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Brussels, 9 October 1980

REG. P.A.
AC. SLIP
N° 13765/80

NATO RESTRICTED

Reg. PA

Mr. Cella

Mr. Devesque

Mr. Serbriakoff

Dear Glenn,

P. A. Sub - Registry
File N° 19-10-01

(Poland)

Referring to our discussion concerning the situation in Poland which we had in last Political Committee's meeting on October 7, 1980 I enclose some information from our Embassy in Warsaw on the alleged closure of parts of the Soviet-Polish frontier.

I am sending a copy of this letter and the enclosure to all members of the Political Committee and the representative of the IMS.

Sincerely yours

Anton

(Anton ROSSBACH)

1 Encl.

Mr. Glenn R. CELLA
Director of the
Political Directorate and
Chairman of the
Political Committee

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Brussels, 8 October 1980

RESTRICTEDSubject: Alleged Closure of Parts of the Soviet-Polish Frontier.

1. Our Embassy in Warsaw reports that rumours about the closure of the Soviet-Polish frontier have been in circulation in Poland for the past week. A systematic verification of the situation by sources close to western embassies showed that the frontier-crossing points at Brest and Przemysl were still open. No traffic could be observed at any of the other frontier-crossing points with the Soviet Union. An American enquiry addressed to the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs concerning the present situation along the frontier has not been answered up to now.
2. In the past few weeks, it has been noticed that the members... of the staffs of western embassies have been shadowed to a far greater extent than in the past whenever they were undertaking journeys to eastern and north-eastern frontier areas of Poland. A western Ambassador who wanted to visit the Yanov Podlaski horse-breeding farm about 25 km north-west of Brest and about 8 km south of the Soviet frontier was stopped by militiamen and compelled to return because, as he was told, the road was blocked.
3. No further explanation can at present (7 October) be obtained in Warsaw. It is conceivable that Poland and the Soviet Union have agreed to limit passenger traffic from Poland to the Soviet Union so as to avoid the spreading of personal reports about the situation in Poland and thus a certain amount of unrest in the western parts of the Soviet Union. It is also possible that the limitations are due to the military manoeuvres which have been reported by several western media as taking place in areas close to the western frontier of the Soviet Union.