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Number: 115

Date : 29 JANUARY 1981

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N° 0011

AS (81) 010

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P 291105Z JAN 81  
FM MOD ITALY  
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File No 19-10-01 (Poland)

NADA ASSESSMENTE/JAN/001/MOD ITALY/291100Z.

POLAND

RECENT DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS IN POLAND, PARTICULARLY THE SUCCESS GAINED BY ~~SOLIDARITY~~ WITH THE STRIKE ON SATURDAY 24 JAN, WIDER THAN THAT OF JAN 10, BROUGHT ABOUT NEW STRAINS AND INCREASED THE DIFFICULTY OF REACHING A COMPROMISE BETWEEN UNIONS AND GOVERNMENT. TO THIS SHOULD BE ADDED THE STRIKES AND DEMONSTRATIONS OCCURRING IN MANY PLACES IN THE COUNTRY, WHICH IN SOME CASES HAVE A CLEAR POLITICAL AND NO LONGER ECONOMIC MOTIVATION. AS IN THE CASE OF THE LODZ UNIVERSITY, WHERE THE STUDENTS' REQUESTS INCLUDE THE END OF THE COURSES ON MARXISM, MILITARY SCIENCES AND RUSSIAN LANGUAGE. THERE IS, FURTHERMORE, THE THREAT OF A GENERAL STRIKE TO BE HELD ON FEB 3 IN SUPPORT OF THE FARMERS.

THE AUTHORITIES SHOWED THEIR GOODWILL BY ACCEPTING A TV DEBATE WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNIONS ON THE PROBLEM OF THE ~~SHORT WEEK~~. ALTHOUGH OBVIOUSLY THEY FEAR THAT THIS MAY BE A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT WHICH MIGHT AUTHORIZE A REQUEST OF GREATER AND MORE FREQUENT ACCESS TO THE MASS MEDIA. ~~SOLIDARITY~~, ON THE OTHER HAND, APPEARED, DURING THE BROADCAST, TO BE NOT COMPLETELY UNCOMPROMISING ON THE SUBSTANCE OF ITS CLAIMS, BUT ACCUSED THE GOVERNMENT ABOVE ALL FOR THE ~~UNDEMOCRATIC~~ DECISION-MAKING WAY. WHILE SOVIET WARNINGS AND PRESSURE ARE CONTINUING, INCREASINGLY IMPORTANCE IS ATTACHED TO THE ROLE POLISH ARMED FORCES MIGHT HAVE IN THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE CRISIS. WHILE POLITICIANS LIKE MOCZAR AT THE MEETING OF ~~OLD SERVICEMEN~~ ARE PRAISING THE FUNCTION THEY CAN HAVE IN FIGHTING AGAINST THE ENEMIES OF SOCIALISM, THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE CRITICIZED NO LESS THAN TWICE THE WORKERS' EXCESSES, REITERATING THAT THE TIME HAS COME TO ELIMINATE THE CHAOS AND ANARCHY WANTED BY ~~SOLIDARITY'S~~ LEFT WING. THIS SUGGESTS THAT THERE IS A WILL TO EXERT A PRESSURE ON THE UNION AND, AT THE SAME TIME, TO PREPARE THE PUBLIC OPINION FOR A POSSIBLE INTERNAL INTERVENTION.

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