

NATO SITUATION CENTRE
CENTRE DE SITUATION OTAN

P.A. Sub - Registry
File No 19 10 - 01

Reg PA
4724

(Poland)
NATO SECRET

COPY.
EXEMPLAIRE. No

107

ORIGINAL. ENGLISH
ISSUED by SITCEN at 230930z AUG. 1989

DOCUMENT
IM(8)182

The following information was extracted from DIA WASHINGTON message DTG 222009z AUG. 1989 It has been transmitted to MNCs and to capitals (NWAs and NODs) by the originator.
POLAND: MILITARY STABILITY AMID POLITICAL CHANGE.

MAJOR POINTS

1. (S) THE POLISH MILITARY WILL CONTINUE TO FULFILL ITS OBLIGATIONS AS PART OF THE WARSAW PACT ALLIANCE.
2. (S) THE MILITARY WILL SHOW CONTINUED RELUCTANCE TO ENGAGE IN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES AS AN INDEPENDENT POWER BASE.
3. (S) WITH GREAT MISGIVINGS, THE MILITARY WOULD PROVIDE SUPPORT IN ENFORCING ANY GOVERNMENT DECLARATION OF MARTIAL LAW.
4. (S) THE ARMY WILL CONTINUE ITS PROGRAM OF UNILATERAL FORCE REDUCTIONS AND RESTRUCTURING.
5. (S) THE USSR WILL NOT USE MILITARY FORCE TO PRESSURE POLITICAL DECISIONS IN WARSAW.

BACKGROUND

6. (U) PRESIDENT JARUZELSKI HAS GRANTED PERMISSION FOR SOLIDARITY TO FORM A MULTIPARTY COALITION GOVERNMENT. THE SEJM (PARLIAMENT) IS EXPECTED TO VOTE FOR SOLIDARITY'S CANDIDATE FOR PRIME MINISTER, TADEUSZ MAZOWIECKI, ON 23 AUGUST.
7. (U) ALTHOUGH THE COMMUNIST PARTY WILL NOT BE PART OF THE NEW COALITION, IT WILL KEEP AT LEAST THE SENSITIVE MINISTRIES OF NATIONAL DEFENSE AND INTERIOR, THUS RETAINING CONTROL OVER BOTH THE ARMED FORCES AND SECURITY FORCES.
8. (U) SOVIET GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN HAVE CHARACTERIZED THE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN POLAND AS AN INTERNAL MATTER FOR THE POLES TO DECIDE FOR THEMSELVES.

DISCUSSION

9. (S) THERE ARE NO INDICATIONS AS OF 22 AUGUST THAT EITHER FORCES OF THE POLISH MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR OR THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE ARE ASSUMING A HEIGHTENED STATE OF READINESS IN REACTION TO POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS.
10. (S) INDICATIONS OF SOVIET MILITARY ACTIVITY THAT MIGHT BE RELATED TO EVENTS IN POLAND ARE ALSO LACKING.
11. (S) THE POLISH MILITARY'S TRADITIONAL ROLES AND MISSIONS WILL REMAIN ESSENTIALLY THE SAME. REMAINING UNDER COMMUNIST PARTY CONTROL, THE POLISH MILITARY WILL CONTINUE TO COOPERATE CLOSELY WITH ITS WARSAW PACT ALLIES, PARTICIPATING IN COMBINED PLANNING AND EXERCISES WITH LITTLE CHANGE FROM PAST PRACTICES. THE ARMY WILL ALSO CONTINUE ITS PROGRAM OF UNILATERAL FORCE REDUCTIONS AND RESTRUCTURING, THUS MAKING SOME CONTRIBUTION TO A SMALLER DEFENSE BUDGET IN A TIME OF ECONOMIC CRISIS.

This document consists
of 2 pages.

NATO SECRET

NATO SECRET

-2-

12. (S) PRESIDENT (AND GENERAL) JARUZELSKI, WHO MADE THE DECISION THAT WILL ULTIMATELY ALLOW A NON-COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT TO COME TO POWER, STILL COMMANDS THE OBEDIENCE AND RESPECT OF THE MAJORITY OF THE MILITARY LEADERSHIP. IN ADDITION, CURRENT MINISTER OF DEFENSE GENERAL SIWICKI HAS MADE NO UNFAVORABLE PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS AND IS NOT LIKELY TO DO SO. THE MILITARY LOST MUCH OF THE PRESTIGE IT ENJOYED AMONG THE POLISH POPULATION WHEN IT PARTICIPATED IN THE ENFORCEMENT OF MARTIAL LAW IN 1981 AND 1982 IT WILL BE EXTREMELY RELUCTANT TO ONCE AGAIN PLAY AN UNPOPULAR ROLE IN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS.

13. (S) ABOVE ALL ELSE, THE USSR DESIRES A RETURN OF STABILITY IN POLAND. AS LONG AS MOSCOW PERCEIVES THAT THE NEW POLISH GOVERNMENT POSES NO THREAT TO ITS VITAL MILITARY INTERESTS, SUCH AS LINES OF COMMUNICATION AND RESUPPLY TO ITS WESTERN GROUP OF FORCES IN EAST GERMANY, SOVIET MILITARY FORCES WILL NOT BE USED AS A DIRECT FORM OF PRESSURE ON THE POLES. EVEN THOUGH SOME COMMENTS BY SOVIET OFFICIALS HAVE CONTAINED VEILED REFERENCES TO DANGEROUS ACTIVITIES IN POLAND, OVERT MOVES BY MILITARY FORCES COULD ENDANGER WESTERN PERCEPTION OF THE USSR'S NEW THINKING IN FOREIGN POLICY AS WELL AS PROSPECTS FOR ITS OWN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REGENERATION.

DECLASSIFIED - PUBLICLY DISCLOSED - PDN(2014)0007 - DÉCLASSIFIÉ - MIS EN LECTURE PUBLIQUE

-2-

NATO SECRET