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NR Record



POLAND: New Government To Be Announced

Premier Mazowiecki will present his cabinet nominations today, and the Polish parliament is expected to complete its debate and confirm the Solidarity-led government next Tuesday. The Communists will retain the defense, interior, and, most likely, foreign affairs portfolios but otherwise will yield their levers of control to Solidarity, which will have a plurality of the more than 20 cabinet posts. Solidarity leaders have insisted the hotly contested Radio and Television Committee must be under their control. Solidarity's coalition partners, the United Peasants and Democratic Parties, have been given significant responsibilities; some Solidarity legislators have grumbled that they were not adequately consulted in the selection of the cabinet.

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Comment: Although a landmark event, the installation of the first non-Communist government in Eastern Europe in more than 40 years marks only one small step in a long, probably stormy transition toward a more democratic Poland. The role of the premiership in relation to that of President Jaruzelski will have to be sorted out, and new Solidarity ministers will have to overcome the inertia of entrenched, hostile bureaucracies. Mazowiecki has yet to fashion an economic reform program acceptable to competing domestic groups and to the international community. The Communist party has grudgingly accepted its loss of the government and is not likely to ease Mazowiecki's path.

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