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HAND CARRY

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IMSM-UAJ-166-81

6 April 1981

10

MEMORANDUM FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE } 4 copies each  
 CHIEF, FRENCH MILITARY MISSION

SUBJECT: Intelligence Summary (NU)

(NU) At Enclosure is an Intelligence Summary prepared by the  
 Intelligence Division, IMS, which is distributed for your  
 information.

*L. Min*

A.C. DAVIES  
 Air Marshal, RAF  
 Director  
 International Military Staff

ENCLOSURE

Intelligence Summary, 6 April 1981

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Action Officer: Air Commodore J.D. SPOTTISWOOD (2915) BAF  
Action Division: Secretariat

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IMSM-UAJ-166-81

-1-

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 an Enclosure of three pages

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NATO SECRET

INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

ENCLOSURE

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

IMS

6 APRIL 1981

POLAND

The open demonstrations of military power as a means of psychological pressure on the Polish leadership and people continue at various levels of intensity. They also serve to condition the Soviets' allies to the need for concerted action to remove the Polish "cancer."

Thus it is that a number of training and exercise activities which are more or less normal at the end of the winter training cycle are being exploited in conjunction with an unprecedented media campaign to convey the impression to the Poles and indeed the world that large-scale Warsaw Pact military activities are taking place in connection with the Polish crisis. Under this screen there is taking place a constant build-up and enhancement of the command, control and communications apparatus which would be needed for a swift and effective operation in Poland. There is also clear evidence that there is simultaneous action to augment and bring to the highest state of readiness the military forces in and around Poland. The individual measures are small and low-key but in sum, and over what is already a considerable period of time, they have brought about a readiness posture unparalleled in previous interventions elsewhere. As a consequence we can expect little or no warning in the classical sense. A spectacular crossing of borders by an invasion force could occur at some stage but only after forces already in the country have taken the necessary steps to guarantee from the outset the success of the overall operation. The extended training and exercise activities now go beyond any established training needs.

ENCLOSURE to  
IMSM-UAJ-166-81

-1-

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They also go beyond any normal evaluation requirements. This is understandable because if a multi-national force is to occupy and effectively control a large and populous country of strong nationalistic and religious leanings, it is essential that nothing be left to chance. Thus the most meticulous preparations must be made, and detailed rehearsals undertaken, even if all this takes time.

It is reported that:

a. On 30 March, elements of 39 MRD moved from OHRDRUG (SW corner of GDR) via JUTERBOG training area to LIEBEROSE training area (central GDR close to Polish border) arriving on 6 April for joint exercise activities of ground and air forces.

b. GDR and Soviet Air exercise shifted from LETZLINGER HEIDE TO KUMMERSDORF area and was converted to an air ground exercise.

c. 4 MRD (GDR) ERFURT will conduct a FTX incorporating a mobilization exercise.

d. Elements of GDR general staff have been in field locations since 24 March.

e. Attack helicopter regiment (GDR) WEIMAR (SW GDR) transported airborne troops to LIEBEROSE and remains in ZERBST.

ENCLOSURE to  
IMSM-UAJ- 166-81

-2-

NATO SECRET

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f. On Friday 3 April, at least 17 probable Soviet VTA transports (most likely IL-76 CANDID and AN-22 COCK aircraft) arrived at NAF AA BRZEG in Poland. It is assessed that this transport activity, which was routed through CSSR most likely is related to the situation in Poland. The number of aircraft involved could have been considerably in excess of 17. (There is no evidence to disprove persistent press reports that a Soviet helicopter force has arrived in SW Poland).

g. The Polish Air Force conducted on Saturday 4 April a possible conference at PAF POZNAN KRZESINY, as indicated by the arrival of at least 9 PAF transports originating from as many Polish national bases. The nature of this conference is not known.

h. In the Baltic Sea, BFAF air activity has been consistently high over the last few weeks, and continues to be so. A whole range of naval air activities is being carried out including Soviet TU-126 MOSS AWACs operations over the Eastern Baltic. In view of the ongoing high surface activity in the Baltic, a corresponding upsurge in air sorties was expected. Highlighting the air activity has been a high number of BACKFIRE penetrations along the LATVIAN/LITHUANIAN littoral.

i. On 3 April the amphibious force in the southern Baltic on which we have previously reported, reversed course, with the Polish landing ships entering KOLOBRZEG, the GDR units going to PEENEMUNDE and the Soviet units returning to the Bay of GDANSK probably to BALTYSK. Since then naval activities have gradually decreased. It would seem however that such a force could be reassembled in a short time if this were necessary.

j. Unusual activity has been observed in Soviet airborne divisions located in the Western Military Districts.