

Soviet Union

Prime Minister

*Recent reports of Warsaw
pact troop movements
have aroused speculation
about intervention in
Poland. This report
from Moscow is more
reassuring.*

*MA
12/8*

MS

GRS 160

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY 211600Z

FM MOSCOW 211500Z AUG 80

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 514 OF 21ST AUGUST

FOR INFO IMMEDIATE WARSAW , UKDEL NATO, WASHINGTON AND HELSINKI.

SOVIET TROOP MOVEMENTS.

THE MA HAS REPORTED IN HIS SIGNAL 2113000Z (NOT TO ALL) SIGHTINGS BY THE AMA AND A US COLLEAGUE ON 20 AUGUST AT BREST WHICH INDICATE THAT A GUARDS MOTORISED DIVISION HAS VACATED ITS BARRACKS. NUMBERS OF SELF-PROPELLED GUNS AND TANKS WERE LOADED ON FLAT CARS STANDING IN NEARBY RAILWAY SIDINGS. SURVEILLANCE ON THE AMA WAS ABNORMALLY SENSITIVE. SOVIET TROOPS SEEN AT THE STATION WERE CARRYING SUITCASES AND WEARING THEIR BEST UNIFORMS. THEY WERE NOT IN FORMED UNITS.

2. THIS ACTIVITY IS PROBABLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE WARSAW PACT EXERCISE DUE IN EAST GERMANY IN EARLY SEPTEMBER. THE AUTHORITIES WOULD PROBABLY HAVE PREVENTED AN ATTACHE VISIT HAD TROOPS IN BREST BEEN PREPARING FOR OPERATIONS IN POLAND, AND THE TROOPS AT THE STATION WOULD HAVE BEEN LIKELY TO BE IN COMBAT GEAR. THE GUARDS DIVISION MAY BE TAKING THE PLACE OF SOVIET TROOPS IN POLAND TRANSFERING TO THE GDR FOR THE EXERCISE , OR GOING DIRECT TO THE GDR THEMSELVES.

BROOKE TURNER
STANDARD
EES D
DEF D
PVSD
OID
IPD
NEWS D
CABINET OFFICE

COPIES SENT TO
No. 10 DOWNING STREET

CONFIDENTIAL