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3050/SHPPA/80/S200

3 December 1980

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MEMORANDUM THRU: DCPO

FOR: COFS

WORKING PAPER

SUBJECT: Poland - MV Measures (NU)

REFERENCE: 3050/SHPPA/S36/80 dated 29 November 1980

- (NR) I attach (Tab A) some further information on those MV measures which we suggested, in the Poland situation, might be considered provocative.
- (NS) It is apparent that in the Central Region the actions contemplated under MV, for land forces, far exceed covert low-scale precautionary measures. I gather that in some cases thousands of lorries move. Because of this SACEUR is inhibited in the simple declaration of MV measures, and must rely on the discretion of his MSC in making covert preparations. It is for this reason that para 1a(4) of our paper last Saturday, (at reference) suggesting measures that SACEUR consider in the event of a Soviet invasion of Poland, suggested "Advise MSCs to take all possible covert action short of formal state of Military vigilance to ensure that ACE forces are fully up to their peacetime state of operational readiness." I suggest that SACEUR could take the following line at his MSCs conference:
The high state of readiness of WP forces requires us to make sure that our own units are at the least completely up to their full state of peacetime preparedness. I do not wish to take overt preparatory measures that could complicate the situation and be used by the Soviets as a diversion or excuse for their own moves. I cannot simply declare MV because of the wide range of reactions currently planned by some forces. I do however feel that we should ensure that our equipments are serviceable, at least our key personnel alerted, and our plans up-to-date and valid. On the other hand, I wish to avoid obvious deployments of personnel, equipment, or logistic stocks. I would like individual MSCs to propose measures that they consider appropriate in their own regions, meeting these guidelines.

3 (NS) Outside this particular contingency, I believe that we must take action to see that the measures planned under MV, meet the intention of that state of the Alert System and do not preclude its proper use.

This document consists of pages.

1 Enclosure
Info on MV
measures 1210.155/SHPPA/C/5 334/80, 121

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By Mr. Cooper
Date 11.3.96
Historical Section

PLANS BRANCH
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A.G. SKINGLEY

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By Mr. Gregory Pedlow Date 25 Feb 2011
Historical Office, OCOFS, SHAPE

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