

Reg PA

German Delegation

Brussels, 26 August 1980

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REG. P. A.
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Speaking Notes

Subject: Soviet Reaction to the Events in Poland

1. Yesterday morning, the Soviet central press reproduced a TASS report from Warsaw on the dismissal of Babiuch and the other changes among leading personnel which were decided by the Plenum of the Central Committee of the Polish communist Party. The only comment on Gierek's speech was that he had analyzed the social and economic problems of the country and had defined the important tasks of the Party in these fields.

2. The Soviet public is still being kept largely in the dark about the causes and development of the crisis in Poland. However, IZVESTIYA of 23 August and PRAVDA of 24 August reported under the heading: "An article by Trybuna Ludu" that the Polish Party paper had dealt with the discussion within the Party on the present situation.

3. The Soviet mass media continue to confine themselves to dealing with the Polish crisis by reproducing a minimum of Polish agency and newspaper reports, whose selection shows the full extent of Soviet uncertainty and caution in view of developments in Poland. The Russian-language broadcasts from western countries continue to be jammed or difficult to receive. However, the news broadcasts of the Voice of America could be heard quite clearly in Moscow on the evening of 24 August.

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