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REG. P. A.
ACTION SLIP
N° 13951/82

Your reference
Our reference
Date 8 October 1982

Dear Genm

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

NATO POLITICAL COMMITTEE: POLAND

1. At the Political Committee on 5 October, I said that I would circulate the speaking note which, had time permitted, I would have used to address the first two headings on our monitoring list of developments in Poland. This is enclosed.
2. As regards our future work under the list, I now think that it might be more realistic to aim to cover no more than two headings a week in order to allow capitals time to prepare substantive contributions and for an exchange of views in the Committee. We also see no need to bind ourselves to going through the list from top to bottom without deviation. Instead we think that in selecting the headings each week for our next discussion we should consider whether it would be timely to take the next two headings on the list or whether, in the light of developments expected in Poland, we should select headings further down the list for the next discussion.
3. I am copying this letter and the enclosure to colleagues on the Political Committee and to the representative of the IMS.

Tom van
Wester

R J ALSTON

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5 October 1982

POLITICAL COMMITTEE: POLAND

(a) Moves by the regime to lift or modify Martial Law Regulations

1. The following restrictions have been lifted or relaxed since 13 December.

- i. The curfew has been lifted throughout Poland.
- ii. Internal travel restrictions have been lifted.
- iii. Postal and telephone communications are functioning normally.
- iv. Cinemas and theatres are now open and sporting events are taking place without prior permission from the authorities.
- v. Most newspapers have reappeared.
- vi. The ban on the activity of many social and professional associations has been lifted.
- vii. The ban on foreign travel has been eased.

2. The following martial law restrictions are among those which remain in force:

- i. Ban on strikes and all trade union activities.
- ii. Ban on gatherings, processions and demonstrations (not including religious ceremonies).
- iii. Censorship of mail, telephones and telecommunications.
- iv. Ban on unauthorised use of printing equipment and radio equipment and radio transmitters.
- v. "Militarisation" of designated industrial enterprises and administrative bodies (whose personnel are now subject to military courts).
- vi. Liability of citizens recognised as fit for military service to be called up at any time.
- vii. Special courts and accelerated penal proceedings.
- viii. Identity cards to be carried by all citizens including children over 13.

The military authorities of course retain the power to reimpose the curfew (as they did for a time in some places after 31 August) and other restrictions which have been lifted.

(b) Changes in the numbers of those interned or those arrested and convicted for martial law offences

3. We estimate that since the declaration of martial law some 7-8,000 people

/have

have been interned. The number of internees has been reduced in stages. We estimate that some 1,000 people are still in internment. The authorities reduced the overall total to 637 on 21 July but subsequently announced that a further 200 were detained following the disturbances on 13 August and 228 after those on 31 August. The numbers however are imprecise since some may have since been released. The numbers of those arrested and convicted of martial law offences is still more uncertain. Polish official sources claim that some 5131 people were arrested on 31 August of which 263 have since been jailed and 3,000 people fined; 1,050 were warned and released. Prior to that we estimated that a figure of between 1,500 - 2,000 were in prison for martial law offences and that at least 1,000 may have received heavy fines for such offences.