

DANISH DELEGATION

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ASG OPA
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Developments in Poland

P. A. Sub - Registry File N° 19-10-01 (Poland)

1. The meeting on Friday the 14th between Lech Walesa and First Secretary Kania is judged in Warsaw to have been a positive development. In the judgment of the Danish embassy in Warsaw - in a report dated November 18th - the compromise reached concerning the registration of "Solidarity" quite clearly has diminished tensions, and although a large number of organizational and social problems remain, the prospects of making headway appear brighter than before. The appeal of Lech Walesa to avoid further strikes but as a last resort bears evidence to this point.

2. According to a report from a normally reliable source, Prime Minister Pinkowski went to Moscow on the 9th of November and returned the same day. If this report is correct, it appears that the precautionary moves which were made by the government in the phase leading up to the decision of the Supreme Court have been coordinated to a large extent between Moscow and Warsaw. Such a visit would also substantiate suppositions that the compromise reached have been acceptable to Moscow.

3. Mr. Walesa's call on Cardinal Wyszynski and the message from the Pope has strengthened the independent trade union movement. At the same time, the appeal of the cardinal to resume work served as a mild warning.

As to the attitude within the clergy, the Bishop of Warsaw (formally the Vice-Bishop) during a conversation with the Danish ambassador on November 18th appeared somewhat concerned: A great need for dialogue and discussion between the population and the government had accumulated over the years, the bishop said, and would not be easily disposed of within a short period. At the same time it was important to start working again. Considerable differences in opinion were still pronounced in virtually all groupings, and in addition the whole socialist world was in a state of - at least economic - crisis.

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4. It now appears confirmed that the government has decided to introduce rationing of foodstuffs, probably from January 1st, 1981. The rationing arrangement will include meat, fats and sugar and perhaps also dairy products. It has proved difficult to find an acceptable formula, since consumption varies considerably from area to area. As far as meat is concerned, the expectation is that each person will be entitled to 3 kilos of meat per month plus an extra allotment of up to 3 kilos for persons with physically strenuous work.

5. Mr. Zamyatin's statement on Soviet TV November 15th has been mentioned in the Polish media, but in a somewhat toned-down fashion. Nevertheless, importance is no doubt attached to the warning contained in Mr. Zamyatin's statement. Moscow has once again made it clear that there are limits to its tolerance vis-à-vis Poland.

6. During the session of the Sejm on November 21st a number of changes in government were approved. Most interesting is the appointment of Professor Jerzy Ozdowski as Deputy Prime Minister. Mr. Ozdowski has up till now been a member of the State Council where he has represented the Catholic Znak group. On previous occasions representatives from other parties than the United Polish Workers' Party have been appointed deputy premiers, but never before has a representative from a religious group been appointed. Ozdowski is not a member of parliament, where the Znak group is still under the leadership of Janusz Zablocki. A short while ago Mr. Ozdowski, Mr. Zablocki and other leading Znak personalities met with Cardinal Wyszynski.

7. The parliamentary debate reflected the serious situation of the country. It also revealed considerable divergencies of view when evaluating the developments set in motion by the recognition of independent trade unions.