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FM WARSAW 120830Z OCT 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 944 OF 12TH OCTOBER

INFO IMMEDIATE UKDEL NATO AND UKREP BRUSSELS.

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BUDAPEST, HELSINKI, STOCKHOLM, BONN, PARIS, UKMIS NEW YORK
AND MODUK

POLAND

1. THERE WERE SEVERAL REACTIONS TO THE NEW TRADE UNION LAW YESTERDAY. ACCORDING TO REPORTS REACHING JOURNALISTS IN WARSAW, UP TO 4000 MEN IN THE MORNING SHIFT AT THE LENIN SHIPYARD IN GDANSK FORMED A STRIKE COMMITTEE AND STARTED A STRIKE FOR THE DURATION OF THEIR SHIFT. THEY DISTRIBUTED LEAFLETS CALLING FOR THE REINSTATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY AND THE FREEING OF INTERNEES. COURIERS WERE SENT TO GDYNIA AND SZCZECIN TO PROMOTE STRIKE ACTION THERE. THEY MAY HAVE HAD SOME SUCCESS, AS TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE COASTAL TOWNS AND WARSAW WERE CUT YESTERDAY.
2. APART FROM A FEW WHO REMAINED BEHIND, THE LENIN SHIPYARD WORKFORCE DISPERSED PEACEFULLY AT THE END OF THE MORNING SHIFT, THOUGH ORGANISERS ARE ALLEGED TO HAVE PLEDGED TO CONTINUE THE STRIKE TODAY.
3. YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, DISTURBANCES BROKE OUT IN TWO OR THREE PLACES IN GDANSK, INCLUDING THE AREA OF THE RAILWAY STATION. REPORTS STATE THAT FIGHTING WITH RIOT POLICE, WHO USED WATER-CANNON AND TEAR GAS, CONTINUED FOR SEVERAL HOURS. ROADBLOCKS WERE SET UP ROUND GDANSK, THOUGH SOME OF THESE WERE LATER REMOVED.
4. WARSAW REMAINED FAIRLY QUIET YESTERDAY. WORKERS AT THE URSUS TRACTOR PLANT STAGED A SHORT AND VOCAL DEMONSTRATION DURING THEIR BREAKFAST BREAK. ACCORDING TO WORKERS INTERVIEWED BY JOURNALISTS AT THE HUTA WARSZAWA STEEL WORKS, PRODUCTION WAS NOT INTERRUPTED, THOUGH WORKERS IN AT LEAST FOUR OF THE SIX DEPARTMENTS AT THE STEEL WORKS ARE SAID TO HAVE MET AND AGREED TO BOYCOTT THE NEW UNIONS.
5. EMBASSY STAFF IN KRAKOW YESTERDAY REPORTED THE TOWN QUIET.

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6. POLISH TV LAST NIGH AND THE PRESS THIS MORNING CARRIED LOW KEY REPORTS OF THE EVENTS IN GDANSK, AND ALLEGED THAT A STRIKE ATTEMPT AT THE LENIN SHIPYARD HAD FAILED, AND THAT SECURITY FORCES HAD DISPERSED GROUPS OF MAINLY YOUNG PEOPLE WHO HAD BEGUN TO GATHER IN AN ATTEMPT TO UPSET PUBLIC ORDER.

7. THE PRESS GIVES MORE PROMINENCE TO THE FORMATION OF NEW TRADE UNION COMMITTEES IN "NUMEROUS" FACTORIES THROUGHOUT POLAND, NOTABLY THE LODZ TEXTILE FACTORY AND SILESIA COAL MINES AND STEELWORKS. THESE FOUNDING COMMITTEES WILL TRY "TO POPULARIZE THE NEW TRADE UNION LAW AMONG THE WORKFORCE" AND DRAFT UNION STATUTES AND REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS (WHICH MAY BE SUBMITTED AFTER 31 DECEMBER 1982).

JAMES

BT

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