

Poland ✓

N A T O C O N F I D E N T I A L

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To: The Secretary General
From: Chairman, Economic Committee
Subject: Current situation of the Polish crisis

It is possible that during the super-restricted Ministerial session, the Foreign Ministers will raise the point of Poland.

The Polish crisis is in a crucial period where almost everything is possible.

The first act of the crisis was the strikes in the summer of last year.

The second act was bottleneck multipliers at work and economic shortages.

The third act was food shortages and social unrest. The strike at the fire-fighters cadets' academy closed this third act.

The Primate of Poland's letter to all deputies of the SEGM opens the fourth act.

We don't know how many acts can happen in the play.

Last week the communist party envisaged a ban on strikes. Solidarity answered by threatening a general strike without limit if strikes were banned. The agenda for next week's session of the SEGM does not foresee the banning of strikes.

IMS intelligence agrees that something extraordinary is afoot.

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N A T O C O N F I D E N T I A L

- 2 -

With the Polish taste for compromise, prediction is out of range, but something is going to happen.

The economic situation is stable at a low level. There is panic buying of everything, everywhere. There are rows of vendors in empty shops with consumers who sometimes beat the vendors. With fuel shortages in winter an economic collapse is possible in February. Restructuring of the Polish debt is working slowly but steadily. Polish reporting of the economic situation gives a blurred image of future trends in the Polish economy.

Military intelligence confirms that Army reserve and officer schools could well be the next after the fire-fighters cadet academy.

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