PARTY HEADQUARTERS AS WELL AS HEAVY LOSS OF LIFE. THE REPORT IS FACTUAL WITH NO SPECULATION ON LIKELY CULPRITS OR MOTIVES.

3. LAST FRIDAY THERE WAS A MEETING OF THE PRESIDUM OF THE GOVERNMENT WHICH REVIEWED GOVERNMENT WORK IN A NUMBER OF AREAS. AS FAR AS PRICE RISES WERE CONCERNED, THE PRESIDUM DECIDED THAT IT WAS TOO EARLY TO ASSESS THEIR IMPACT ON SOCIETY.

4. RAKOWSKI GAVE A LONG INTERVIEW FOR PAP OVER THE WEEKEND. THIS WAS PRINCIPALLY BACKWARD LOOKING AND GAVE NO INDICATION OF PLANS FOR THE END OF MARTIAL LAW. RAKOWSKI JUSTIFIED THE INTRODUCTION OF MARTIAL LAW PRINCIPALLY ON ECONOMIC GROUNDS AND BECAUSE OF THE APPROACHING WINTER. HE ATTACKED VOICE OF AMERICA AND RADIO FREE EUROPE BUT NOT SPECIFICALLY THE BBC. HE DENIED THAT HE WAS ANTI-INTELLECTUAL. THE ONLY SIGNIFICANT PIECE OF HARD INFORMATION IN THE INTERVIEW IS THAT HE INTENDS TO PUBLISH HIS COMMITTEE'S REPORT ON THE FUTURE OF THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT 'THE THE NEXT FEW DAYS'.

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5. THE WEEKENDS PRESS REPORTS PREPARATIONS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRIBUNAL OF STATE. THE TRIBUNAL WOULD SERVE PARTLY AS A SUPREME COURT, ENSURING THAT LEGISLATION DID NOT RUN COUNTER TO THE CONSTITUTION, AND PARTLY AS A MEANS OF HOLDING MINISTERS AND PUBLIC OFFICIALS TO ACCOUNT. IT WOULD BE ABLE TO ACT RETROSPECTIVELY AGAINST FORMER GOVERNMENT MINISTERS, ALTHOUGH WITH SOME LIMITATION ON THOSE POWERS.

6. THERE ARE ALSO REPORTS OF THE CONTINUING ACTIVITY OF THE MILITARY TASK FORCES WHICH WERE ESTABLISHED BY JARUZELSKI IN THE AUTUMN. THE REPORT SAYS THAT THEY ARE NOW UNDER THE COMMAND OF LOCAL MILITARY COMMISSARS. BUT THIS REMINDER TO THE PUBLIC THAT THEY ARE STILL ACTIVE SUGGESTS THAT THEY MIGHT STAY IN PLACE AFTER THE END OF MARTIAL LAW.

7. THE HIJACKING OF A POLISH PLANE TO WEST BERLIN IS REPORTED IN SATURDAY'S AND TODAY'S PRESS. SATURDAY'S ACCOUNT ATTACKED THE PRESSURE PUT ON PASSENGERS TO STAY IN THE "GOLDEN WEST". TODAY'S ACCOUNT ATTACKS THE DECISION TO LET THE PILOT AND HIS COLLEAGUE GO FREE.

8. AMID THE WELTER OF ANTI-AMERICAN ARTICLES IN THE WEEKEND'S PRESS, THERE WAS ONE ANTI-BRITISH ARTICLE, IN SATURDAY'S RZECZPOSPOLITA. IT CONSISTED OF AN ACCOUNT OF 13 YEARS OF THE BRITISH ARMY IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE "BLOODY HISTORY" THEREOF.

9. PAP REPORTS THE CONCLUSION OF SZCZEPANSKI'S VISIT TO LONDON AND THE AGREEMENT TO TRY TO HOLD ANOTHER SESSION OF THE ANGLO POLISH ROUND TABLE IN BRITAIN IN THE SPRING.

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