

FROM: H of C
DATE: 2 November 1988

Mr Powell

This weakens the case
for an 'unscripted' address
to the speaker.

cc: Mr Mathewson
Mr Saville

Ambassador

LENIN SHIPYARD: NO STRIKE SITUATION

1. According to both the BBC office and Reuters in Warsaw, the situation in the Lenin shipyard is as follows.
2. Walesa went to the shipyard at 0730 hrs this morning. He went straight to the office of the official (OPZZ) trade union, where he offered to cooperate in the struggle to save the yard. He then went to see the Director, Towinski. Subsequently, a rally of employees took place which Szablewski, Solidarity Committee Chairman in the yard, described as the biggest rally since 1980 involving between 8,000 and 10,000 people. The rally adopted a resolution drafted by Solidarity and agreed by the official unions. It says that the decision to liquidate the yard is political, not justified on economic grounds. The Director supports this view. The official unions will defend the yard. There is apparently a plan to save the shipyard.
3. Afterwards, the workforce returned to work. Walesa said that Solidarity did not want strikes - the nation must fight for the Lenin shipyard, not the shipyard workers themselves. He added that they had all managed to sing in one chorus, and would fight together. Many enterprises throughout Poland were anxious to fight for the yard. Nobody could let the authorities take away the birth place of Solidarity. Solidarity would do everything to avoid strikes. They wanted reform, but reforms which had been discussed and not imposed.
4. It is worth recording a statement made by Jaruzelski to the British media today in which he said that he hoped Mrs Thatcher would not interfere in Poland's internal affairs, but would allow Poland to take its own decisions in the sovereign manner.

N Thorpe

N J Thorpe