

GRS 300

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FM WARSAW 171200Z DEC

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 536 OF 17 DECEMBER.

INFO ROUTINE MOSCOW PRAGUE SOFIA BUDAPEST BUCHAREST EAST
BERLIN BELGRADE UKDEL NATO WASHINGTON PARIS BONN HELSINKI
STOCKHOLM MODUK

ms

MY TELNO 530 : MEMORIAL CEREMONY IN GDANSK

1. THE CEREMONY PASSED OFF WITHOUT INCIDENT, PARTLY NO DOUBT BECAUSE OF THE RECENT STRONG WARNINGS GIVEN BY THE CHURCH. THE GOVERNMENT WAS REPRESENTED BY PRESIDENT JABLONSKI, BY FIZSBACH, THE GDANSK PARTY LEADER, AND BY 3 OTHER SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE REGIME. THE CHURCH WAS REPRESENTED BY THE ARCHBISHOP OF KRAKOW AND 2 OTHER BISHOPS, AND THERE WAS A MILITARY GUARD OF HONOUR. A TELEGRAM FROM THE POPE AND A LETTER FROM THE PRIMATE WERE READ OUT AT THE CEREMONY, WHICH WAS SHOWN FOR 35 MINUTES ON NATIONAL TELEVISION.
2. AS IN THE CASE OF THE POPE'S VISIT, THE GOVERNMENT DECIDED THAT ITS BEST COURSE WAS TO SUPPORT THE OCCASION AND PRETEND TO LIKE IT. BUT IN THE VAST MONUMENT, THE ORDERLY CROWDS POLICED LARGELY BY SOLIDARITY AND THE IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY, THERE IS MORE THAN A HINT OF MENACE FOR THE REGIME.
3. IN HIS SPEECH WALESA QUOTED THE BISHOP'S APPEAL FOR RESTRAINT AND ADDED HIS OWN, CALLING FOR CALM, ORDER AND RESPECT FOR THE LAW. BUT HIS REFERENCE TO THE MONUMENT BEING A WARNING TO THE GOVERNMENT WAS OMITTED IN THE PRESS REPORTS TODAY. THERE IS SAID TO BE SOME RESTIVENESS ON THE PART OF SOME SOLIDARITY MEMBERS AT WALESA'S RELATIVE MODERATION. COMPARABLE THOUGH LESSER CEREMONIES ARE DUE ON 17 AND 18 DECEMBER AT GDYNIA AND SZCZECIN. IN THAT GDYNIA IS CONSIDERED MORE MILITANT THAN GDANSK THERE IS STILL A CHANCE OF DISTURBANCE, THOUGH AT SZCZECIN MATTERS SHOULD PASS QUIETLY.

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4. THE EFFECT OF THE GDANSK CEREMONY IS LIKELY TO BE TO STIFFEN RESOLVE AND PERHAPS MILITANCY AMONG SOLIDARITY MEMBERS, AT ANY RATE IN THE NORTH, AND TO DISSIPATE SOME OF THE CONTRARY EFFECTS OF THE RECENT SOVIET TROOP MOVEMENTS.

PRIDHAM

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