

October 7, 1981

**Intelligence Information Special Report, 'Current
Status of Preparations for Declaration of Martial
Law in Poland'**

Citation:

"Intelligence Information Special Report, 'Current Status of Preparations for Declaration of Martial Law in Poland'", October 7, 1981, Wilson Center Digital Archive, CIA declassification, 2008 <https://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/document/165312>

Summary:

Translation of a military document which shows Poland is ready to declare martial law at any time. It argues for a surprise declaration in order to catch opposition off guard.

Credits:

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English

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Original Scan

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Intelligence Information Special Report

COUNTRY Poland

FIRDB-312/03009-81

DATE OF
INFO. September 1981

DATE 7 October 1981

SUBJECT

Current Status of Preparations for
Declaration of Martial Law in Poland

SOURCE Documentary

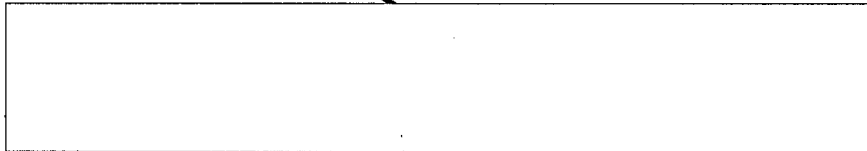
Summary:

This report is a translation of a Polish Armed Forces General Staff document entitled "Report on the Status of Preparations of the State in Case of Need to Introduce Martial Law and Basic Effects of This Measure." The classification of the document is SECRET OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE. The Polish Government appears to be prepared to declare martial law in all or part of Poland whenever the decision is made. The element of surprise is most important in order that members of the opposition have no time to call for mass resistance. In support of this, announcements and other printed matter on martial law are being printed in the USSR. The Polish authorities expect very effective assistance from the USSR in the propaganda field-- particularly in technical support for radio transmissions and publications. Polish opposition leaders and activists are to be arrested before martial law is announced.

End of Summary

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SECRET OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE

REPORT

On the Status of Preparations of the State
in Case of Need to Introduce Martial Law
and Basic Effects of This Measure

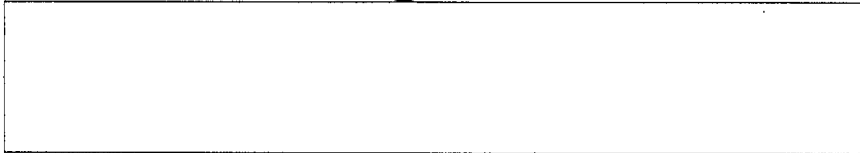
At the same time that our party and the government and propaganda organs opted for a political offensive as a means for overcoming the crisis situation in Poland, intensive preparations of the State are being made under the leadership of the National Defense Committee in the event of the need to introduce martial law. The state of readiness attained in this field empowers us to assert that--in a situation where the recently intensified forms of struggle against antisocialist forces prove to be impotent--authorities may virtually at any moment reach for this means of defending the country and its citizens.

Taking into consideration observations and suggestions made by our Soviet comrades we have elaborated for the whole country the concept of how to introduce such a state, a whole set of legal acts, and detailed plans and timetables for operation by all organs of state authority and administration from the central echelon down to, and including, the basic executive centers.

We proceed from the assumption that the objective of this move should be to safeguard the basic interests of the State, including neutralization of antisocialist forces, restitution of the normal work rhythm, public law and order, as well as securing proper functioning of authority, state administration, and economy.

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In accordance with the provisions of article 33, paragraph 2 of the Polish Peoples Republic Constitution,* introduction of martial law may occur in the form of a prepared special decree issued by the Council of State.

This decree anticipates among other things the following:

1) In the field of law and citizens' obligations:

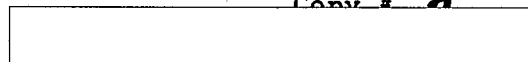
- restriction of the freedom of movement,
- obligation to possess documents establishing identity,
- making the reporting obligation more stringent,
- strengthening supervision and control of assemblies, public meetings as well as artistic, entertainment and sport shows,
- intensifying supervision and control of associations, trade unions, and other social organizations,
- suspension of workers' right to strike as well as self-government of the state enterprise work force,
- strengthening supervision and control over dissemination of literary works and information as well as use of publishing facilities, and also introduction of censorship of postal packages and telecommunications as well as monitoring telephone conversations,
- turning in of radio transmitters as well as weapons, ammunition, and explosive materials,

* The Council of State may introduce martial law in a part or all the territory of the Polish Peoples Republic if this is necessitated by concern for the security or defense of the State. For the same reasons the Council of State may declare partial or general mobilization.

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- ban on making photographs and films as well as wearing of decorations and uniforms;

2) In the field of state administration and national economy:

- general work obligation and modification of labor relations,
- special services on behalf of the food economy as well as regulation of provisioning the population,
- intensifying supervision and control over churches and religious associations,
- limitation on operation of communications devices and provision of communications services as well as transport of persons and goods,
- limitation on aircraft flights as well as ship and motor vehicle traffic,
- increased control of state borders,
- limitation on stay of foreigners on Polish territory;

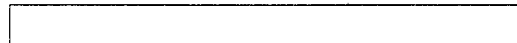
3) In the field of general defense obligation, including:

- militarization of specific units of state administration and national economy,
- performance of greater personal and material services on behalf of national defense.

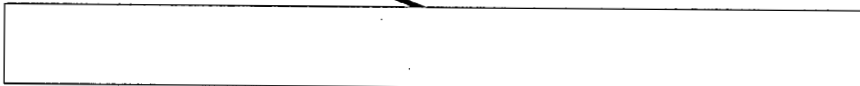
The decree permits its application both in case of introduction of martial law for the whole Polish territory as well as for only its parts within the borders of specific administrative units at provincial and basic levels. The decree provisions establish stricter rules of punishment for violations of the newly introduced obligations and limitations by increased legal punishment for certain crimes and misdemeanors as well as introduction of accelerated procedures in these matters. In addition the decree introduces the institution of internment of individuals against whom there is justified suspicion that if they are allowed to remain free

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they will engage in activity threatening state security and defense interests.

The decree specifies the very essential rules for utilization, in this case, of close formations of Citizens Militia units and subunits, other formations and organizations set up to maintain public order and protect social property, as well as utilization of direct force (chemical neutralization means, water spraying devices, and firearms) in cases of direct threat to life, health, and freedom of citizens, social and private property, installations important from the standpoint of state security or defense as well as important state administration or national economy installations, and also collective acts of public violence during the time when martial law is in force.

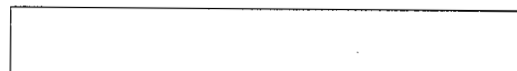
At the same time, it was indicated quite explicitly that in extraordinary cases, when operational efforts of the Citizens Militia prove to be insufficient, units of the armed forces may be used.

We are presently preparing in USSR printing establishments proclamations covering the most important provisions of the Council of State decree on martial law as well as an appeal to all citizens for unqualified observance of the newly introduced bans, orders and limitations as well as performance of other imposed obligations and also subordination to all directives of legal authorities issued in the interest of peace, law, and public order as well as strengthening of social discipline.

We recognize the creation of appropriate sociopolitical conditions for introduction of martial law as particularly important. We are chiefly concerned with the psychological preparation of our society to accept this form of defense of the State and its citizens. It would be most dangerous to permit mass insubordination in regard to decisions of the authorities and particularly refusal to work and possible resistance in the plants. For this reason we attach great importance to making our daily propaganda militant and preparing it for the period of emergency. Together with improving our propaganda materials and regularly updating them we are creating conditions for emergency

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expansion of our editorial and technical staffs so that they are capable, after introduction of martial law, of normal operation of at least one central TV program and publication of the Trybuna Ludu and Zolnierz Wolnosci dailies. We think that in the field of propaganda we will get very effective assistance from the USSR, particularly in technical support for radio transmissions and publications.

In the present preparatory phase our chief attention is concentrated on identification, by forces of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, of counterrevolution centers, determination of the personnel strength of their chiefs and activists, development of operational projects within these organizations, and discovery of illegal printing presses and radio transmitters. Along with this, we are updating and improving our operational internment plans, which we want to begin implementing well before the proclamation of the decree on introduction of martial law.

In our view, however, the basic mainstay of our party and state authority will be our armed forces. In the PPR Armed Forces there is an uninterrupted, intensive, party-political, operational, planning, and training effort aimed at maintenance of ideological coherence of the armed forces and their high combat readiness and defense capability.

In armed forces actions planned for the period of martial law, it will be vitally significant that the armed forces operationally take over the protection of selected special installations, establish and maintain controlled access to and from highly important areas, and ensure emergency operation of the state control and troop command system through deployment of communications using military means. At the same time the armed forces will seal off the maritime border of the State, strengthen the alert duty in the Unified National Air Defense System of the Warsaw Pact member states, and take over control of all air traffic over Polish territory. In addition, military courts and prosecutors' offices will be appointed and deployed.

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Upon introduction of martial law the basic functions of authority and direction of the State will devolve to the National Defense Committee and as appropriate to the Provincial Defense Committees. With this thought in mind the Council of Ministers Office has established the nucleus of an operational staff (DYSOR) which will deploy and smoothly take over the functions of the working organ of the National Defense Committee.

The importance of the provincial military headquarters has been upgraded in the local centers. Their chiefs already perform the function of deputies to the Chairmen of the Provincial Defense Committees. In the composition of the Provincial Defense Committees we shall include also the provincial commandants of the Citizens Militia as deputies to the chairman.

All martial law planning and executive documentation is on file in the Polish Armed Forces General Staff and in the Ministry of Internal Affairs. They continue to be constantly updated and kept in full readiness to be implemented upon signal.

POLISH ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF

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