

...6th...November...1984.....

REF: DPA(84)322

To:            Secretary General

cc.:            Deputy Secretary General  
                 Executive Secretary

From:          ASG/Political Affairs

Subject:       POLAND

P. A. Sub - Registry File No <u>19-10-01 (Poland)</u>
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The Political Committee today held a first exchange of views on the implications of the kidnap and murder of Father Popieluszko. It will continue its analysis next week. The affair is important for two reasons. First, it has stimulated a renewed mass affirmation of public attachment to the ideals of Solidarity, the first event of its kind for many months. So far, following appeals by the Church and Mr. Walesa, public demonstrations have been disciplined but Solidarity activists may seek to capitalise on public feeling with a consequent possibility of the re-arrest of some of those freed under the amnesty. The second factor is the challenge to General Jaruzelski's control and policies from hard-liners within the security organs. The implications for Jaruzelski's position are not yet clear but are potentially serious.

2. The willingness of a number of Allies to engage in more normal relations with the Polish regime may be affected by these developments: some may see a need to press ahead in the belief that Jaruzelski is the least objectionable of possible Polish leaders and needs to be encouraged by Western contacts to pursue "moderate" policies; others may wish to hold off in the light of the evidence provided by Father Popieluszko's murder that conditions in Poland do not warrant a return to normal relations.

3. I believe it would be useful for the Council to discuss, before the December Ministerial meeting, the current situation in Poland and its implications for Allied policy. If the matter is raised in Council tomorrow, you may wish to refer to the interesting discussion in the Political Committee, and consider the advisability of commissioning a report to the Council by the Chairman of the Political Committee in, say, two weeks' time.

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MEETING OF THE COUNCIL, WEDNESDAY 7TH NOVEMBER 1984

Briefing Notes

ITEM I: STATEMENTS ON POLITICAL SUBJECTS

Points to Make

1. Political Committee has begun exchange of views on murder of Polish priest Father Popieluszko (POPI-WUSHKO). This distressing affair has implications for political and social situation inside Poland: will angry mood of people be exploited by Solidarity activists or will disciplined reaction continue; what does affair tell us of General Jaruzelski's position; where does Soviet Union stand in all this? Finally what might be implications for Allied policies?
  
2. Council may think it useful to hear a report by Chairman of Political Committee when Committee's analysis has been taken a stage further - say in two weeks' time.