

## **May 18, 1989**

### **Poland: Catholic Church Legalized**

#### **Citation:**

"Poland: Catholic Church Legalized", May 18, 1989, Wilson Center Digital Archive, Approved for Release by the Central Intelligence Agency, October 29, 2019.  
<https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/209440>

#### **Summary:**

An analysis of the Catholic Church's legalization as an effort to boost the Party's popular support.

#### **Original Language:**

English

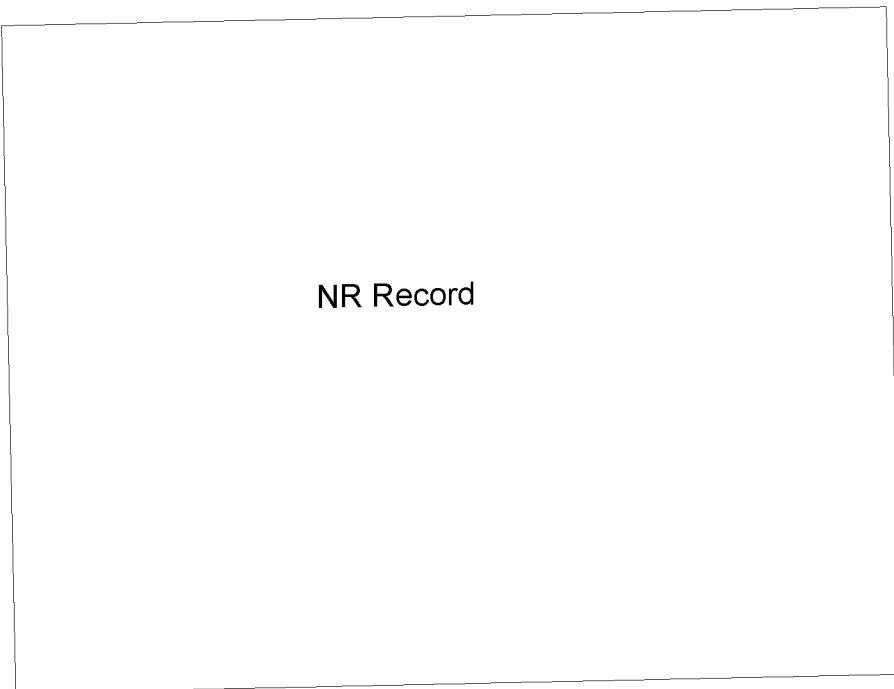
#### **Contents:**

Original Scan

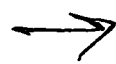


~~Top Secret~~  
[Redacted]

6.2(d)



NR Record



**POLAND: Catholic Church Legalized**

3.3(b)(1)

Poland's legislature yesterday passed a law recognizing the Catholic Church [Redacted] giving the Pope the right to name all bishops, the church the right to own property in its own name, and a free Catholic press.

3.3(b)(1)

[Redacted] A formal exchange of ambassadors between Warsaw and the Vatican [Redacted] is expected later this year.

3.3(b)(1)

6.2(d)

**Comment:** Giving the church legal status is an indicator of the regime's desperation for popular support, most immediately to improve its prospects in next month's legislative election. The regime also hopes to entice the church, long supportive of Solidarity, into a more neutral role. Warsaw, which recognized the political opposition in the roundtable accord, has, in legalizing the church, further abandoned its longstanding ideological claim to rule alone. It has also confirmed the church's status as Poland's leading moral political force. [Redacted]

6.2(d)

~~Top Secret~~  
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