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FM WARSAW 071530Z JAN

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 10 OF 7 JAN

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STRIKES IN SOUTH-EAST POLAND: END OF THE CHRISTMAN LULL?

Hear so.

1. THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED 2 TELEXES FROM THE STRIKE COMMITTEES FORMED IN USTRZYKI DOLNE AND RZESZOW. FROM THESE AND FROM OTHER LOCAL SOURCES WE HAVE CONCLUDED THE FOLLOWING.

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2. IN USTRZYKI DOLNE FARMERS REPRESENTING THE EMBRYO LOCAL BRANCH OF RURAL SOLIDARITY HAVE BEEN OCCUPYING LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES IN THE TOWN WHICH IS CLOSE TO THE SOVIET BORDER, SINCE 29 DECEMBER. THEY HAVE SOUGHT THE SUPPORT OF OTHER SOLIDARITY GROUPS FOR THEIR DEMANDS FOR REGISTRATION AND HAVE FORMED THEMSELVES INTO A SO-CALLED ALL-POLAND STRIKE COMMITTEE OF THE FEDERATION OF RURAL SOLIDARITY. THEY CLAIM THAT ON 4 JANUARY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SZCZECIN INTER-FACTORY STRIKE COMMITTEE (MKZ) AND OF FARMERS IN NORTH-WEST POLAND VISITED THEM AND ASSURED THEM OF THEIR WILLINGNESS TO STRIKE IN SUPPORT OF THEIR DEMANDS. THEY CLAIM SIMILAR SUPPORT FROM THE KRAKOW INTER-FACTORY COMMITTEE AND RURAL SOLIDARITY FROM THE KRAKOW REGION. THEY STATE THAT THEIR SIT-IN STRIKE WILL CONTINUE UNTIL THE CENTRAL AUTHORITIES START TALKS. IN RZESZOW A SIMILAR RURAL SOLIDARITY STRIKE NOW APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN LINKED TO THAT IN USTRZYKI DOLNE. THE RZESZOW STRIKE COMMITTEE STATE IN THEIR TELEX THAT : (I) IT IS A CONDITION FOR A RENEWAL OF TALKS IN RZESZOW THAT A GOVERNMENT COMMISSION SHOULD ALSO GO TO USTRZYKI DOLNE.

(II) SIMILARLY NO AGREEMENT WILL BE SIGNED IN RZESZOW WITHOUT THE SIGNATURE OF A SIMILAR AGREEMENT IN USTRZYKI DOLNE.

(III) AS A RESULT OF THE FAILURE OF THE GOVERNMENT TO SEND A SUITABLE COMMISSION TO USTRZYKI DOLNE BY THE EVENING OF 5 JANUARY, THE PRESIDUM OF SOLIDARITY FOR SOUTH-EAST POLAND (BASED IN THE REGIONAL CAPITAL OF PRZEMYSL) DECIDED TO CALL A ONE-HOUR WARNING STRIKE ON 6 JANUARY IN 3 OR POSSIBLY 4 PRZEMYSL FACTORIES.

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3. WE HAVE ALSO HEARD THAT THE USTRZYKI DOLNE STRIKERS HAVE BEEN COMPLAINING OF POLICE HARRASSMENT AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY SENT A DELEGATION TO SEE THEM, WHICH THEY HAVE REJECTED ON THE GROUNDS OF ITS UNSATISFACTORY COMPOSITION. WE HAVE ALSO HEARD THAT ONE OF THE SUBSIDIARY DEMANDS OF THE ESTIMATED 600 FARMERS AND WORKERS SITTING IN IN RZESZOW IS THAT A LOCAL HUNTING RESERVE, WHERE GIEREK USED TO TAKE GISCARD, SHOULD BE OPENED TO THE PUBLIC.

4. IT IS DIFFICULT FROM THIS DISTANCE TO ASSESS THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE STRIKE ON THE NATIONAL SCALE. NEVERTHELESS, TAKEN WITH DEVELOPMENTS OVER THE ISSUE OF FREE SATURDAYS, IT APPEARS TO MARK THE END OF THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY LULL. THE STRIKES SEEM TO BE RELATED MOST CLOSELY TO THE SUPREME COURTS RECENT POSTPONEMENT OF A DECISION ON THE REGISTRATION OF RURAL SOLIDARITY (OUR TELNO 555) THEIR LOCATION IN SOUT EAST POLAND AN AREA NOTED FOR ITS ANTI GOVERNMENT SYMPATHIES (WHICH DERIVE FROM THE POST WAR CAMPAIGN AGAINST UKRAINIAN PARTISANS) WILL PRESUMABLY BE NOTED BY THE SOVIET UNION. BUT THE AREA IS NOT ONE OF PRIME SRATEGIC IMPORTANCE.

5. THE MOST SERIOUS ASPECT IS THE CLAIM OF SUPPORT FROM THE SZCZECZIN MKZ AND POSSIBLY FROM YET ANOTHER REPORTED STRIKING GROUP AT JELENIA GORA IN WESTERN POLAND. TODAY'S MEETING OF SOLIDARITY'S NATIONAL COORDINATING COUNCIL IN GDANSK WILL NO DOUBT TAKE A POSITION ON THIS AND SEVERAL OTHER CURRENT PROBLEMS INCLUDING FREE SATURDAYS AND FORECASTING MAY BE EASIER THEREAFTER. BUT THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THIS RECRUDESCENCE OF UNION ACTIVITY AND PRESSURES BODES ILL FOR POLITICAL PEACE, CONGRESS PREPARATIONS, ECONOMIC RECOVERY, AND , MOST SERIOUS OF ALL, SOVIET NERVES.

MELHUI SH

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